

*"to foster and perpetuate a 100% Americanism"*

# *Americanism* **MANUAL**



THE AMERICAN LEGION





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## **PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

For God and country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America
- To maintain law and order
- To foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism
- To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars
- To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation
- To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses
- To make right the master of might
- To promote peace and good will on earth
- To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy
- To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

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## FOREWORD

This Manual has been prepared as a guide to Legionnaires who accept the challenge of sponsoring and conducting Americanism activities that feature a wide-range of community service, youth development, educational advancement and counter-subversive activities.

### *Principles of Americanism*

The characteristic that distinguishes our form of government from others is the recognition of the truth that the inherent and fundamental rights of men are derived from God and not from governments, dictators, or majorities.

The unalienable rights, which are the gifts of man from his Creator are: freedom of worship; freedom of speech and press; freedom of assemblage; freedom to work in such occupation as the experience, training and qualifications of man may enable him to secure and hold; freedom to enjoy the fruits of his work, which means the protection of property rights; and the right to pursue his happiness so long as he does not harm others in the pursuit of this happiness. Upon these basic principles, the structure of our form of government was established.

### *Americanism Defined*

Americanism is love of America; loyalty to her institutions as the best yet devised by man to secure life, liberty, individual dignity, and happiness; and the willingness to defend our country and flag against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

It is a vital, active, living force. Americanism means peace, strength, the will and the courage to live as free men in a free land. It means a friendly hand to people everywhere who respect our institutions and our thinking. It is not a word; it is a cause, a way of life – the best way of life ever known – a challenge and a hope in this world.

Americanism is an ideal of loyal patriotism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom, fearless courage, honest integrity, abiding faith in the commanding destiny of the United States, and a fathomless love for the principles that led our forefathers to found this country.

It is complete and unqualified loyalty to the ideals of government as set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. It is respect for, and ready obedience to, duly constituted authority and the laws of the land. It is freedom without license, religion without bigotry, charity without bias, and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty for our nation and for our posterity.

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## THE WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST AMERICANISM TROPHY



*The American Legion Department of Wisconsin was awarded the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy during the 92nd National Convention of The American Legion at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Shown from left for the presentation are: Department NEC-man David L. Gough, National Commander Clarence E. Hill, Department Adjutant David A. Kurtz, Department Commander Robert S. Batty, Immediate Past Department Commander Leo A. Endres, and Portia Young of WISN-TV12, Milwaukee, representing the Hearst Corporation.*

The William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy is awarded annually to a department at the National Convention. The winner is determined by the compiled information taken from the department's total number of Consolidated Post Report forms. The Post Americanism Chairman should assist the Post Adjutant in reporting their Americanism activities and encourage the filing of the Consolidated Post Report to ensure proper credit to each department's overall Americanism program.

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# THE NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION

The National Americanism Commission of The American Legion was created by The American Legion's National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1919. Accounts of that meeting reported the following action:

*“We recommend the establishment of a National Americanism Commission of The American Legion, whose duty shall be the endeavor to realize in the United States the basic ideal of this Legion of 100 percent Americanism through the planning, establishment and conduct of a continuous, constructive educational system designed to:*

- “(1) Combat all anti-American tendencies, activities and propaganda;*
- “(2) Work for the education of immigrants, prospective American citizens and alien residents in the principles of Americanism;*
- “(3) Inculcate the ideal of Americanism in the citizen population, particularly the basic American principle that the interests of all the people are above those of any special interest or any so-called class or section of the people;*
- “(4) Spread throughout the people of the nation the information as to the real nature and principles of American government;*
- “(5) Foster the teachings of Americanism in all schools.”*

## *Objectives*

It is the objective of the National Americanism Commission to translate Americanism precepts, principles and ideals in an understandable and practical manner to American Legion posts and other groups and individuals, including young America.

A strong Americanism program should emphasize the significance of the American tradition, and should instill a sense of personal obligation to assume an active role in the duties and responsibilities of American citizenship. It should provide opportunity and encouragement for each individual to develop to their fullest capacity the intellectual, moral, physical and economic qualifications necessary for happy, useful living in a free country.

