



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of Wisconsin
Americanism Plan of Action 2011-2012
“Honor Their Service”

Joanie Dickerson, Department Chairman
Ph: 608-996-2152 ❖ Email: jomarie@tds.net

Purpose: To inspire, recognize, and perpetuate responsible citizenship through education and acts of patriotism, in order to raise awareness and increase appreciation of the price paid for our fundamental freedoms.

1. **Objective:** Increase flag etiquette awareness in communities
Action Step
 - a. Units will contact local schools, youth groups and service organizations to discuss flag etiquette prior to parade attendance/participation and to share literature regarding flag protocol
 - b. Disseminate patriotic program information at Fall Forum Paper Fair, through unit mailings, and through the *Wisconsin* publication
 - c. Provide updates to units concerning the amendment to protect the United States flag from desecration (H.J. Res 8).
 - d. Participate in the Pocket Flag project by encouraging community groups to join in the effort to provide pocket flags for deploying troops

2. **Objective:** Increase awareness and participation in youth activities that promote proper respect for our flag and loyalty to our country.
Action Step
 - a. Encourage participation in the Americanism Essay Contest by increasing awareness through stronger networking in schools, youth groups (i.e. 4-H, YMCA, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, FFA/FHA, Boy and Girls Scouts), and home school associations. The Americanism Essay contest encourages participants to learn about the fundamental rights and freedoms we enjoy today. This year’s theme will be “How Can I Show My Patriotism in My Community?”

3. **Objective:** Promote Auxiliary participation The American Legion Americanism programs.
 - a. Support American Legion Baseball – sponsor a team, help with statistics, man the concession booth, hold a fundraiser, drive the

team to games. Contact your local American Legion chairman to see what their needs are.

- b. Oratorical Contest – a speaking contest to help students develop a deeper understanding of the U.S. Constitution. Support your local chairman by offering to locate interested students, be an escort or timekeeper or even a judge.
- c. Junior Shooting Sports – promotes gun safety and marksmanship training for youth. Offer your local chairman help with scoring, supervision or transportation.

Americanism Awards:

1. Americanism Essay Contest:

One award in each of five classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 honorarium in the student's name to the National President's Scholarship. Department chairman is responsible for informing Units of the deadline date. All Department entries must be postmarked by May 1, 2012 and sent to the Division Chairman. Division Chairman must submit her winners to the National Chairman by June 1, 2012. The Americanism essay cover sheet is available at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

2. Department Awards:

A plaque will be presented to the Department Chairman in each division reporting the Most Outstanding Overall Americanism Program. The entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. Do not include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc. All entries must be postmarked by June 1, 2012 and sent by the Department Chairman to the Division Chairman.

3. Dorothy Pearl Plaque:

A plaque will be presented to the Unit that reports the Most Outstanding Americanism Program targeted to children and youth. The entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. The entry may include no more than five pictures and news articles. All entries must be postmarked by June 1, 2012 and sent to Committee Member Shelley Riggs.

4. Junior Americanism Award:

A plaque will be presented to a Junior groups that reports the Most Outstanding Americanism Program. The entry will be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. A maximum of five pictures and news articles may be included. All entries must be postmarked by June 1, 2012 and sent to Committee Member Lynda Horton-Turk.

Resources

1. Capitol Building flags: To order flags flown over the Capitol, contact your Congressional Representative or Senator or visit his/her website. Flags are available for a nominal fee; 4-6 weeks should be allowed for delivery.
 2. Pocket Flag Project: www.pocketflagproject.com or write Pocket Flag Project, P.O. Box 740847, Arvada, CO 80006.
 3. Emblem Sales: www.emblem.legion.org - flag education DVD: explains the history, significance, meaning, proper display and treatment of the U.S. flag. *Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette* - a "question and answer" booklet on proper flag etiquette.
 4. The American Legion Flag Advocacy: www.legion.org/flag
 5. The American Legion's *Action Program of Americanism* brochure: www.legion.org/publications
- See program page on www.ALAforVeterans.org for additional resources.