

## Americanism Program

Is your Unit/Post recognized by the community as a leader in patriotism? Does your Unit/Post promote patriotic holidays, fly the American flag and promote flag etiquette, and advocate these values among the youth of the community?

These are the basic tenets of the Americanism Program.

Be knowledgeable on flag history, flag etiquette and proper disposal methods; promote the observation of patriotic holidays so your community will look to the ALA as a model and a resource.

Resources: Emblem Sales has pamphlets and items to distribute to members, community groups or students on these topics.

*Star Spangled Kids*: focus on educating the youth on history, patriotism, flag etiquette, the constitution and Bill of Rights. See attached information.

Resources: constitution facts.com

Participation in the Americanism Essay Contest

The topic for this year's national contest is ***“How to support families who provide care to their veterans.”***

If the national topic is not suitable for your community and schools, hold a local essay contest. Possible topics could include:

- What does it mean to be “an American”?
- Why is America the standard of Democracy and Freedom around the world?
- What is a veteran and why do we honor their service?

The Idaho Department Americanism Program will offer an award to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner in each Class. See attached Americanism Essay Contest Cover Sheet. The award will be a certificate and \$10 first place and \$5 second place. These awards will be given to both the national contest winners and local contest winners that are forwarded to the Department chairman. The Unit must send winning essays and completed Cover Sheet from each Class to the Department Chairman no later than **April 1, 2021**.

Resources: information is available on the national website: [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org)

Participate in the promotion of The American Legion Americanism programs

The American Legion has established a host of Americanism Programs. Auxiliary Units can work hand in hand with the Post to support these programs.

- Citizens Flag Alliance
- American Legion Baseball
- Junior Shooting
- Oratorical Contest
- Scouting

Resources: more information on each of these programs is available through the American Legion national website as well as the Auxiliary website [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org) under Americanism Program.

## AWARDS

- Unit Award: This National award is given to one Unit in each Division. In order to qualify for the award, the Unit should submit the Unit Report Form by May 1 to the Department Chairman with an attached narrative describing the activities and accomplishments of the Unit.  
\*A Department award will be given at the Department Convention to the winning Unit.
- Americanism Essay Contest: Units who participate in the Americanism Essay contest (National or local) will be eligible to receive a Department Award for participation given at the Department Convention.
- Star Spangled Kids Award: Units who participate in the Star Spangled Kids project educating youth on the US Constitution, patriotism, and flag etiquette will be eligible to receive a Department Award for participation given at the Department Convention.

### [Looking for ideas?](#)

*ALA Committee Facebook Groups are spaces on the social media network for ALA members to discuss or share about broad or narrow topics related to each committee. Groups provide an arena for organic discussion about your local programs or services and present the opportunity to cultivate brand awareness.*

*The fundamental value of the American Legion Auxiliary is showing respect for our country and our nation's flag. This is a place to share activities and events, ask questions, obtain information and promote the love of our country.*

*Kay Jones, Americanism Chairman*

## Americanism Report

Year end report due May 1, 2022

Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Number \_\_\_\_\_

Americanism Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information \_\_\_\_\_

1. Did your Unit promote patriotic holidays? Describe:
2. Did your Unit members fly the American Flag? \_\_\_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_\_\_ How many days? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did your Unit promote flag etiquette or flag education? Describe:
4. Did your Unit participate in Star Spangled Kids? \_\_\_\_\_ Describe
5. Did your Unit participate in the Americanism Essay Contest? \_\_\_\_\_ National or Local? \_\_\_\_\_ How many students participated? \_\_\_\_\_ How did your Unit promote the contest?
6. Did your Unit or Unit members promote Americanism in schools or community groups? \_\_\_\_\_ Describe:
7. Did your Unit support the American Legion Americanism Programs? If so, describe
  - a. Citizens Flag Alliance?
  - b. American Legion Baseball?
  - c. Junior Shooting?
  - d. Oratorical Contest?
  - e. Scouting?

Please submit Unit Americanism reports by May 1, 2022. Units wishing to be considered for a Department or National award must submit a narrative report as well describing your program in depth. Send winning essays (by April 1) and reports (by May 1) to: Kay Jones, 2660 E 4256 N, Twin Falls, ID 83301 or by email to [joneska60@gmail.com](mailto:joneska60@gmail.com)