While the Americanism program consists of a broad and objective, multi-faceted program featuring wide-range community service, better citizenship, youth development and counter-subversive activities, the efforts of the National Americanism Commission are generally educational in nature and embrace specific objectives. Those objectives are:

- To promote understanding of the principles of democratic government, developing interest in governmental problems, and bringing more citizens to think seriously of the duties of citizenship;
- To give sound, practical service in our communities, working to

make these communities better and safer places in which to live;

- To emphasize religion, encouraging its continuation in the life of every citizen;
- To encourage education in every possible manner, presenting school awards, conducting oratorical contests, cooperating with education and citizenship groups, promoting proper flag etiquette and display, and sponsoring objective youth-development programs;
- To do important work for the youth of America, sponsoring American Legion Baseball, the National High School Oratorical Contest, American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation, Boy Scout activities and many other citizenship and objective-training activities;
- To work for the assimilation of legal immigrants through schools of citizenship and other agencies, and stand for the restriction of immigration so that this assimilation may approach perfection;
- To combat subversion and all un-American groups and activities.

### *Department and Post Americanism Committees*

The Americanism Committees of departments and posts are responsible for meeting the challenges embodied in those sections of the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion which state: "To uphold and

defend the Constitution of the United States of America; ... To foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism; ... To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; ... To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; ... To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy." All of these principles are concerns of Americanism committees.

The development of the Americanism program in departments and posts depends to a great extent upon the initiative of the Americanism chairmen. Those Legionnaires must possess the qualities of leadership, vision, high idealism, and be able to inspire others of the committee and the membership to carry out the requirements of the various activities associated with the Americanism program. Americanism chairmen should be among the most patriotic and active members of departments and posts.

### **Department Americanism Committee**

It is suggested that the Department Americanism Committee consist of one representative from each Legion district in the state, with subcommittee chairmen charged with the responsibility of carrying out the promotion of the major objectives of community service, education, youth activities, and counter-subversive activities. It is also suggested that American Legion Baseball, American Legion Boys State, the National High School Oratorical Contest, Service to God and Country, and other important Americanism programs have



special subcommittees headed up by a chairman.

### **Post Americanism Committee**

The Americanism program of The American Legion has always been a program that fosters wide-range community service, educational growth, religious emphasis, youth development, and constant observation of subversive organizations and individuals – all promoted and conducted at the post by the Americanism committee.

For the most effective implementation of some of the major program activities at the post level, it is suggested that there be subcommittees, each with its chairman, to oversee Boys State, American Legion Baseball, community service, Oratorical Contest, Boy Scouts, education, Shooting Sports, Service to God and Country, etc.

Without a doubt, an active and thorough Americanism program is essential to the success of the post and, ultimately, to the development

of a positive image for The American Legion.

### ***Annual Americanism Post Awards***

Each year a Distinguished Service Citation is awarded to an American Legion post in each department that conducts the most outstanding Americanism and Community Service activity. A Meritorious Service Citation is awarded to the runner-up in each department. Every post that conducts a satisfactory Americanism program may receive an Annual Americanism Citation.

It is important that all post Americanism activities be reported annually on the Consolidated Post Report form distributed by department headquarters. The Consolidated Post Report form, when completed, should be returned to department headquarters so that an accurate report of post activities can be compiled. This information is valuable in meeting legislative objectives at both the state and federal levels of government.

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## **COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SAFETY ACTIVITIES**

The objective of the broad, far-reaching community service program of The American Legion is “to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation.”

One of the most lasting Legion contributions to American life is that of making our communities better places in which to live.

Community service is a major Americanism activity. Several good projects should be included on the program of every post each year. Every project completed adds strength and better service to the community. It will be a sense of great satisfaction in later years to look over worthwhile institutions in a community and be able to say: “The American Legion started that in this area.”

Hundreds of projects, designed for the betterment of communities, are sponsored each year by posts. Every community is in need of many improvements, and therein lies opportunity for the local post to take the lead in an active, aggressive campaign for community betterment. The post should first conduct a survey, look over activities promoted by others, decide what the community needs and set out, with the cooperation of other organizations, to accomplish its desired objectives.

### *Organization*

It is important that a well-qualified Community Service Committee Chairman be appointed. This chairman is the post's lead in contacting other civic groups and fraternal organizations. They should be civic-minded, endowed with vision and have the ability to inspire and motivate others. It is also suggested that the committee be sufficiently large so that it may be divided into sub-committees.

Active participation in community affairs promotes favorable public opinion, improves the image of The American Legion and often increases post membership.

Needed community projects, disclosed through an initial survey, should not be attempted with haste. After other groups have been contacted and information relative to their activities has been secured, the improvements of old projects and the development of new

ones should receive careful consideration by the committee. New projects should be designed to create greater community pride and elevate the standards of living in the post's service area. Legion posts can provide the inspiration for the revival of community loyalty and pride.

