

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

AMERICANISM PLAN OF ACTION 2009-2010



1919-2009 – 90th. Anniversary

OUR BIRTHDAY IS NOVEMBER 10TH.

**NATIONAL THEME
RECONNECT WITH OUR HERITAGE TO STRENGTHEN OUR FUTURE!**

**DEPARTMENT THEME
SERVING VETERANS EVERY DAY AS A HOLIDAY**



“Americanism is a question of principles, of idealism, of character: it is not a matter of birthplace or creed or line of descent.”

Theodore Roosevelt, Nobel Prize-winning U.S. President

Americanism is an unflinching love of country: loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and posterity.

National Americanism Chairman

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National Vice Chairman

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MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICANISM TEAM

Americanism Chairmen!

Congratulations on your chairmanship appointment as it is a great opportunity for you to serve others and with that great responsibility you will be able to develop this program as your own.

This plan of action contains valuable information to assist in the development of a Unit and or District program. This is a valuable tool that will provide for growth and success. Use this plan of action fully by planning early for the most success.

If you need assistance it is just a call away as we are ready to serve where and whenever needed.

Evaluation of the success of this program will depend on the number of units and individuals using the supplied resources.

The following is also of importance:

- Number and quality of entries in the contests.
- Number of annual reports received.
- Tally of volunteer hours.
- Monies spent in the implementation of these programs.

Continue to encourage Patriotic Holiday observances by restoring the significance behind these holidays. Use the ALA activities that surround that particular holiday.

It is important to read your guide and adhere to all the rules and deadlines.

It is the hope of this Team that all of us will spend this year reconnecting with our heritage to strengthen our future by celebrating every day as Veterans Day.

Enjoy your year as an Americanism Chairman.

Carol Saunders, Sheri German & Lee Halsema

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.

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN AMERICANISM OBJECTIVES

Americanism is the overriding principle in every program of the Auxiliary. It is largely educational in character and is usually divided into three phases: youth, adult, and the community.

It is necessary that we do our small part to inspire pride in this great country. To achieve this goal each of us should believe and understand the purpose upon which this organization and country was founded, with enthusiasm and a positive attitude, and then we can accomplish and succeed in anything. This is the most important and basic key which will unlock and open many doors.

OBJECTIVE ONE

Increase education of good citizenship by reawakening our citizens and instilling in them a sense of pride for our American Values and a love for our American democracy, upon which this great nation was founded by using all matters pertaining to the flag and patriotic education.

ACTION STEPS

- Basic Americanism is essential in the home, with our youth and adult groups, the Unit and the community.
- Make connections with the schools, community centers and Girl Scout Councils, early in the year and ask them to have the Americanism projects entered as a part of their curriculum.
- Be able to answer “What kind of an American am I?”
- Become involved in community affairs by attending or serving on city councils, school boards and county boards.
- Take an interest in our country's affairs. Express our belief in our love for America in our words and deeds.
 - Contact Senators and Representatives if necessary to let them know your concerns about what they are doing.
- Encourage businesses, organizations and citizens to display the American Flag on their properties.
 - Award certificates of appreciation (see sample)
- Educate citizens on proper flag etiquette in order to promote respect for the American flag. (see flag etiquette below)
 - History of the flag.

- Educate citizens about the documents of the United States.
 - Declaration of Independence and its signers, Constitution of the United States of America, Bill of Rights, Presidents of the United States etc. (see below)

OBJECTIVE TWO

When legislation is introduced pertaining to prohibiting the physical desecration of the flag of the United States it is our duty to support it.

ACTION STEPS

- Encourage our legion family to ask the citizens in their communities to urge Congress to act by letting them know where we stand on this resolution and the importance of allowing citizens to vote on its protection.

OBJECTIVE THREE

To have and atmosphere of mentoring our young citizens by promoting patriotism in order to instill in them our American values. Inspire children and young people in our homes and schools to develop fine characters, high ideals and a sincere appreciation of our heritage.

ACTION STEPS

- To encourage participation in the Essay Contest at the Department & National level.
- Forward winning entries on to Department & National.
- Encourage at least one student to attend the Americanism Youth Conference.
- To promote and recognize outstanding achievement in patriotism and citizenship by presenting awards for participation.
 - National High School Oratorical Contest
 - Girls State
 - Girls Nation
 - Girl Scout activities
 - Girls Scout Achievement award
 - 20% increase in applications
 - National Scholarship
 - Award money comes from National

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

PATRIOTISM AND CITIZENSHIP

FLY OUR FLAG

CARE AND RESPECT FOR OUR FLAG IS IMPORTANT TO OUR LEGION FAMILY

FLAG ETIQUETTE, AWARENESS AND SHOWING OUR COLORS

The need to encourage local businesses, organizations and citizens to display the Flag, our greatest example of freedom, on their properties each day is an excellent way to foster relationships within our communities. This is an opportunity to educate our citizens on proper Flag etiquette, which will in turn inspire them to respect and honor the Flag of our nation. Local schools and churches are areas where we can provide flags as well as an opportunity to distribute flag etiquette materials. It is also important to recognize those who fly the Flag with certificates indicating our gratitude for their patriotism.

