



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

### 2022-2023 Americanism Program Action Plan

Sue Hembrook, Department Chairman  
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#### **What is this program, and why does the Auxiliary have it?**

The Americanism Program promotes patriotism and responsible citizenship.

#### **What can units and members do?**

Units are encouraged to work together to show care and understanding as we demonstrate and learn together the principles that have made this country great.

1. Be knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette and proper disposal methods and promote the observance of patriotic holidays so communities will look to the ALA for information.

#### **Ideas:**

- Publish flag etiquette tips in the newspaper and on social media.
  - Communicate information regarding flag etiquette to members.
  - Educate others on how to respect the flag.
  - Model respect for the American flag at public events, such as parades and sporting events.
  - Compile a list of patriotic holidays and events and share with members and the community.
  - Walk/participate in parades as an American Legion Auxiliary unit.
  - Volunteer for a local patriotic event.
  - Sign up to receive notifications on when to display the flag at half-staff at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).
  - Assemble pocket flags to be distributed to deployed troops.
  - Conduct or assist a flag disposal ceremony.
  - Host flag awareness events and communicate information:
    - In schools
    - At the post home
    - At public functions
  - Participate in local patriotic holiday events.
  - Organize a patriotic holiday event.
  - Encourage local businesses to fly a flag, especially on patriotic holidays.
  - Encourage members to fly a flag.
2. Encourage members to vote and to support the amendment to protect the United States flag from desecration. The amendment currently reads, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

#### **Ideas:**

- Vote and encourage others to vote.
- Take children/grandchildren when voting – many places have kid-related voting.
- Attend the annual ALA Washington DC Conference (see [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) for details).
- Encourage members to contact state and federal representatives, asking them to support the flag amendment.
- Encourage members to participate in Get Out the Vote and Kids Voting USA campaigns.  
Guidelines: [www.legion.org/vote](http://www.legion.org/vote) and [www.kidsvotingusa.org](http://www.kidsvotingusa.org)

3. Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest. This year's theme is: **"What does patriotism mean to you?"**

**Student Award:** Americanism Essay Contest

**Type of award:** Cash awards presented to six (6) students - one from each class.

**Materials and Guidelines:** The contest shall include six classes.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Word Requirement</b>
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level.

4. Contact your local schools and volunteer to do a "Star Spangled Kids" presentation to educate children and youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution.

**Ideas:**

- In conjunction with local schools, create a Unit Citizenship Award for children and youth who have demonstrated the ideals of the U.S. Constitution.
- Team with the Education chairman to bring veterans or servicemembers into the classroom to talk about what their service means to defend the ideals of the Constitution.
- Share "Fascinating Facts about the U.S. Constitution" each month in the department or unit bulletin, in tweets, or in a newspaper editorial.
- List important constitutional dates by chronological order or by month.
- Encourage students to test their knowledge of the Constitution.
- Distribute patriotic coloring book pages for children in primary grades.
- Celebrate Constitution Day (also known as Citizenship Day) on September 17, the day set aside each year to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution.
  - Celebrate at September's Junior meeting with a cake or cupcakes.
  - Let Juniors report on different sections of the Bill of Rights
  - Print and distribute pocket copies of the U.S. Constitution for school children and/or Juniors
- Put on a skit or musical about the Constitution and the signers.
- Hold a scavenger hunt in the post where children find information relating to the Constitution.
- Have members dress up as signers of the Constitution and describe the role of their character in the writing and signing of the Constitution.
- Encourage high school-aged students to use their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution by participating in The American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Contest.

5. Participate in the promotion of The American Legion Americanism programs.

**Ideas:**

- Work with the Post, County and/or District Americanism Chairman.
- Support The American Legion Baseball program.
  - Help with statistics.
  - Work the concession booth.
  - Donate to a team.
  - Contact local sports shops and ask if they would be willing to make donations toward a fundraiser or offer a discounted price to purchase needed items.
- Support the Oratorical Contest.
  - Help prepare Post home to sponsor Post, County or District contest.
  - Offer to be a judge or timekeeper.
  - Offer to help with refreshments.
  - Provide transportation for candidates.

- Help recruit candidates at local schools and other organizations.
- Contact history/speech teachers or debate coaches for possible speakers and/or assistance.
- Support the Junior Shooting Sports, which promotes gun safety and marksmanship training for youth.
  - Volunteer to help with scoring, supervising or transportation.
  - Help recruit candidates at local schools and other organizations.
  - Contact JROTC at local schools.

## Resources:

- [www.constitutionfacts.com](http://www.constitutionfacts.com)
- Constitution Day Resources: <http://ca3rsproject.org/pages/ConstitutionDayResources.html>
- Emblem Sales: [www.emblem.legion.org](http://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.
- The American Legion Flag Advocacy: [www.legion.org/flag](http://www.legion.org/flag)
- The American Legion’s *Action Programs of Americanism* brochure: [www.legion.org/publications](http://www.legion.org/publications)
- 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; four to six weeks should be allowed for delivery.
- The National ALA Americanism Program Plan ([alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org))
- The Pocket Flag Project. [www.pocketflagproject.com](http://www.pocketflagproject.com).