A coordinating committee should be formed when a Legion post undertakes a community project in cooperation with other organizations. This committee would act in a liaison capacity between the post and other civic and/or fraternal groups.

Any community service program will likely include three phases of action – immediate, intermediate, and future. Each post should conduct one or more community service activities designed to meet the immediate needs of the community; however, intermediate and future objectives should be a part of the committee's general program planning.

### *Suggested Community Service Activities*

**Winter** – Ice skating, sledding, teen centers, hobby and craft shows, dances, forum discussions on com-



munity problems, voting activities and Americanism study courses. These and many other activities unique to respective communities of the country should be so designed that the greatest number of people of all ages in the community will be favorably affected.

Organize a teenage council so that the post may have the benefit of the teenage group's input in preparing a program for spring and summer.

**Spring and Summer** – Boys State, bicycling, golf tournaments, hiking, concerts, street dances, parks, playgrounds, festivals, planting trees, marksmanship, fishing tournaments and the development of swimming and wading pools and bathing beaches.

**Fall** – County fairs and exhibits, educational facilities, educational entertainment courses, organize a Boy Scout troop, Color Guard activities and other participatory school programs, and election activities.

These are only a few of the activities and programs that will contribute to the creation of community spirit and harmony. These suggested projects can be developed with a minimum expenditure of funds through coordination and unity of effort, coupled with imagination, initiative and resourcefulness on the part of the post membership.

### ***Community Betterment***

A program of community betterment is a program that will attract the goodwill and support of the citizens of the community. A number of

projects may be carried into effect through the efforts of only Legionnaires and Legion family organizations; others require the combined effort of other local groups and organizations. In large communities where a community council does not exist, the Legion post should formulate basic plans for the operation of a council and initiate a movement for its organization on a community-wide level. The Legion post should always be represented on the council by a member of its Community Service Committee.

### **Examples of Community Betterment Projects**

**Service to God and Country program:** The American Legion's Service to God and Country program emphasizes a vital part the church must play in every community. It has a threefold goal: encourage regular attendance at church or synagogue; daily family prayer and devotion; and religious training of children. Because of the importance of the Service to God and Country program movement, it is covered in greater detail later in this booklet.

**County Fair and Exhibit:** Where the management of fairs and exhibits has been delegated to posts, the overall supervision should be vested in a central committee, with subcommittees appointed to perform specific duties. The efforts of the subcommittees should be coordinated by the central committee.

**Employment and Service Bureau:** While a majority of communities utilize the employment services established by states, it has been

found that when a post accepts the obligation of caring for its own membership, service is personalized and confidence is engendered in those individuals requesting assistance. Employers who are Legion-minded should be encouraged to list job openings with the post prior to seeking employment in the open labor market.

**Gardening and Landscape Clubs:** Twenty volunteers, working one hour each weekday afternoon for four weeks, would accumulate 400 volunteer work-hours. Those volunteer-hours, along with necessary machinery and other equipment furnished by a local contractor or county officials, could perform untold wonders toward making a drab spot a place of beauty and pride. Garden contests, landscaping, distribution of seed, and many other worthwhile projects open avenues of opportunity for community improvements.

**Get Out the Vote Program:** Each election is important and it is also important that all eligible voters exercise their right of franchise by casting his or her ballot. On this premise, the "Get Out the Vote" program was initiated. The concept is to organize teams in the community to see that each voter is properly registered, and on Election Day, each registered voter casts their ballot. If executed properly, this program can do more than any other program your post can sponsor. Locally prepared bumper stickers and other vote reminders can be utilized to promote the program.

**Lighting Systems and Playground Maintenance:** Many communities have playgrounds and athletic fields that could be put into greater use with the addition of lighting systems. This could help curb juvenile delinquency in the community and a larger number of young people will have available to them more opportunities for recreation.

**Career Education:** In every post, there are Legionnaires who are engaged in different lines of work in the community. By inviting groups of students to their shops and offices to tell them about their work, these Legionnaires can give the students a clear concept of the opportunities available to them through various occupations. This will help students to make a wise choice of careers in business or professional fields. A well-planned program in "career education" should be developed in every community.

**Memorials:** The National Americanism Commission strongly recommends to all communities desiring to establish war memorials, that they be created in the form of memorial parks, recreation centers, community buildings, nature trails and other suitable memorials.

**Veteran of the Month:** The National Americanism Commission conducts a program recognizing and memorializing the service of veterans. The Veteran of the Month program is based on a recognition period of one month at which time a deceased veteran's burial flag is flown from a designated flag pole in the community and the individual's service

record is memorialized by the sponsoring post. While the administration of the program is strictly a local responsibility, guideline booklets on suggested program tips are available from National Headquarters and/or department sources.

