



Americanism

JoAnne Joachim ~ Chairman

Special 100th Anniversary History Program Facts: Americanism: a term which became relevant in the latter 19th century standing for allegiance to traditions. When the concept of Americanism was first used, nearly half of all Americans had not attended high school and many, being immigrants, did not speak English. Education came to the forefront to teach English, Americanism and Patriotism as well as to understand what our veterans had endured during the war. As the programs of The American Legion Family grew, so did the knowledge and feeling of Americanism and the U.S. Flag became our symbol of freedom and patriotism, known all over the world

This year, I would again like to emphasize increased participation in the Americanism Essay Contest. There is a cash prize for the top three essays in each Class. The coversheet and topic will have been in this year's first Unit mailing.

- All essays must have the completely filled out coversheet with them – Check it carefully!
- Check the due date on the coversheet
- Unsigned essays, those w/o coversheet and those received after the due date will not be considered

Work with your Post on the American Legion Oratorical Contest. This is for boys and girls in grades 9 thru 12. The contestants are truly amazing young people.

Also check out the Star Spangled Kids program. “Star Spangled” Kids is an initiative to educate children and youth in the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution. Auxiliary members can partner with the American Legion Family, team with their Education Chairman, and bring veterans or active duty military into the classrooms to talk about what their service means in defending the Constitution.

Continue to support Flag Promotion and Protection. Become involved in local patriotic programs, patriotic holiday observances, Get Out the Vote – a Presidential election is coming up before we know it in 2020!

And don't be afraid to apply for awards – both Department of Minnesota and National! You might be surprised.

Jo Anne Joachim
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