

Americanism



2018-2019
Americanism Action Plan
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What is the program, and why does the Auxiliary have it?

The Americanism program promotes patriotism and responsible citizenship.

What can Units and Members do?

1. Be knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette and proper disposal methods. Promote the observance of patriotic holidays.

- Communicate information regarding flag etiquette with members
- Educate others on how to respect the flag and encourage members to fly a flag
- Walk/participate in parades as an American Legion Auxiliary Unit
- Sign up to receive notifications on when to display the flag at half staff at www.legion.org
- Assemble pocket flags to be distributed to deployed troops, www.pocketflagproject.com
- Conduct or assist a flag disposal ceremony

2. Encourage members to vote and support the amendment to protect the United States Flag from desecration.

- Vote and encourage others to vote
- Take children/grandchildren when voting

3. Participate in the promotion of the The American Legion Americanism programs.

- Support American Legion Baseball: Work a concession stand, Donate to a team,
- Support the Oratorical Contest: Help Post home to sponsor local or district contest, Volunteer to be an escort, timekeeper, or a judge, Encourage student participation, Provide refreshments
- Support Junior Shooting Sports: promoting gun safety and marksmanship training for our youth.

4. Increase participation in the South Dakota Americanism Poetry Contests.

5. Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest. This years Essay Title is:
“How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities?”

Essays 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' grade level

Entries must include the essay cover sheet as first page of essay.

Awards: 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' fund. National winners will be posted at www.ALAforVeterans.org after convention.

Americanism Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements:

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.

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

- A. Unit Award: Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program: Deadline June 1, 2019. Send to national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST
- B. Department Award: Best Department Americanism Program: Deadline June 1, 2019. Send to national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. Best
- C. Americanism Essay Contest: All Department adjudicated entries must be sent by the department chairman to her national division chairman emailed or postmarked by April 15, 2019.

Reporting:

	Mid-Year Reports	Year End Reports
From Units to District Presidents	November 15, 2018	April 15, 2019
From District Presidents to Dept. Chairs	December 1, 2018	May 1, 2019
From Dept. Chairs to Dept. President & National Divisional Chairman	December 15, 2018	May 15, 2019

Mid-Year Reports: Activities from April 1 to November 1. **Year End Reports:** November 1 to April 1.

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

- How did you promote the Americanism Essays Contest?
- How did units promote the flag program?
- How did you promote patriotic holidays?
- How did units encourage support of the flag amendment?
- Did units support The American Legion Americanism programs and How?
- How did units promote Americanism in their community?

Please mail Essays to me by March 15th so that there is sufficient time for me to judge essays and submit to National Division Chairman. Thank you for your promptness in submitting reports in a timely manner. My mailing address is 125 North Madison Ave, Pierre SD 57501. Email is charlies95@live.com.

Thank you,
Patsy Madsen
SD Dept. Americanism Officer