



There have been some phone calls to the office to ask about due dates for the poppy poster contest.

Units must have their **WINNERS ONLY** from each class to their District chairmen by **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

District chairman must have their **WINNERS ONLY** from each class to me by **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

The timeline that is used for reports is the best way to go on due date for Poppy posters. If for some reason you find it hard to meet these deadlines, please get in touch with me and we will talk about it.

I have included the poppy poster contest rules. The cover sheet can be found on the website along with the rules, [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) then look for poppy information.

A huge THANK YOU to all the Units (districts) and individuals that have and are still making Poppies!

The Department staff is working with Districts and individuals to make poppies year-round now, so we do not run short again. If a Unit would like to make their own Poppies, please contact the Department Office.

Also, a challenge went out to each District to hold a Poppy Paloosa to increase the number of Poppy Makers in the Districts. District 3 has led the way in this challenge with 3, yes (3) Paloosa's scheduled, District 6 has 1 scheduled and District 7 has 1 scheduled. If you need help getting your Paloosa set up, please reach out to me and I will be happy to help.

### **"POPPY" SPRITZ COOKIES**

1 cup butter — room temperature  
2/3 cup sugar  
3 egg yolks  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon almond flavoring (or other of your choice)  
generous squirt red gel food coloring  
2 1/2 cups flour

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Thoroughly mix first 5 ingredients, then add gel food coloring to achieve the desired color. Add and mix flour in increments. Using about 1/4 of dough at a time, force dough through a cookie press onto an ungreased cookie sheet using a wreath-shaped insert. Using a bit of extra dough, fill in the center of the wreath. Bake 7 to 10 minutes until set but not brown.

Cool completely. Decorate center by placing a drop of corn syrup in the center and sprinkling with black decorator sugar.

Place in 2"x2" cellophane bag, fold over, and staple to an ALA poppy bookmark

## **Poppy Poster Contest Rules**

Units shall sponsor contests in local schools. When schools do not conduct activities, other youth groups — including Junior members — may participate under direct supervision of the unit.

### **Contest Classes**

- Class I: Grades 2 and 3
  - Class II: Grades 4 and 5
  - Class III: Grades 6 and 7
  - Class IV: Grades 8 and 9
  - Class V: Grades 10 and 11
  - Class VI: Grade 12
  - Class VII: Students with special needs defined as: a. Those in special education classes.
- b. A student recommended for special education classes but who has not been admitted due to a waiting list or various other factors.
- c. A child identified as having a disability, but not in a special education class due to lack of facilities; identification contingent upon discretion of school officials.

## **Poppy Poster Requirements**

1. Each poster shall have a fitting slogan not to exceed 10 words. Articles “a”, “and,” “an”, “the” are not to be counted as words. The words “buddy” and “buy” cannot be used.
2. The words “American Legion Auxiliary” must be used in the design of the poster and will not be counted in the 10-word count.
3. Each poster must include a red poppy.
4. The department shall determine the closing date of the unit contest. The poster shall be on 11x14” poster board. (Drawing paper will not be accepted).
5. The United States flag may be used as long as there are no infractions of the flag code.
6. Posters will be judged using the following criteria:
  - 50% - poster appeal (layout, message, originality)
  - 40% - artistic ability (design and color)
  - 10% - neatness
7. Media used shall be watercolors, crayons, powder or oil paint, handmade paper cutouts, ink or textures, acrylics, pencils, and markers.
8. Written in ink on the back of the poster (not attached) shall be the class in which the entry is submitted, the name, address, age, and grade of the contestant and the name of the department.
9. Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of artwork, contestants and their legal guardians grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and artwork published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.
10. The poster shall be the work of only one individual.
11. The label “In Memoriam” from the veteran-made poppy may not be used.

## **Poppy Poster Contest Judging and Awards**

1. Each department shall establish its own procedure for judging.
2. A citation will be given for the most outstanding poster in each classification within the five divisions.
3. Unit members should follow deadlines and process for the department. All department entries are due to the division chairman by June 1.
4. While ALA representatives will do their best to return all posters, it is not guaranteed. We recommend participants take a picture or scan their poster for their records.
5. Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of artwork, contestants and their legal guardians grant nonexclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and artwork published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.