### *Legion Safety Activities*

**Gun Safety:** Shooting sports is an important recreational activity in America. Nearly 70 million people own firearms with over half of all U.S. households having at least one firearm. More than 20 million hunting licenses are issued annually in the United States. The American Legion believes in adequate training for all individuals who handle any type of gun, whether it be used for sport or home security. (See section on Shooting Sports)

**Bicycle Safety Program:** The post safety committee should organize and direct an effective campaign against accidents involving bicyclists. A standard bicycle city ordinance should be adopted and a bicycle safety code should be publicized. Safe routes and bicycle trails should be designated by local officials, publicized and their use encouraged.

**School Safety Patrols:** Many communities lack a sufficient number of volunteers to assist students in crossing busy streets. Legion posts can work with schools to fill these important positions and help reduce child traffic accidents. A school safety patrol can also seek out other areas of concern that may place students at risk.

**Learn to Swim Campaign:** Hundreds of lives could be saved each summer if more people knew how to swim. A post can perform a real service to its community by promoting a summer "Learn to Swim and Life Saving" campaign. If the local Red Cross chapter conducts such a campaign, the Legion post should assist their efforts where possible.

There are many other safety activities that are worthy of consideration by the post. If there is an established safety council in a community, the Legion post should cooperate with it in carrying out a strong safety program. In the majority of instances, safety is not primarily a Legion problem, except that the Legion is an important segment of the community and possesses both the leadership and workforce necessary to assist in effecting safety programs.



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## SERVICE TO GOD AND COUNTRY

The Service to God and Country program is basic Americanism. It is not a fostering of religious worship in order to appease any element of our citizenry or to draw attention from any less desirable social activities. Since it is essentially basic Americanism, it is strictly non-denominational.

When our Founding Fathers established our form of government, they based the practical workings of this government upon a new and untried political philosophy. It was a philosophy of government that had long existed in the minds of men, but had never been tried in a practical manner. They based our form of government upon the idea that the great Creator of man had endowed each and every human being with "certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," and they established the function of government as that of protecting these God-given rights.

To us today, this ideal of government seems self-evident. We ask, "What other basic ideal of government can there be?" but we must realize that a large part of the world today subscribes to a form of government that is unalterably opposed to our own philosophy. They say that the State, not God, is the author of our rights. This is totalitarianism. Often it is presented under a patriotic guise that fools those who do not see its basic evils. When it is too late, men realize that they have been sold on a program harmful to themselves. If the State gives the individual his rights, the State may

withdraw those rights for its own convenience. Thus, for propaganda purposes, or for any other reason, the State may even take back from the citizen the right to live. In doing this, it can declare that it does no injury to its citizens since they essentially have no right to live except at the permission of the State.

**It is Americanism:** Under our own American philosophy of government, this withdrawal of human rights is impossible. If God gave us rights, only the Creator of those rights can take them away. No State, for reasons of its own, can take your liberty, your property or any other right. They are God-given and our government recognizes this fact.

The American Legion realizes that in order to protect this ideal of government the American people must never forget God, the source of their rights. An informed and vigilant populace, who believe that their Creator endowed them with their individual rights, can never be sold on totalitarianism under any guise. It is the aim and objective of this American Legion program to bring God to the foreground in American life, not only the religious life, but the social, economic and political life as well. God is an essential part of real Americanism. Without God, there is no Americanism.

**Its Objectives:** In order to establish this program as a real activity of The American Legion, it must be carried on as an activity of the individual post. It does no good to have high-sounding ideals projected on national

or department levels unless they produce activity in the posts where they reach the Legionnaire and the people in the community. Without the cooperation of the posts, the movement is not an American Legion activity – it is only an ideal. It is merely fine sounding phraseology if it does not accomplish the purpose of bringing the American people to the realization that their Creator has endowed the individual with his individual rights.

In order to present the program in a practical way, The American Legion has divided it into three objectives to be emphasized:

- Regular public worship.
- Daily family prayer.
- The religious education of our children.

By promoting these three points of

emphasis, we feel that the program can continue to be a viable and practical movement in fulfilling our duty to God and Country.

The following literature is published by the National Americanism Commission and available through American Legion Emblem Sales. Call 1-888-453-4466 or visit <http://emblem.legion.org> for current prices.

- Service to God and Country (Stock No. 755.112)
- Chaplain's Prayer Manual (Stock No. 755.111)

The American Legion Chaplains "How to ..." Guide (Stock No. 23-011) may be ordered by contacting National Americanism and Children & Youth Division at [acy@legion.org](mailto:acy@legion.org) or (317) 630-1212.

