



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY • DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA  
Americanism Program - Chairman Shauna Dubuque  
Phone: 701.491.8776 Email: americanism@ndala.org

## Americanism Program

### 2023-2024 Program Work Outline

The Americanism Program promotes patriotism, encourages civic engagement, and inspires citizenship for members, youth, and the communities they are a part of. Your unit members and volunteers can participate in many ways through this exciting Auxiliary program.

- Promote the Americanism Essay contest
- Exercise the right to vote
- Participate in flag etiquette programs and flag disposal ceremonies
- Participate in patriotic events and observances
- Develop a 'Star Spangled Kids' program
- Promote Legion Baseball, the Oratorical Contest, and Junior Shooting sports

### Americanism Essay Contest

- Essay title "What does Freedom mean to me?"
- Deliver copies of the essay cover sheet and information to local schools. Do not forget private schools and home school students
- Distribute essay information to students in your community, at your church, in your families, or who work at businesses you support
- Encourage unit members to participate in judging essays and picking winners to send to the Department
- Provide certificates and recognition events for local unit winners
- Carefully follow all deadlines and directions. **March 15** is the deadline to receive essays at the Department level.

### Right to Vote

- Exercise your right to vote by getting out there and voting! This special part of democracy was earned for us through blood and sacrifice
- Help others get out and vote by offering to drive them to the polls or helping them apply for absentee ballots
- Assist your local area by offering to work at polling stations
- Inform those around you about the importance of casting a ballot. Every person has a say and your vote counts!



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### **The American Flag**

- Promote flag etiquette programs in your local schools and communities. Visit classrooms in your school district and present on flag etiquette, rules, and guidelines
- Promote flag programs in your community and work with the American Legion Family to collect unserviceable flags for disposal ceremonies
- Host a flag raising or flag folding ceremony
- Plan a pocket flag project in your unit or with area youth (pocketflagproject.com)
- Visit [www.legion.org/flag](http://www.legion.org/flag) for great information on flag advocacy
- Share knowledge on flag history
- Visit [www.emblem.legion.org](http://www.emblem.legion.org) for flag resources such as:
  - *Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette*
  - *Flag Code* booklet

Please note: **“The Stars for our Troops Project” is not supported as an appropriate or viable program project.** The American Legion’s National Americanism Commission does not subscribe to the practice of cutting the United States flag into individual pieces prior to its proper disposal no matter what the reason or occasion may be. The Commission is of the opinion that when the flag is no longer a fitting emblem for display it should be disposed in its entirety, preferably by burning. The flag began as a whole; therefore, it is to be disposed of as a whole. (Courtesy National office)

### **Patriotic Events**

- Promote observation of patriotic holidays in your community by proudly flying flags, participating in parades, and holding ceremonies
- Encourage local businesses to fly the American flag on holidays and provide them with proper display etiquette information
- Model respect for the flag at events and observances by saluting, removing head coverings, and remaining quiet and still.

### **Star Spangled Kids**

- ALA initiative to educate youth about U.S. history, the U.S. Constitution, and Americanism
- Make ‘Star Spangled Kids’ kits to distribute to your local school classrooms. Work with the school district to identify age-appropriate materials
- Kits may include, but are not limited to:
  - ‘*The Pledge of Allegiance*’ and ‘*Our Country’s Flag*’ comic books
  - *Let’s Be Right on Flag Etiquette*
  - Copies of the Declaration of Independence/U.S. Constitution
  - Patriotic items such as key chains, small stick flags, flag pins, or patriotic stickers
  - These items are available from Emblem Sales ([www.emblem.legion.org](http://www.emblem.legion.org)), warehouse companies such as Oriental Trading (orientaltrading.com), local stores or businesses



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### **American Legion Family**

- Work with the American Legion Family and support Legion Baseball in your community. Volunteer at a game, help with fundraising, or coach players
- Support the Oratorical Contest in your area. Take information to local schools and encourage student participation in the contest. The contest encourages a deeper understanding of the U.S. Constitution and builds valuable leadership and speaking skills
- Work with local students that are participating in Junior Shooting sports by volunteering at an event, working with youth, providing transportation, or helping with fundraising

### **Awards**

- ✓ Americanism Essay Contest - One award in each of six classes will be presented by the Northwestern Division. Division winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in their name to the Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship fund. Winners at the Department level will be announced at Department Convention, will receive a certificate, and will be submitted for consideration at the Division level.
- ✓ Unit Award – one unit in each Division will be selected from National. The winner has an outstanding overall Americanism program, a fantastic narrative submission, and great photos of events.
- ✓ Department Award – one Department in each Division will be selected from National. The winner has an outstanding overall Americanism program, a fantastic narrative submission, and great photos of events.