Talk about parades and how the American Flag should be saluted as it passes - show them how to salute the Flag. Use videos to demonstrate how to carry the Flag properly. Discuss the facts about how young persons need to remove their head gear in honor of the Flag as it passes. Discuss the ceremony to honor the disposal of the American Flag and how it is dishonoring to our Country to burn the Flag in protest.

Publications

The American Legion publishes flag literature and makes it available through the Emblem Sales Division, PO Box 1050, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or through its Web site at <http://emblem.legion.org>.

- **Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette** (755.200) – Contains Flag Code and American Legion interpretations of proper flag etiquette in situations not specifically covered by the law. Cost is \$1 per copy or \$80 per 100 copies, plus shipping.
- **Flag Code** (755.201) – Illustrates and describes the correct way to display our country's flag. Cost is 20 cents each or \$18 per 100 copies, or \$150 per 1,000 copies, plus shipping.
- **For Which It Stands DVD** (755.400) – A 20-minute video with interactive programs and a teacher's guide designed to help grades 5-9 meet state mandates for required flag education. Cost is \$9.95 each, plus shipping

GET OUT THE VOTE

Encouraging our citizens to vote in all elections whether local, state or national helps us promote awareness in the issues that affect veterans and their children as well as support our communities with knowledge of local issues. This is also an opportunity teach the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. The American Legion Auxiliary also supports Meet the Candidate events that encourage all of us to know our potential leaders so informed decisions can be made during elections.

KIDS VOTE

This is an excellent way to involve students in grades K-12 in the voting process through the Kids Vote Program. Utilizing members who may be on election boards and or just have an interest in educating our youth will be able to establish mock elections the week before the national election and also have meet the candidates program at the local American Legion Post and/or go into the schools with the candidates for a discussion on the issues based on different age groups.

PATRIOTIC HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES

Restoring the significance and history behind our American patriotic holidays should be a priority of every American legion Auxiliary member. Encourage communities to fly their flags for each holiday, with units holding special events to bring significance to the patriotic holiday will help restore and bring pride to entire communities. It's the responsibility of each member to remind our communities that it's ok to be patriotic as it's not just reserved for national tragedies, (i.e. 9-11-2001). Remind everyone that every day is Veterans Day.

The flag should be displayed on all days, especially the following days:

New Year's Day - January 1
Inauguration Day - January 20
Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday - third Monday in January
Lincoln's Birthday - February 12
Washington's Birthday - third Monday in February
Easter Sunday - (variable)
Mother's Day - second Sunday in May
Armed Forces Day - third Saturday in May
Memorial Day (half-staff until noon) - Last Monday in May
Flag Day - June 14
Father's Day, third Sunday in June

Independence Day - July 4
Labor Day - first Monday - September 1 - 7
Columbus Day - second Monday in October
Navy Day - October 27
Veterans Day - November 11
Thanksgiving Day - fourth Thursday in November
Christmas Day - December 25
Other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States
Birthdays of States (date of admission)

POCKET FLAG PROJECT

This project was conceived in 2001 when a group of Boy Scouts, after meeting with two veterans who carried small folded flags in their shirt pockets, realized just how important those flags were to them. They told a reporter that they were going to send them "to all soldiers in the war." A local project has grown into an international project. Each pocket flag includes a card, which says, "A flag for your pocket so you can always carry a little piece of home. We are praying for you and we are proud of you. Thank you for defending our country and our freedom." Units can also include their name and a return address with each pocket flag.

For more information, contact www.pocketflagproject.com or Pocket Flag Project, PO Box 740847, Arvada, CO 80006.

HEALING FIELDS

The ALA has a national affiliation with the Colonial Flag Foundation, a flag memorial program spontaneously emerging from a patriotic desire of citizens on one community to honor the memory of the victims of the September 11th tragedy. The Healing Fields project has become a national movement in communities across American.

For further information: www.healingfield.org. (866) 375-3524.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

It provides the American Legion Auxiliary with an opportunity to reach out to the youth of our nation. The Americanism Essay Contest conducted within our school systems is a starting point to teach respect, patriotism and the role students will play as they grow into productive citizens. The essay all classes are required to write will be based on the theme:

"What is My Patriotic Role as a U. S. Citizen?"

AMERICANISM YOUTH CONFERENCE

It is hosted by Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge in Pennsylvania usually the first weekend in March. The program is open to students in grades 10, 11, 12. The essay they are required to write will be based on the theme:

"Civic Education...Why it's Important to Me."

AYC FACEBOOK PAGE

To build a facebook page to communicate with past and present AYC students which will help to promote AYC to interested students.