## Americanism Reporting

### Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year reports reflect unit program work for the first half of the ALA year. Currently Mid-Year reports are NOT required by National however, your Department Americanism Chairman would like periodic reports of your activities throughout the reporting year. Units are encouraged to forward reports concerning your program and/or projects as they are completed. Please include photos etc. as appropriate. Electronic versions are appreciated (jpeg & pdf)

### Annual Reports

Annual reports reflect the unit and members’ Americanism work for the year. Photos of Americanism projects are encouraged to accompany the unit’s annual narrative report due by **April 15, 2023**, to the Department Americanism Chairman.

**As part of the Americanism narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:**

#### How did members/Unit

- Promote the Americanism essays contest?
- Encourage support of the flag amendment?
- Promote the flag program?
- Promote patriotic holidays?
- Support The American Legion Americanism programs?
- Promote Americanism in the community?
- How did your units and district promote “Star-Spangled Kids,” educating children and youth about the U.S. Constitution from the aspect of patriotism and Americanism?

## Americanism Awards

**NOTE:** Please be sure each award entry includes a Cover Sheet and plan for the return of materials in advance, if desired.

**Award:** Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Americanism Program

**Type of award:** Citation (National, a Plaque)

**Presented to:** One Unit Americanism Chairman who reports the most outstanding Americanism program targeted to children and youth

**Materials and Guidelines:**

- Entries must include the Award Cover Sheet located in this program plan.
- The entry must be typewritten in narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words.
- The entry may include no more than five pictures and five news articles.
- **Deadline: May 1, 2023**
- Send/email to Department Americanism Chairman, Sue Hembrook, 24215 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Salem, WI 53168 or [genesuehem@wi.rr.com](mailto:genesuehem@wi.rr.com)

**Award:** Most Outstanding Overall Americanism Program

**Type of award:** Citation (National, a Plaque)

**Presented to:** One Unit Americanism Chairman

**Materials and Guidelines:**

- Entries must include the Award Cover Sheet located in this program plan.
- The entry must be typewritten in narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words.
- Include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc.
- **Deadline: May 1, 2023**
- Send/email to Department Americanism Chairman, Sue Hembrook, 24215 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Salem, WI 53168 or [genesuehem@wi.rr.com](mailto:genesuehem@wi.rr.com)

**Unit Award:** Star Spangled Kids Unit Award

**Type of Award:** Citation Plaque

**Presented to:** One unit chairman in each division (5 overall awards)

**Materials and guidelines:**

- Awarded to the unit chairman in each division for the most outstanding program promoting “Star Spangled Kids.”
- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. Include specific examples of Star-Spangled Kids activities and programs.
- Attach an award cover sheet, including the name of the award, as well as the name and contact information for the unit Children & Youth Chairman
- **Deadline: May 1, 2023**
- Send/email to Department Americanism Chairman, Sue Hembrook, 24215 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Salem, WI 53168 or [genesuehem@wi.rr.com](mailto:genesuehem@wi.rr.com)

### National Americanism Contact Information:

Michele DeGennaro National Chairman  
Department of Florida  
[boxermom513@aol.com](mailto:boxermom513@aol.com) ♦ (727) 457-8172

Sue Hembrook, National Central Division Chairman  
Department of Wisconsin  
[genesuehem@wi.rr.com](mailto:genesuehem@wi.rr.com) ♦ 262-843-4791

### National Americanism Committee Contact Information

[Amerianism@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:Amerianism@ALAforVeterans.org)



# AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST SUBMISSION FORM

**Essay Title:** " *What does patriotism mean to you?*"

**Department:** 1st place winning entry in each class will receive \$50 from Department and will be forwarded to Central Division for further competition. 2nd place winning entry in each class will receive \$25 from Department and 3rd thru 5th place winning entries in each class will receive \$10.

**National:** One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) at the start of September.

**Materials and Guidelines:** The contest shall include six classes.

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level.

**ESSAY CHECKLIST:**

- Class competing in \_\_\_\_\_
- Sponsoring ALA Unit \_\_\_\_\_
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay \_\_\_\_\_
- Due date for student to return to ALA unit \_\_\_\_\_

**To be completed by the Student/Parent (print clearly):**

**Student name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade Level:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School city/state:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AUXILIARY USE ONLY (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):**

Sponsoring Unit city location & number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit winner due to Department on April 1, 2023**

**Department:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature of Department Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to Sue Hembrook, 24215 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Salem, WI 53168**

Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2023



**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Wisconsin  
2022-2023 Americanism Award Cover Sheet**

*Send completed form to:*

**Sue Hembrook, Department Chairman**  
24215 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Salem WI 53168  
262-843-4791 (h) ♦ 262-945-9791 (c)  
Email: [genesuehem@wi.rr.com](mailto:genesuehem@wi.rr.com)

**This cover sheet should be attached to each narrative submitted for a national award.**

Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. Award certificates will be completed using the information given on this sheet, so please write carefully. All awards will be mailed to the Department office after national convention.

National committee sponsoring award: **AMERICANISM**

Type of Award:     District                       Unit

Name of the award you are applying for: \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete the following if you are applying for a District award:**

District # \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of District chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman's phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ ALA member ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete the following if you are applying for a Unit award.** Be sure to give the complete name of your unit. The award certificate will be prepared using the information you include below.

Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ Full official unit name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit president/chairman (circle one) name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ ALA member ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_