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## EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

The recommendation adopted by The American Legion's National Convention in 1919, at the time the National Americanism Commission was created, stated that a major objective of the Commission shall be the realization in our country of the ideal of 100 percent Americanism through the development and support of a continuous, constructive educational system destined to accomplish certain enumerated citizenship and Americanism objectives. Throughout the years of its existence, the efforts of the National Americanism Commission have been directed toward that high purpose.

The relationship of The American Legion to the schools of America is

that of a friendly and firm supporter of free education as a means of keeping and improving a free civilization. Accepting its responsibility, The American Legion has taken a positive approach toward the training of American youth in the rights and privileges, the duties and responsibilities of citizenship.

Over the years, The American Legion at all levels has, through a cooperative working relationship, encouraged its membership to keep abreast with the many changes required to maintain a successful school system and to meet its educational objectives. Support has been provided by The American Legion to secure adequate funds for school

construction, research, teachers' salaries and a variety of resources to assist students to continue with their education.

### *Policy on Education*

The American Legion believes that every educational facility should be provided for the fullest development of the mental resources and technical skills of our people. It also believes that curriculum study should be stimulated; that teacher preparation should be strengthened; that teachers' salaries should be improved; that testing and guidance programs should be extended and undergirded; that physical facilities for instruction should be expanded and improved; that maximum intellectual opportunities should be provided for all students commensurate with capacity to absorb and apply, irrespective of financial resources of the student or his family.

The American Legion further believes that the citizens of this country should be dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the entire realm of intellectual endeavor; that our people should recognize with esteem those persons who have developed their intellectual abilities to the fullest extent; that teachers should enrich their knowledge and capacity, particularly in the fields in which they teach, and that scholarship assistance to deserving students should be expanded.

A key objective of The American Legion's education program must be to provide people with the finest training in the world in basic skills

of communication, and in knowledge which will enable individuals to think for themselves, to think with facts, to think with understanding. School programs should be constantly reappraised to see that they accomplish these objectives.

Such an educational program will fulfill the dreams of the past, the aspirations of the present and the needs for the future. The American Legion supports such a system of education, and believes that the vitality of our democratic way of life is dependent upon such schools.

### *The Education Program*

The following objectives and policies, adopted by National Convention action, provide the guidelines for The American Legion's Education Program.

The objectives are:

- 1) To help make it possible for any child of a veteran who has ability or desire to receive an education beyond high school
- 2) To encourage the membership of The American Legion and its affiliated organizations to take an active part in the development and maintenance of a school system that will serve the needs of all children at every level
- 3) To encourage students to select careers where personnel shortages exist

The policies established to accomplish the objectives are:



- 1) To collect and disseminate information on existing scholarship sources
- 2) To provide sources of scholarships and financial aid to potentially eligible students
- 3) To develop new scholarship opportunities for students
- 4) To cooperate with established organizations in the recruitment of students for careers where personnel shortages exist

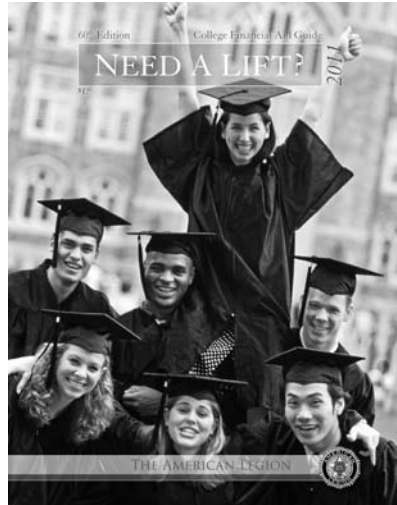
### Specific Program Goals

Through the coordinated efforts of education chairmen at the national, department and local levels of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, the following areas are given specific attention as goals for the program:

- 1) Continued partnership with schools in American Education Week, Boys State/Girls State, baseball, oratorical, school awards, flag education and with adherence to The American Legion's National Policy on Education
- 2) An increased effort in providing financial aids information to parents and students and the continued distribution of The American Legion *Need A Lift?* handbook to school officials
- 3) Initiate a cooperative effort within the community to promote a "PACT" (Post, Auxiliary and Community Together) program to encourage educational commitment at the family level, par-

ticularly in the further promotion of citizenship education; and

- 4) Concentrated involvement with career education assistance to the schools through career resources speakers, youth employment, field trips, etc.



