

Americanism Program – 2025-2026 Work Outline

The Northwest Division Chairman loves to share quotes. This one is from Theodore Roosevelt, on the definition of Americanism. “Americanism means the virtues of courage, honor, justice, truth, sincerity, and hardihood that made America.” The theme for the 2025-2026 Americanism Essay contest is:

“Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for Our Freedom?”

Your unit members and volunteers can participate in numerous ways through this exciting auxiliary program.

- Promote the Americanism Essay Contest in your local schools. (see 2026 Essay Contest Rules and 2026 Essay Cover Sheet)
- Exercise the right to vote. Be sure to get out and vote in your community elections.
- Participate in flag etiquette programs in your schools and communities.
- Visit classrooms in your community and present flag etiquette rules and guidelines.
- Participate in patriotic events and observances: Veterans Day and Memorial Day, Flag Day.
- Develop a ‘Star Spangled Kids’ program. Visit the National website to learn more at: www.alaforveterans.org.
 - Collaborate with local schools to identify age-appropriate kit materials. Kits may include items such as:
 - The Pledge of Allegiance and our Country’s Flag comic books.
 - Let’s be Right on Flag Etiquette.
 - Copies of the Declaration of Independence and/or the US Constitution
 - Patriotic items such as key chains, small flags, flag pins, and patriotic stickers.
 - These items are available through American Legion Emblem Sales and warehouse companies such as Oriental Trading.

Follow the Americanism program on the National website at: www.alaforveterans.org.

If you have questions, feel free to reach out to me at americanism@ndala.org.

Arliss Koski, Department Americanism Chairman

2025-2026 Americanism Essay Contest Flow Chart – For Auxiliary Units

1. Units distribute Americanism essay instructions and cover sheets to area schools. Contest participants must submit essays to their local units no later than **March 1, 2026**.
 - a. *Please note: the Department Office will include the Americanism essay contest information in a Unit Packet in Late September or early October.*
2. Units select winners from each submission class and send one essay entry per class to the Department Americanism Chairman by **March 15, 2026**.
3. Department Americanism Chairman (Arliss Koski) will select class winners from all entries and must submit them to Northwestern Division Americanism Chairman no later than **April 1, 2026**.
4. All Entries must include an Americanism essay cover sheet. Additional copies may be found on the Department’s website at: www.ndala.org/americanism/.

Please include the following:

- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class.
- Completed essay cover sheet as the first page of the essay.
- Completed information on cover sheet for Sponsoring Unit Name/Number/Signature.
- Essays must be postmarked or in my email inbox no later than March 15, 2026.

Please mail or (scan or email) completed essays and cover sheets to:

Arliss Koski, Chairman
Department Americanism Program
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