GIRL SCOUT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The goal is to recognize those Girl Scouts who exemplify the best that the Girl Scouts of the USA has to offer. Each department and participating unit should develop a plan to acknowledge those who qualify. Fostering a relationship with the Girl Scout Councils within each community is a desired outcome as it is another opportunity for the American Legion Auxiliary to reach out to our youth. The Girl Scout Achievement Award is a national-level scholarship and funded at the national-level.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY JUNIOR PROGRAMS

Working closely with our Junior members offers opportunity to instill patriotism and good citizenship in the youngest of our members and it seals the future of our organization. Flag etiquette is a top priority for all Juniors to learn as well as inspiring them to be mentors to their fellow students in the ways of patriotism and good citizenship.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Support initiatives in communities that offer the opportunity to focus on military children and honor their sacrifice. Consider sponsoring a patriotic project during the month of April.

OPERATION MILITARY KIDS (OMK)

Is an exciting new opportunity for our members to partner with their local 4-H Councils to support the children and youth impacted by deployment of their loved ones. The American Youth Conference (AYC) is proving to be a significant relationship builder for the Auxiliary to interact with military kids. Distribute brochure for the AYC and work with the staff of OMK in selecting students who are interested in attending. This is also a good tool to help foster a relationship with the National Guard support group with families.

SUPPORT AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAMS

Support the aims and purposes of the American Legion Americanism Commission

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Still Batting a Thousand

ALB strives to teach practical lessons of good sportsmanship and citizenship. Loyalty, respect for rules and decisions rendered, fair play, courage and physical fitness are emphasized in this activity.

American Legion Baseball depends upon its posts, individual Legionnaires and other Legion family organizations to promote the activity. Enthusiastic leadership, coaches and players are available in almost every community where an American Legion post is located.

For additional information

write National Headquarters, Attn: Baseball, or phone (317) 630-1213.

Publications

- ALB promotion brochure (21-004)
- ALB Rule Book (21-001)

AMERICAN LEGION SCOUTING

Working Together for America's Youth

The American Legion's support of Scouting began at its first national convention when the Legion officially recognized Scouting as a positive program for our nation's youth. Support has remained constant through the years with local posts chartering more than 2,500 units that serve more than 70,000 young people. Hundreds of other units benefit from financial and other forms of support from American Legion posts.

The American Legion sponsors an annual scholarship awarded to the Eagle Scout who is selected as "The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year." The winner is awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship. Three additional scholarships of \$2,500 each are also awarded to three runners-up.

The American Legion and Scouting Square Knot Award recognizes American Legion, Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion members who are actively involved in the

Scouting program. Over 360 Square Knot Awards have been awarded to recognize Legion family members who have furthered the Scouting program in The American Legion.

Publications

- The American Legion and Scouting brochure (22-001)
- Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarship app.
- American Legion and Scouting Square Knot Award brochure (22-010)

American Legion Shooting Sports

Gaining in Popularity

The American Legion's Junior Shooting Sports Program is a national activity administered through Legion-sponsored clubs organized to provide gun safety and marksmanship training for young people. The program emphasizes proper shooting and safety techniques and is for both boys and girls. Youth with disabilities are also encouraged to participate.

The program is recognized by shooting sports groups as one of the premier amateur shooting programs in the country. More than 900 teams are currently affiliated in the program and approximately 1,500 individual shooters enter national competition each year. The competition culminates with the national championships at the world class shooting complex at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Competition begins with postal matches to determine state and/or regional champions. The next stage is a qualification round to determine shooters who will earn expense paid trips to the national championships. Team competition is also available at postal levels.

The program uses .177 caliber air guns and competitors fire targets set-up in firing lanes 10 meters (33 feet) in length. Air gun ranges can be set up in classrooms, Legion post homes or any enclosed area with adequate lighting and space.

Any recognized youth group (school or club) with responsible adult leadership can become involved with this program. The group/club must be sponsored by an American Legion post and affiliated with the national organization.

The American Legion, based on its involvement in programs like the Junior Shooting Sports and American Legion Baseball, was awarded membership on the United States Olympic Committee.

For enrollment forms and additional information

Contact the Americanism and Children & Youth Division, phone (317) 630-1249. There is no affiliation fee.

Publications

- Junior Shooting Sports brochure (22-003)

BLUE STAR BANNER PROGRAM

Blue Star Banners are presented to the families of those that are currently serving on active study in the Armed Forces. Each blue star on the flag represents a service member in active duty. A gold star is displayed if a service member is killed in action or dies in service. If several stars are displayed in one family the gold star takes the honor

of being placed on top. As Americans do their best to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and the ongoing war on terror, the Blue Star Service Banner tradition reminds us all that war touches every neighborhood in our land.

Order your **Blue Star Banner** from The American Legion National Emblem Sales' toll-free number, 1-888-453-4466, or on the net.