### *Need A Lift?*

*Need A Lift?*, a financial aid CD published annually as a part of The American Legion's Education program, contains sources of career and scholarship information for all children. It also contains information relative to state laws that regulate education benefits. *Need A Lift?* serves as an excellent guide for teachers and parents in planning with students to further their education beyond high school. *Need A Lift?* is available online at [www.legion.org/needalift](http://www.legion.org/needalift) and as a CD from American Legion Emblem Sales (Stock No. 755.511). Call 1-888-453-4466 or visit <http://emblem.legion.org> for pricing. Posts in The American Legion are encouraged to secure and distribute *Need A Lift?*

## *Guide for Parents and Students*

“Plan early for your future education,” is the message of The American Legion’s *Guide for Parents and Students*.

This pamphlet is available to American Legion posts and Auxiliary units for use in their education program. It is suggested that Legion posts and Auxiliary units secure a copy for each high school student in their area and ask that the students share its contents with their parents.

This activity not only provides a helpful service to students in planning for their future education but also places a positive American Legion program in homes throughout the community.

The Guide for Parents and Students (Stock No. 755.209) may be obtained from American Legion Emblem Sales. Call 1-888-453-4466 for current prices, or visit <http://emblem.legion.org> for current pricing.

## *American Education Week*

American Education Week grew out of the revelation during World War I that an alarming proportion of the American people were illiterate and physically unfit. Representatives of the National Education Association and the newly formed American Legion discussed this problem, and their talks led to observance of the first American Education Week in 1921. Since 1922, the observance has also been sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, and in 1938, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers became the fourth national

sponsor. A fifth national sponsor, the National School Boards Association, was added in 1980, and today there are 13 national co-sponsors.

The fundamental objective of American Education Week is to acquaint the parents and all citizens of every community with the achievements, aims and needs of their schools. Nothing is more vital to the well-being of the nation than the education of our citizens.

American Education Week is a great national institution in which many American Legion posts participate. It is the responsibility of all citizens to help maintain good schools that build good citizens. The American Legion, throughout its history, has accepted the responsibility of giving all-out support to schools, and in keeping with The American Legion’s program of good citizenship, Legionnaires are encouraged to give their schools all possible aid.

The 13 national co-sponsors of American Education Week select the general theme. Each year the office of the National Americanism Commission prepares special literature on this observance for distribution through departments to posts.

The following literature may be ordered by contacting the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division at [acy@legion.org](mailto:acy@legion.org) or (317) 630-1212

- Policy on Education (Stock No. 23-005)
- American Education Week (Stock No. 23-006)

- PACT (Stock No. 23-002)

The following literature may be obtained from American Legion Emblem Sales. Call 1-888-453-4466 or visit <http://emblem.legion.org> for pricing.

- *Need A Lift?* (Stock No. 755.511)
- A Guide for Parents and Students (Stock No. 755.209)

### ***Suggested Duties of Post Americanism or Education Chairman***

- Select a post American Education Week committee prior to September 15
- Contact local school officials, PTO/PTA presidents, and other interested groups to plan a coordinated meeting early in October
- Work out a cooperative program with local churches, service clubs, civic and social organizations
- Request an American Education Week proclamation from the mayor
- Arrange for an outstanding Veterans Day program
- Arrange for school visits by American Legion and Auxiliary members (See section on Veterans in the Classrooms)
- Request radio and television coverage and advertise a time schedule of the program
- Arrange for local papers and business firms to carry newsworthy features and releases
- Organize banquets, dinners, and rallies

- Promote attendance at an open-house and at other school events
- Plan early to secure Americanism and educational literature from the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division for distribution during American Education Week
- Contact American Legion Emblem Sales to purchase related materials

### ***National Committee on Education***

The National Committee on Education (NCOE) was created by Resolution No. 12, May 1976, for the following purposes:

- 1) To inform itself and The American Legion/American Legion Auxiliary of developments, problems and potentials in the field of education
- 2) To recommend appropriate policies and programs for The American Legion/American Legion Auxiliary
- 3) To maintain contact with the educational community so that there may be an interchange of thinking between The American Legion/American Legion Auxiliary and educators, students and other organizations concerned with the well-being of education throughout the Nation.

This committee meets at least twice annually to discuss matters relating to education. Its recommendations are made to the National Americanism Commission for consideration and appropriate action.

## *The Coordinated Education Committee*

A Coordinated Education Committee should be formed to facilitate cooperation between The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion. This committee should be composed of members of the Education Committee of the Legion, Auxiliary and affiliated organizations, as well as representatives from any other Legion/Auxiliary committees, which are involved with youth and education.

