



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY • DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA

Holly Eslinger, Department Americanism Chairman (2020-2021)

4224 N Arlington Dr, Bismarck, ND 58503-7831

americanism@ndala.org • www.ndala.org

### **2020-2021 American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota Americanism Program Action Plan**

#### **Note to Unit Presidents**

I encourage all units to sponsor the Americanism Essay Contest in conjunction with your local schools.

- Contact your local school and ask them to participate.
- Give each student a copy of the Americanism Essay Contest Cover sheet.
- Be sure to ask that the essays be returned to your Unit by a specific date such as March 1, 2021.
- Remember you will need time to judge the essays and mail your Unit's winner or winners to me for judging at the Department Level.
- **DEADLINE** - Send your Unit's winner or winners to the address shown above no later than April 1, 2021.

Attached is a copy of the Constitution of the United States and a Q and A on the American Flag. Ask your school to promote flag etiquette and knowledge of the U.S. Constitution document.



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Department of North Dakota – Holly Eslinger, Department Americanism Chairman

- Contact information: [americanism@ndala.org](mailto:americanism@ndala.org).
- Please feel free to contact me at the email shown above if you have questions about the Americanism Program.
- A copy of the Americanism essay document is enclosed with this Program Action Plan.

**Americanism promotes patriotism and responsible citizenship.**

**What can you do to show Americanism?** Be knowledgeable about the flag of the United States, its etiquette, history, and proper disposal methods. Be knowledgeable about the meaning and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Encourage participation in Patriotic Holidays in your community, schools, and other Veteran's groups.

**Ideas:**

- Visit schools and share proper flag etiquette and other information such as what the flag stands for, how to properly fold the flag, how to properly dispose of the flag and how to properly display the flag.
- Visit schools and share the importance of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Display respect for the flag at public events
- Volunteer at Patriotic Events
- Vote- take children along to show the importance of voting and how to vote. Encourage those around you to vote
- Support the flag amendment-ask others to participate, can also contact legislators and ask them to support the flag amendment
- Work with educational institutions to educate on the Constitution.
- Conduct a flag retirement ceremony.
- Organize events on Patriotic Holidays, such as encouraging the community to display their American flag on Flag Day, placing flags on graves for Memorial Day, encouraging attendance at Memorial Day and Veterans Day events.
- Provide a resource for community and Legion Family members to purchase or receive flags for display
- Encourage your community to respect the flag and its tradition.
- Distribute pocket flags to those overseas active duty military.
- Promote participation in the Americanism Essay Contest. The theme for this year is:

***“How can we address the health and well-being of our veterans, military and their families?”***



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## Student Award:

### Type of award:

- **Citation** issued to the winner chosen by the Department of North Dakota Americanism Committee
- \$50 prize given if the (Department's) submitted winning essay is chosen by the National Americanism Committee and an additional \$50 donation is added to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship Fund.

Presented to 30 students total, six from each division, one student from each class in each Division.

## 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

Students with special needs are defined as:

- Those in special education classes.
  - A student recommended for special education classes, but who has not been admitted due to a waiting list or various other factors.
  - 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.
- Entries must include the Americanism Essay Contest cover sheet found in the Americanism Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan. You can also find this document at: [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org).
  - Unit winners are sent to the Department Americanism chairman, following Department guidelines.
  - For deadline and division Americanism chairman contact information, please refer to the Americanism Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan.
  - National winners will be informed of their award via communication from National Headquarters. The award check will be mailed directly to the student and the citation will be forwarded to the Department for presentation.
  - While ALA representatives will do their best to return all essays, it is not guaranteed.
  - We recommend participants retain a copy of their submission for their own records.



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### Ideas:

- Encourage your children/grandchildren to participate in the essay contests.
- Volunteer to help judge the essays.
- Contact schools and other organizations such as the Young Marines, Girl and Boy Scouts, and 4-H Chapters about the essay contest.
- Encourage Junior Auxiliary members to participate in the essay contest.
- Create information packets explaining contest rules, deadline dates, theme, and award opportunities.
- Contact the essay winner and their parents. Invite the parents to bring their child to your next Auxiliary meeting to read his/her winning essay. Provide refreshments.
- Work with school administration to identify guidance counselors, history teachers, etc. whose students would be interested in participating.
- Arrange for a day with the schools (preferably during a student assembly) to present the essay winners with their prizes.
- Provide cash award and/or a savings bond.
- Be sure to include this information on your Unit report to your District, Department, and National chairman.
- Remind members about the essay contest, provide information, and encourage members to promote it.

**Other ways to promote Americanism is to participate in the promotion of The American Legion Americanism programs.**

### Ideas:

#### ***Support American Legion Baseball.***

- Help with statistics.
- Work the concession booth.
- Donate funds to a team.
- Contact local sports shops and ask if they would be willing to make donation toward a fundraiser or offer a discounted price to purchase needed items.

#### ***Support the American Legion's Oratorical Contest.***

- Help prepare post home to sponsor local 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 teachers or debate coaches.

#### ***Support the Junior Shooting Sports, which promotes gun safety and marksmanship training for youth.***

- Volunteer to help with scoring, supervision, or transportation.
- Help recruit candidates at local schools and other organizations.
- Contact JROTC at local schools.



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### ***Support overseas troops and Veterans***

#### **Ideas:**

- Send care packages
- Send letters and cards
- Use electronic communications to communicate with deployed troops
- Thank a Veteran for his/her service to our country.

### **Americanism Reporting\***

#### ***Mid-Year Reports***

- Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of Units in the Department and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction.
- Each Department Americanism Chairman is required to submit a narrative report to the Division Americanism Chairman, plus submit a copy the National Americanism Chairman.

#### ***Annual Year-End Reports***

- Annual reports reflect the program work of Units in the Department and may result in a National award for participants if award requirements are met.
- Each Department Americanism chairman is required to submit a narrative report to the division Americanism chairman, plus submit a copy to the National Americanism chairman.
- Individual Auxiliary Members and Units should follow their Department's protocol and deadlines.
- *For deadlines and contact information, please consult the Annual Supplement to the 2017-2022 Programs Action Plan or visit the Americanism Committee page on the National website: [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).*

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

- How did you promote the Americanism essays contest?
- How did your Unit promote the flag program?
- How did you promote patriotic holidays?
- How did your Units encourage support of the flag amendment?
- Did your Unit support The American Legion Americanism programs? How?
- How did your Unit promote Americanism in their community?

**Americanism Awards** - Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just three simple steps to add your part to our National success story.

1. Please follow instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet found in the awards section of the Programs Action Plan.
2. Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the award's materials and guidelines section.
3. Submit as indicated in the Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan.
4. National Report and Awards Cover Sheet, deadlines, and Americanism committee contact information may be found on the Americanism committee page on the National website: [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).



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### A. Unit Award: Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program Award: Citation Plaque

- Presented to: One Unit in each of the five divisions.
- Materials and guidelines: 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.

### B. Department Award: Best Department Americanism Program: Award: Citation

- Presented to: One Unit in each of the five divisions
- Materials and guidelines: The entry must be typewritten in narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words
- The entry may include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, and folders, etc.

### Additional Resources You Can Use

American Legion Flag and 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(s) or Senator or visit his/her website.

- Flags are available for a nominal fee; four to six weeks should be allowed for delivery.

Pocket Flag Project:

- [www.pocketflagproject.com](http://www.pocketflagproject.com).
- Your National Americanism committee members (see Americanism program) at [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org).

Source: 2017-2022 American Legion Auxiliary Programs of Action Plan