CITIZENS FLAG ALLIANCE

Work with The American Legion and other member organizations of the Citizen's Flag Alliance to secure passage of the Flag Amendment in the 112th. Congress. With the new legislative body we will need to begin educating our senators and representatives immediately of the Legion's position on the Flag Amendment.

2009 Flag Amendment Cosponsors

With the recent introductions of flag amendments in both the US House of Representatives and the Senate, the cosponsor list grows. House Joint [H.J.] Resolution 47, introduced in late April by Representatives Jo Ann Emerson [R-MO] and Jim Marshall [D-GA] enjoys cosponsor ship from 61 members of the House. Senate Joint [S.J.] Resolution 15, introduced in early May by Senator David Vitter [R-LA] has 25 cosponsors.

More than 200 Representatives have indicated support for the House amendment, and more than 50 Senators have indicated support there.

The language of the amendments is identical: "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." Adoption of an amendment requires a two-thirds affirmative vote from the House [290 ayes] as well as from the Senate [67 ayes]. Adoption of the amendment, making it part of the US Constitution, then requires ratification by three-fourths [38] of the states.

The lists below are of current cosponsors. If your Senators' or Representative's names are not shown, contact them and encourage them to get in touch with Sen. Vitter or Rep. Emerson, respectively, to become an official cosponsor of S.J. Res. 15 or H.J. Res 47. You can reach any of your congressional delegation here. [<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/directory/congdir.tt>].

House Joint Resolution 47

Rep Biggert, Judy [IL-13]
Rep Blackburn, Marsha [TN-7]
Rep Blunt, Roy [MO-7]
Rep Boehner, John A. [OH-8]
Rep Boustany, Charles W., Jr. [LA-7]
Rep Brown, Henry E., Jr. [SC-1]
Rep Buyer, Steve [IN-4]
Rep Capito, Shelley Moore [WV-2]
Rep Carney, Christopher P. [PA-10]
Rep Childers, Travis [MS-1]
Rep Conaway, K. Michael [TX-11]

Rep Edwards, Chet [TX-17]
Rep Fallin, Mary [OK-5]
Rep Fleming, John [LA-4]
Rep Forbes, J. Randy [VA-4]
Rep Foxx, Virginia [NC-5]
Rep Garrett, Scott [NJ-5]
Rep Gingrey, Phil [GA-11]
Rep Gordon, Bart [TN-6]
Rep Halvorson, Deborah L. [IL-11]
Rep Kagen, Steve [WI-8]
Rep King, Peter T. [NY-3]
Rep Kirpatrick, Ann [AZ-1]
Rep Latham, Tom [IA-4]

Rep Latta, Robert E. [OH-5]
Rep Lipinski, Daniel [IL-3]
Rep LoBiondo, Frank A. [NJ-2]
Rep Luetkemeyer, Blaine [MO-9]
Rep Lummis, Cynthia M. [WY]
Rep Manzullo, Donald A. [IL-16]
Rep Marshall, Jim [GA-8]
Rep McCarthy, Carolyn [NY-4]
Rep McCaul, Michael T. [TX-10]
Rep McHugh, John M. [NY-23]
Rep McIntyre, Mike [NC-7]
Rep Michaud, Michael H. [ME-2]
Rep Miller, Candice S. [MI-10]
Rep Miller, Gary G. [CA-42]
Rep Miller, Jeff [FL-1]
Rep Moran, Jerry [KS-1]
Rep Murphy, Tim [PA-18]
Rep Murtha, John P. [PA-12]
Rep Neugebauer, Randy [TX-19]
Rep Paulsen, Erik [MN-3]
Rep Platts, Todd Russell [PA-19]
Rep Posey, Bill [FL-15]
Rep Rehberg, Denny [MT]
Rep Roe, David P. [TN-1]
Rep Shimkus, John [IL-19]
Rep Shuster, Bill [PA-9]
Rep Simpson, Michael K. [ID-2]
Rep Skelton, Ike [MO-4]
Rep Smith, Adam [WA-9]
Rep Smith, Christopher H. [NJ-4]
Rep Teague, Harry [NM-2]
Rep Terry, Lee [NE-2]
Rep Tiahrt, Todd [KS-4]

Rep Wilson, Joe [SC-2]
Rep Wittman, Robert J. [VA-1]
Rep Wolf, Frank R. [VA-10]
Rep Young, C.W. Bill [FL-10]

Senate Joint Resolution 15

Sen Bayh, Evan [IN]
Sen Brownback, Sam [KS]
Sen Bunning, Jim [KY]
Sen Burr, Richard [NC]
Sen Chambliss, Saxby [GA]
Sen Coburn, Tom [OK]
Sen Cochran, Thad [MS]
Sen Collins, Susan M. [ME]
Sen Crapo, Mike [ID]
Sen DeMint, Jim [SC]
Sen Enzi, Michael B. [WY]
Sen Grassley, Chuck [IA]
Sen Inhofe, James M. [OK]
Sen Isakson, Johnny [GA]
Sen Johanns, Mike [NE]
Sen Lugar, Richard [IN]
Sen Murkowski, Lisa [AK]
Sen Risch, James E. [ID]
Sen Roberts, Pat [KS]
Sen Rockefeller, John D., IV [WV]
Sen Shelby, Richard C. [AL]
Sen Snowe, Olympia J. [ME]
Sen Stabenow, Debbie [MI]
Sen Thune, John [SD]
Sen Wicker, Roger F. [MS]

SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

ADOPT A NATIONAL GUARD OR RESERVE UNIT

American Legion Posts throughout the country are encouraged to connect with their local National Guard and Reserve Units to see the many ways volunteers can assist.