The primary purpose of such a Coordinated Committee should be the development and promotion, especially within the local education community, of an over-all, year-long educational plan. Each activity promoted by the Coordinated Committee should then have a subcommittee responsible for that specific program. The work of this committee should be as a helping force that opens doors for easier operation of those subcommittees which are responsible for the National High School Oratorical Contest, Boys/Girls State, American Legion Baseball, Citizenship Education, Career Education and any other youth programs believed to be of importance to a particular community.

Experience at the national level has demonstrated convincingly the merits of the Coordinated Committee concept in working toward better programs with less confusion and repetition. School officials are pleased with a definite yearly program worked out in advance.

## *American Legion School Award Medal Program*

The American Legion School Award Medal program is designed to place emphasis on development of the qualities of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service in students. The School Award Medal program helps youth to live their lives as good and productive citizens by promoting an understanding of these qualities. The School Award Medal program is featured by presenting School Award Medals and Certificates to the most outstanding boy and girl of the graduating class in elementary, junior/middle school, or senior high school and college.

### **Method of Award**

The post commander should appoint a committee of not more than three members to contact local school authorities. A line of communication should be established between all parties involved in the program. When this has been done, it will be possible to design and implement a smooth, coordinated program.

Such a program should include the following:

- 1) A series of talks to the students and faculty on the six traits, which are the basis of the program
- 2) Arrangements on how the recipients of the awards are to be selected should be made well in advance of the selections

- 3) Students, parents and the community should know and understand the entire program
- 4) The local American Legion post should take the major role at the medal-presentation ceremony.

### **Awards**

Awards are limited to the graduating classes because of the candidates' position on the threshold of a more extensive period of education or upon entrance into the wage-earning world. Following is the criteria to be used in choosing award winners:

**COURAGE** – Spirit to stand up for what is right and to do one's duty.

**HONOR** – Strength and stability of character; high standards of conduct; a keen sense of what is right; adherence to truth and conscience.

**LEADERSHIP** – Ability to lead and cooperate in accomplishing objectives through group action.

**PATRIOTISM** – Evidence of unfailing love of Country and loyalty to its institutions and ideals; a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to mankind and to posterity.

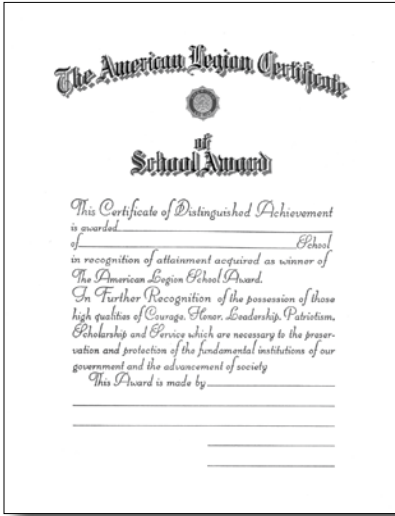
**SCHOLARSHIP** – Scholastic attainment; evidence of industry and application in studies.

**SERVICE** – Kindliness, unselfishness, fellowship, protection of the weak, and promotion of the interests and welfare of others without thought of personal reward.

**School Award Medals**  
– Plaques – Certificates

The American Legion School Award Medal is presented by posts to a vast number of boys and girls in graduating classes of public and private schools based on their citizenship and school performance. Recipients best represent outstanding qualities of character and ability. Award is based on courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service, which if cultivated, result in better citizenship.

- Medallion Award – 2 ½ inches, suitable for either a boy or a girl. It includes an easel and an engraved certificate. (Stock No. 717.201c)
- Small Medal – 1 ¼ inches. Identical in design to the large medal, and bears an American Legion ribbon with pin and catch. It also comes with an engraved certificate. (Stock No. 717.200c)
- Certificate of Honorable Mention – For presentation to runners-up in American Legion School Award Medal Program. (Stock No. 733.106)
- Lapel Pin – Many posts desire to supplement their present School Awards by presenting a lapel pin in addition to the prescribed awards. Made of gold-filled metal with joint pin and safety catch, it is suitable to be worn by either a boy or girl. (Stock No. 715.904)
- School Award Plaque – The School Award Plaque is for presentation to, and display in, the school. A bronze plate, mounted on a 10X14 walnut backboard, carries plates for the names of fourteen winners and space to note the sponsoring post name, number and location. (Stock No. 722.240)



- **The American Legion School Award Certificate** – This certificate, suitable for framing, is provided with the purchase of the School Award Medallion or Medal. The Certificate of Honorable Mention, for presentation to the runners-up to the medal winners, is available from National Emblem Sales. (Stock No. 733.105)

American Legion School Award items may be ordered directly from American Legion Emblem Sales. Call 1-888-453-4466 or visit <http://emblem.legion.org> for current pricing.

