

The American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Program

Purpose Statement

To inspire, recognize, and perpetuate responsible citizenship through education and acts of patriotism, in order to raise awareness and increase appreciation of the price paid for our fundamental freedoms.

Respect is both earned and learned. The fundamental value of the American Legion Auxiliary is showing respect for our country and our nation's flag. The Auxiliary creates opportunities for Americans to do both. We share practical things everyone can do to better live as grateful, patriotic citizens. The Auxiliary provides learning opportunities and instructional resources for important things every good citizen should know such as learning about the Constitution, flying the flag on patriotic holidays, folding pocket flags to send to our troops overseas, and presenting flags to local schools and businesses.

Promoting a Spirit of Patriotism

The Auxiliary is a member of the [Citizens Flag Alliance](#) and advocates for a constitutional amendment to protect the flag by supporting the federal legislation and encouraging other people to do so.

To help our country's most promising young citizens learn firsthand the principles of our free republic guided by the principles of democracy, the Auxiliary promotes many patriotic youth programs, most notably [American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation](#), held regionally and nationally, and the Americanism Essay Contest which is conducted in local school systems.

Star Spangled Kids

"Star Spangled" Kids is an initiative to educate children and youth in the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution. Auxiliary members can partner with the American Legion Family, team with their Education chairman, and bring veterans or active duty military into the classrooms to talk about what their service means to defending the Constitution.

ALA Americanism Program

Things To Do	Participate	# Members	Hours	Cost	People involved
Participate in the Essay contest					
Member of The Citizen Flag Alliance					
Teach Flag etiquette					
Publish Flag etiquette tips in local paper					
Teach proper disposal of the Flag					
List of Patriotic Holidays list					
Host a Patriotic event					
Fly the Flag (list in hours)					
Encourage businesses to fly the Flag					
Support the Flag Amendment					
Contact state & federal representatives					
Support Am. Legion Baseball					
Support the Oratorical Contest					
Offer to be a judge					
Offer to be a timekeeper					
Serve refreshments					
Veterans to the classroom					
Totals					



**AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST
2024 Cover Sheet**

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund.

Essay Title: *“What does Freedom mean to me?”*

Essay 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.

Essay Checklist:

- Class competing in _____
- Sponsoring ALA unit _____
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay _____
- Due date for student to return to ALA unit _____

To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student Name: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

School Name: _____

School City/State: _____

Teacher Name and Signature: _____

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit winner due to Department on: March 1st 2024 Department: Idaho

Signature of Department Chairman: _____

Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2024