THE AMERICAN LEGION INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION: (317) 630-1321

BLOOD DRIVES

“Not knowing the full extent of the injuries, we immediately asked for blood. Within hours, Legionnaires were lined up at Red Cross collection centers across the country.”

Past National Commander Richard J. "Ric" Santos Legionnaires donated more than 93,000 pints of blood in the months that followed the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. As war continues, so does the need for blood.
(800) 448-3543 OR www.redcross.org

COMMUNITY TROOP SUPPORT INITIATIVES

"The Yellow Ribbon Campaign has been around for a number of years and has been used as a way of showing national support for our troops who are in harm's way. The campaign has been used during wartimes for soldiers who fought in Korea, Vietnam and Iraq."

Troop-support rallies and yellow-ribbon campaigns give local communities the opportunity to express support for the troops. When news of such efforts reaches the front, it gives service members encouragement and inspiration. Legionnaires are urged to partner with other local organizations, schools, government and the media to coordinate such events.

THE AMERICAN LEGION INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION: (317) 630-1321

E-MAIL THE TROOPS

Through the Department of Defense, you can send an e-mail to service members, thanking them for the job they're doing.

www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html

FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

Connects local volunteers with families that need help at home after a loved one has been called into active duty.

To learn more or to help a family: **(800) 504-4098 OR www.legion.org**

'SUPPORT OUR TROOPS' LAWN SIGNS

"The Department of Indiana helped raise \$12,000 in less than five hours during a troop-support rally in Indianapolis where American Flags and 'Support Our Troops' lawn signs were distributed. Funds were used to support the Legion's September 11 Memorial Scholarship Fund."

Double-sided "Support Our Troops" lawn signs are available from The American Legion's Emblem Sales division.

(888) 453-4466 OR WWW.EMBLEM.LEGION.ORG

Temporary Financial Assistance: Applications for the TFA grant program, which has been helping military and veteran families since 1925, are available at all American Legion Department Headquarters

THE AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

“A Constitutional Speech Contest” Learning About Constitution; Earning Dollars for College

The Oratorical Scholarship Program is an activity designed to develop in high school students a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Constitution of the United States. Other objectives are leadership, ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and preparation for acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

High school students are eligible to compete, subject to the rules established by the National Americanism Commission. The contest has two phases: prepared orations of eight to ten minutes in length and an assigned topic presentation from three to five minutes.

Department (state) level contests are usually held during the months of January through March. National competition is conducted over a single weekend, usually in April, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Scholarships are awarded at most levels of competition. At the national level, first place receives \$18,000; second, \$16,000; and third, \$14,000. Each department winner who competes in the first round of the national contest will receive a \$1,500 scholarship.

For additional information

Students interested in participating should contact their local American Legion post for details. General information on the contest is available on the Legion's Internet Web site at www.legion.org.

Publications

- Oratorical Rules (22-005)
- Oratorical promotional brochure (22-008)
- Oratorical Chairman's Guide (22-006)

AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

The final (yet ongoing) task of the Americanism Plan of Action is to blend our program with all of the other programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. We are seeing more and more overlap of programs and activities as we turn to modern technology and realize the pragmatic needs in this time of war. Junior Activities leaders can involve their members in every program whether they are an active group or working on the Patch Program as individuals. Every time we make a contact with a school, we are entering the territory of the Education Program. Everytime we work with military families we are working with National Security, Children and Youth, and Community Service programs. Working with wounded soldiers, patriotic holidays, and veteran's legislation puts us into the realm of VA&R. And the list goes on.

NATIONAL AWARDS

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

- One award in each of five classes will be presented in each Division. Winners will receive \$100 and a citation.

- One national winner will be chosen from the Divisional winners. The award will be for \$500 and a citation plaque in each of the five Classes.
- Department Chairman is responsible for:
 - Informing units of the deadline date.
 - All department entries **MUST BE POSTMARKED** by May 15, 2010.
 - Send to the **DIVISION CHAIRMAN**.
 - Division Chairman must submit their winners to the National Chairman by June 15, 2010.
 - The essay **COVER SHEET** for **DEPARTMENTS** and **UNITS** is available below.



