



Americanism

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Department Chairman



- **American patriotism is a fundamental value of the American Legion Auxiliary.**
- **Americanism programs teach respect for our country and our nation's flag.**
- **Patriotism is learned by seeing it in action.**
- **Patriotism is rooted in our character by practicing it throughout our lives.**



The purpose of the Americanism program is to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship.

Key Program Statements

- Be knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette, and proper disposal methods, and promote the observation of patriotic holidays so your community will look to the ALA for information.
- Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest.
- Participate in the promotion of The American Legion Americanism programs.



Americanism is made up of many different programs:


A few of them are:

- Americanism Essay Contest
- Star Spangled Kids
- ALA Girl and Boy State and Nation
- Flag Education
- American Legion Oratorical Contest



Americanism Essay Contest

- The Americanism Essay Contest was created to teach students the value of patriotism and what it means to be Americans. Thousands of students participate in the program each year and help promote a lifelong respect of our flag and country.
- Students (grades 3 to 12) explore the fundamental rights and freedoms we enjoy today. Each year's contest has a different theme; one student in each category per division is awarded a prize. There is a category for students with special needs.
- **Current Essay Theme:** *“What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?”*



Questions have been asked how to explain the Essay Topic to school age children. Here are some examples;

- America the Beautiful to me is our freedoms we exercise every day because of our Veterans and our Military.
 - Freedom of speech
 - Freedom of religion
 - The right to keep and bear arms
 - Freedom of assembly and the freedom to petition.
 - Freedom of expression.
 - Freedom of movement.
 - Right to vote.
- All above is because of our Veterans and Military.



Units

- Set deadline to receive essays
 - Provide information to schools (public, private, parochial, home schools) and other organizations (Boy & Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, Young Marines, etc.)
 - I suggest that you provide this information to the Schools this fall.
 - Include
 - Requested return date (deadline)
 - Cover Sheet
 - Other Unit specific instructions
- Appoint judging committee to select winners
 - Use a judging sheet (optional)
 - Submit to Kollett Kaehlert by the of deadline of **March 25, 2025.**



Star-Spangled Kids

- Educating our children about American history is extremely important to our country's civic health.
- **How to Promote Star Spangled Kids**
 - Star-Spangled Kids Kits
 - Pledge of allegiance Comic Book
 - Our Country's Flag Comic Book
 - Let's be Right on Flag Etiquette
 - Declaration of Independence
 - US Flag



American Legion Auxiliary Girl State Program

- High school students who have completed their junior year are competitively selected and sponsored by American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary posts and units for this program.
- Assistance from dedicated ALA volunteers ensures the program's nonpartisan governmental, patriotic, and civic objectives are carried out through interactive learning. Though the week is filled with many learning opportunities, there is always time for fun and the formation of long-term friendships.



Flag Education Program

- The American Legion's Flag Education Program increases awareness of proper flag display, dignified disposal and instills patriotism and honor in all Americans.
- The American Legion encourages and supports efforts to display the American flag and daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in our nation's classrooms.
- Flag Etiquette



The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

- The American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Program helps high school students develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of the U.S. Constitution.
- Scholarships are awarded at most levels of the competition, with the largest scholarships offered at the national level. In addition, each department winner who competes in the first round of the national contest receives a scholarship.



Patriotism is an attitude. Get yours red, white & blue.

**“The future of this republic is in the hands of the
American voter.”**

Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th President of the United States

- Election Day is November 5, 2024, one of our great freedoms is the right to vote for whomever we want to, so get out and vote.
- If you know of a Veteran or Community member that needs a ride or help getting to their polling place, help them out, show your Americanism.

The top portion of the slide features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes, set against a white background.

Questions on Americanism?

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