

Suggested Activities for American Legion Auxiliary – Americanism Program

These suggestions are only to help determine what type of activities are classified under the Americanism program. There are many other activities happening in our state that promote Patriotism and Americanism – be sure to include those in your reports! If you have any questions please contact Shawn Giesler, shawngiesler@yahoo.com, 605-421-1600.

1. Any **educational programs** for youth in the areas of Americanism and the Constitution.

Distribute Star Spangled Kids materials to students. Create a Youth Good Citizen Award. Go into classrooms to teach students about special holidays and symbols of America. Take youth to see the voting process. Hand out copies of the Constitution and discuss its importance. Team up with your education Chairman to get a Veteran in the classroom to talk about their service.

2. Any **flag related programs** in your schools or communities.

Hand out flags, flag bookmarks, or flag stickers. Discuss flag etiquette with students or civic groups. Recognize community members for flying the flag. Assist your local post in putting out flags for patriotic holidays. Help to present Colors at local events. Help with the upkeep of a community flagpole. Assist with a flag disposal ceremony. Discuss the National Anthem or Pledge of Allegiance with a group. Publish information in the local newspaper or on social media about the flag or programs you participated in. Read books about the flag in schools.

3. **Identify your Unit** as a community **resource for assistance** in promoting patriotism.

Participate in events that celebrate America and Veterans, such as Memorial Day, Veterans' Day or Wreaths Across America. Set up a POW/MIA table at functions or for display. Sponsor a recognition event for Emergency Responders. Provide meals or snacks for community events. Work with the Get Out the Vote program. Offer rides to the polls. Participate in local parades. Thank a local veteran for their service. Send valentines to veterans. Wear Auxiliary gear to all activities. Display Auxiliary posters, logos, and contact info for your community service events.

4. Promote both the **Poem and Essay Contests** at the local level.

Go to local schools and distribute information on the contests. Visit with other youth groups or homeschool groups. Put articles in the newspaper. Put information on social media. Help judge entries. Have a reception or program for the winners and hand out certificates or awards.

5. Assist the **American Legion** with their Americanism Projects.

Volunteer to take tickets, work concessions, and provide snacks at events. Promote the Oratory Program or volunteer at a competition. Help with fundraising or transportation. Promote the baseball, shooting sports, and Youth Trooper Academy programs.