**National Americanism Essay Contest
2009-2010 Cover Sheet**

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12. Grade levels are divided into five Classes. Five Division winners, one from each class will be chosen and one National winner, one from each class will be chosen. Division winners receive \$100 and a citation; National winners receive \$500 and a citation plaque.

ESSAY THEME: "What is My Patriotic Role as a U. S. Citizen?"

Essay Classes: Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement
<i>I</i>	<i>3 and 4</i>	<i>150-250</i>
<i>II</i>	<i>5 and 6</i>	<i>250-300</i>
<i>III</i>	<i>7 and 8</i>	<i>350-400</i>
<i>IV</i>	<i>9 and 10</i>	<i>450-500</i>
<i>V</i>	<i>11 and 12</i>	<i>450-500</i>

Essay Check List:

- Student Grade _____ Class Competing in _____
- Sponsoring ALA Unit
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word limit for Class
- Completed Essay Cover Sheet as first Page of essay.

Complete this Information:

Student Name: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip):

School Name: _____

School City/State: _____

Teacher Name and Signature: _____

Sponsoring Unit: _____

CLARA B. SMITH PLAQUE

- A plaque will be presented to the **DEPARTMENT** that reports the most outstanding **THREE-POINT** Americanism program encompassing **YOUTH, ADULT AND COMMUNITY**.
 - Entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words.
 - The entry may include up to five pictures and news articles.
 - All entries **MUST BE POSTMARKED** by June 1, 2010, and sent to the **NATIONAL VICE CHAIRMAN** Karyl Horn, Department of New Hampshire.

OUTSTANDING OVERALL AMERICANISM PROGRAM

- 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, 2010, and sent by the Department Chairman to the **DIVISION CHAIRMAN**.

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 post-marked by June 1, 2010 and sent by the Department Chairman to the Division Chairman.

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, 2010, and sent to: **COMMITTEE MEMBER**, Mickie Prendergast, 1114 Fawn Ridge Rd, Duncanville, TX 75137.

JUNIOR AMERICANISM AWARD

- A plaque will be presented to a **JUNIOR GROUP** that reports the Most Outstanding Americanism Program.
- The entry must 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, 2010**, and **SENT TO: COMMITTEE MEMBER**, Donna Ray, 5724 Willnean Dr., Milford OH 45150.

GIRL SCOUT ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

- One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a Junior or Senior High School student earning the Girl Scout Gold Award and the appropriate religious emblem.
- Award application is available online.
- Interested students will complete the online application and submit a 500-word essay and letter of recommendation to a sponsoring unit.
- Units and departments will select deadline dates and point of contact (who the application and essay should be sent to); each department will select one winner who's application materials will be advanced to the **NATIONAL CHAIRMAN** by **May 15, 2010**

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN AWARDS

All entries for all Americanism awards must be postmarked to the District Chairman by March 31, 2010. The District Chairman must send the winning entry along with a green verification slip, to the Americanism Department Chairman Carol Saunders, 8905 Wormer, Redford, MI 48239 by April 15, 2010.

DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST 2009-2010

- TITLE:** ***Americanism our privilege, honor and right...How is it affected by the media.***
- CLASSES:** Class I (Junior Group) Grades 6, 7 & 8.
Class II (Senior Group) Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12.
- SPONSORS:** American Legion Auxiliary Unit
- NUMBER OF WORDS:** Not more than 500 (actual count).
- FORM:** May be handwritten or typed.
- REQUIREMENTS:** First page must include:
1. Students name and address
 2. Grade level
 3. Name and address of school
 4. Sponsoring Unit's name, number and address
 5. District Number
 6. Designate class entering (Junior or Senior)

AWARDS	Senior Group	Junior Group
• First Prize	Senior \$75.00	Junior \$75.00
• Second Prize	Senior \$50.00	Junior \$50.00
• Third Prize	Senior \$25.00	Junior \$25.00

BASIS FOR DEPARTMENT JUDGING

The following point system will be used in judging the Americanism essays—both National and Department contests.

- Choice of subject matter
 - Originality 25 points
 - Relation to topic 25 points
- Organization of subject matter
 - Units (avoid irrelevant matter) 10 points
 - Emphasis (good proportion and arrangement) 10 points
 - Coherence (clearness) 10 points
- Correct usage
 - Choice of words (free from hackneyed expressions) 10 points
- Effective sentences
 - (correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation) 10 points
 - Select

Select qualified members of the Legion and/or Auxiliary as your judges. Teachers also make fine judges.

MARY RIPLEY CITATION

Named for Past Department President Mary Ripley, Sault Ste. Marie Unit 3 1931-1932

To the **UNIT** having the greatest percentage of activity in Americanism.

EVA SPAULDING CITATION

Named for Past Department President Eva Spaulding, St. Johns Unit 153 1924-1925

- To the **UNIT** having the most outstanding Americanism Program in the Department.
- This entry is to be typewritten in narrative form and is not to exceed 500 words.
- Entries must be submitted to the District Chairman by March 31, 2010.
- The District Chairman must send the winning entry to Carol Saunders, the Department Chairman, 8905 Wormer, Redford, MI 48239 by April 15, 2010.

DONNA BALEY CITATION

Named for Past Department President Donna Baley, Sturgis Unit 73 1979-1980

- To the **DISTRICT** Chairman for promotion of the most outstanding Americanism Program.
- This entry is to be typewritten in narrative form and is not to exceed 500 words.
- The District Chairman must send the winning entry to Carol Saunders, the Department Chairman, 8905 Wormer, Redford, MI 48239 by April 15, 2010.

HATTIE M. KEENEY AMERICANISM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- This is a Michigan Scholarship Fund for sending students to The Americanism Youth Conference in Valley Forge sponsored either by a Unit or Post.
- Citations will be given to Units donating **\$100.00 OR MORE** to this fund.

100% PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE IN AMERICANISM

A citation to the **DISTRICT AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN** who received **ALL OF THEIR UNIT REPORTS**.

"STELLAR PERFORMANCE" AWARD

To the Unit that demonstrates the best program in connection with a **Boy and/or Girl Scout Troop**. The program should promote in some unique way the ideals of true Americanism spirit. The program can include any type of flag education, flag etiquette, or focus on a patriotic celebration.

Entries should be submitted in typewritten form not to exceed 1,000 words. Cover sheet must include Unit name, Unit number, Unit Americanism Chairman's name and phone number. Pictures, newspaper clippings, etc. can be included.

REPORTING

One of your most important responsibilities as the Americanism Chairman is to report the activities and work done on the Unit Americanism Program. This report should include all of the work done by all of the members in your Unit. As Unit Americanism Chairman you send your report to the District Americanism Chairman who in turn will report to the Department Americanism Chairman. The Department Chairman then reports to National where they make the outstanding reports at the National Convention.

Chairmen are encouraged to enter all contests.

It is important to read your guide and adhere to all the rules and deadlines.

RESOURCES

1. Girl Scout of USA, www.girlscout.org
2. Operation Military Kids, www.operationmilitarykids.org
3. Capitol Building Flags: To order flags flown over the Capitol, contact your Congressional Representative or Senator or visit his/her web site. Flags are available for a nominal fee; 4-6 weeks should be allowed for delivery.
4. Unserviceable Flags, The Ceremony transcript can be found at www.legion.org; click on Americanism
5. Kids Vote, www.kidsvotingusa.org

See program page on www.legion-aux.org for additional resources

RESOURCES PROVIDED THROUGH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

1. www.WelcometoUSA.gov Website with basic information for newcomers to the United States.
2. *Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants*. This free publication is available at 1-800-870-3676.

RESOURCES PROVIDED THROUGH THE AUXILIARY

1. Americanism Youth Conference brochures
2. Products & Publications provided through National Emblem Sales: The American Legion, PO Box 1050, Indianapolis, IN 46206, Phone: (888) 453-466.
<http://emblem.legion.org>.
3. Americanism Youth Conference Facebook Page
4. Freedoms Foundation www.ffvf.org, (800) 896-5488

PRODUCTS

1. Americanism and Essay Medals
2. Blue Star Banners, Pins and other materials
3. Flags
4. Flag Replacement Postcards
5. Patriotic Bookmarks and Stickers
6. Pledge of Allegiance Banner. A nice way to display the Pledge in classrooms or Legion Posts.
7. *For Which It Stands*. A 20-minute DVD with teacher's guide designed for grades 5-9 on flag education, history, and proper display.
8. *America's Veterans*. A video program for students of American History.

PUBLICATIONS

1. *The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States*.
2. *Know Your America*. A 90-page study course in Americanism.
3. *Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette*. Questions and answers on the proper treatment of the Flag.
4. *The Flag Code*. Describes and illustrates how to display and respect the Flag.
5. Comic Book Series:
6. *Our Country's Flag*. Relates the history, significance and proper treatment of the Flag.

7. *I Pledge Allegiance*. Teaches children how to pledge allegiance to our Flag properly.
8. *Light of Liberty*. Details our fight for freedom, how government works and the rights and responsibilities of every citizen.
9. *In the Footsteps of the Founders*. A guide to defending American Values.
10. *Get Out the Vote*. Information on conducting community voting related activities.
11. *Know Your America*. A 64-page study course on Americanism.
12. *Action Programs*. This provides an overview of the 13 major Americanism programs of the American Legion.
13. *Veterans in the Classroom Resource Materials*. Pamphlet outlining the various materials available through The American Legion.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. Capitol Building Flags
 - a. To order flags flown over the Capitol, contact your Congressional Representative or Senator or visit his/her web site. Flags are available for a nominal fee; 4-6 weeks should be allowed for delivery.
 - i. Unserviceable Flags
 1. The Ceremony transcript can be found at www.legion.org; click on Americanism.
2. Resource material. www.homeofheroes.com, (719) 564-1755
3. KIDS Vote Offers pages of resources to assist Unit's implementation of the program. www.kidsvotingusa.org



AMERICANISM UNIT REPORT 2009-2010

Unit Name & Number: _____

Unit Chairman : _____

Address: _____

Please report Numbers, Money Spent, and Volunteer Hours As Applicable & # Money Spent Hours

1. Submitted Applicants for the National Youth Conference _____

\$ _____ Number of entries _____

2. Participated in the National Americanism Essay Contest _____

\$ _____ Number of entries _____

3. Submitted Entries for the Girl Scout Achievement Award _____

\$ _____ Number of entries _____

4. Sponsored Americanism Programs/Activities in Schools (e.g. Kids Vote, Patriotic Programs, (and Flag Education Programs) _____

\$ _____

5. Participated in Junior Americanism programs/activities _____

\$ _____

6. Participated in the Pocket Flag Project _____ \$ _____

_____ Number of Pocket Flags Mailed _____

7. Participated in The American Legion Jr. Shooting Sports Program

\$ _____

8. Participated in The American Legion Oratorical Contest _____

\$ _____

9. Participated in The American Legion Baseball Program _____

\$ _____

10. Participated in "Get Out the Vote" _____ \$ _____

11. Supported Patriotic Holiday Observances _____ \$ _____

12. Participated in Flag Display _____ \$ _____
 Number of Certificates of Appreciation Presented _____
13. Presented Flags to Schools, Organizations, etc. _____
 \$ _____
 Number of Flags Presented _____
14. Participated in Presentation of Blue Star/ Gold Star Banners
 _____ \$ _____ Number of Banners Presented _____
15. Worked with Operation Military Kids and/or National Guard
 Activities _____ \$ _____
16. Supported Military Families _____ \$ _____
17. Units Participating in the "Month of the Military Child" _____
 \$ _____
18. Units Supporting "Healing Fields" _____ \$ _____
19. Units Supporting the Citizens Flag Alliance _____
 \$ _____
20. Units Submitting Success Stories or Sharing Ideas _____
 \$ _____

Please submit details regarding other Americanism projects or activities, either below or on a separate sheet of paper.



AMERICANISM DISTRICT REPORT 2009-2010

District: _____ Total Number of Units _____

Number of Units Reporting _____

District Chairman : _____

Address: _____

Please report Numbers, Money Spent, and Volunteer Hours As Applicable & # Money Spent Hours

1. Submitted Applicants for the National Youth Conference _____

\$ _____ Number of entries _____

2. Participated in the National Americanism Essay Contest _____

\$ _____ Number of entries _____

3. Submitted Entries for the Girl Scout Achievement Award _____

\$ _____ Number of entries _____

4. Sponsored Americanism Programs/Activities in Schools (e.g. Kids Vote, Patriotic Programs, (and Flag Education Programs) _____

\$ _____

5. Participated in Junior Americanism programs/activities _____

\$ _____

6. Participated in the Pocket Flag Project _____ \$ _____

_____ Number of Pocket Flags Mailed _____

7. Participated in The American Legion Jr. Shooting Sports Program _____

\$ _____

8. Participated in The American Legion Oratorical Contest _____

\$ _____

9. Participated in The American Legion Baseball Program _____

\$ _____

10. Participated in "Get Out the Vote" _____ \$ _____

11. Supported Patriotic Holiday Observances _____ \$ _____
12. Participated in Flag Display _____ \$ _____
 Number of Certificates of Appreciation Presented _____
13. Presented Flags to Schools, Organizations, etc. _____
 \$ _____
 Number of Flags Presented _____
14. Participated in Presentation of Blue Star/ Gold Star Banners
 _____ \$ _____ Number of Banners Presented _____
15. Worked with Operation Military Kids and/or National Guard
 Activities _____ \$ _____
16. Supported Military Families _____ \$ _____
17. Units Participating in the "Month of the Military Child" _____
 \$ _____
18. Units Supporting "Healing Fields" _____ \$ _____
19. Units Supporting the Citizens Flag Alliance _____
 \$ _____
20. Units Submitting Success Stories or Sharing Ideas _____
 \$ _____

Please submit details regarding other Americanism projects or activities, either below or on a separate sheet of paper.



2009-2010 Americanism Award

The symbols of Americanism can be found everywhere in our daily lives if we are willing to just look around. Our Glorious Flag is proudly flying high in the wind above our cities, schools, homes and official buildings stating our Liberty, Justice, Freedom and Democracy.

For proudly flying your flag this certificate is gratefully presented to

We recognize and sincerely appreciate your outstanding service which contributes to the advancement of the American Legion Auxiliary, Americanism Program.

This award is presented by The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan.

*Carol Saunders, Sheri German, Lee Halsema
Department of Michigan
Americanism Chairman and Committee Members*