**The Ralph T. O’Neil Education Trophy**

The Ralph T. O’Neil Education Trophy, named for a Past National Commander with a strong interest in the education program, is awarded annually to the department showing the greatest Americanism activity in the use of The American Legion School Award Medals. The condi-

tions governing the award of this trophy are included in The American Legion School Award folder provided to Legion departments.

The American Legion School Awards Medal program brochure (23-007) is available by contacting the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division at (317) 630-1212 or by visiting [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

**Citizenship Day – Constitution Week**

Two Joint Resolutions of the U.S. Congress authorized the President to issue annual proclamations calling for the observance of “Citizenship Day” and “Constitution Week.” The first resolution, approved February 29, 1952, authorized the designation of September 17 of each year as “Citizenship Day” in commemoration of the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787. The second resolution, approved August 2, 1956, authorized the designation of the week beginning September 17 of each year as “Constitution Week,” a time for study and observance of the acts that resulted in the formation of the Constitution. The President now issues a single proclamation designating September 17 as Citizenship Day, and the period beginning September 17 and ending September 23 as Constitution Week.

The major objectives of Citizenship Day are:

- 1) To prepare young people who have reached voting age and recently naturalized citizens to accept the responsibilities of citizenship

- 2) To acquaint them with the rights and privileges, the duties and obligations of citizenship

Legion posts can provide meeting places for forums and ceremonies, cooperate in the preparation of programs and activities, secure guest speakers, arrange for proper flag ceremonies, and for music, pageants, plays, poems, mass repetition of pledges and oaths, folk dances, group singing, citizenship awards, etc.

In many communities, the observance of Constitution Week has been an important and impressive part of local posts' Americanism programs. This observance has been held during the week of September 17 each year and should be continued with Citizenship Day taking the position of the high point in the observance.

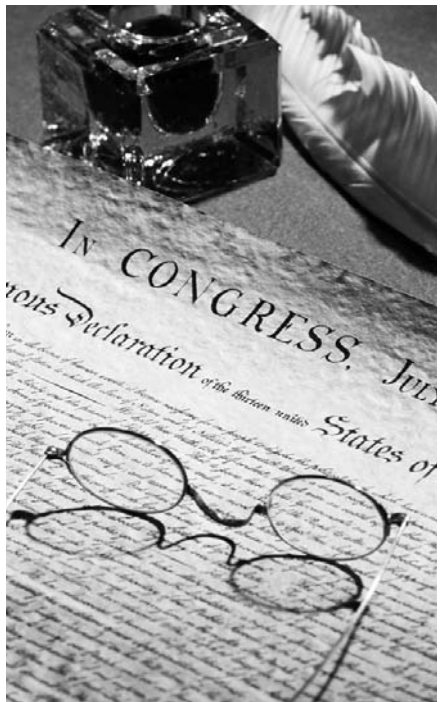
The American Legion holds the deepest respect for every fundamental principle expressed in the Constitution. It is our responsibility to instill these basic American concepts in the minds and hearts of the youth of this nation, and to reeducate our citizens concerning the Constitution.

Every Legionnaire, each American citizen, is challenged to join in building better citizenship in our communities through an increased interest in the Constitution of the United States. Every community in our nation should observe Citizenship Day on September 17, and extend their observance into Constitution Week to encourage more people to rededicate themselves to the fundamental precepts of liberty and freedom under constitutional law.

### *The Declaration of Independence and The Constitution of the United States*

For information on the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, write to the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division for the following booklet (single copies gratis – sold in quantity by American Legion Emblem Sales):

- The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States (Stock No. 755.206)



### *Bill of Rights Day*

The first Congress of the United States, which enrolled many of the framers of the Constitution, adopted 10 amendments that were proposed

by the ratifying states specifically to protect civil rights. These 10 amendments are known as the Bill of Rights.

Nearly every American is familiar with the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States: "We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union . . ." But very few realize that there also exists a preamble to the Bill of Rights. In the Congress, assembled in New York City on March 4, 1789 there was presented the Bill of Rights, the preamble to which reads: "The Conventions of a number of the States having, at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best insure the beneficent ends of its institution."

The American Legion, through its posts, gives emphasis annually to Bill of Rights Day (December 15). This document on man's rights guarantees to every individual personal liberty and safety and to the states, it outlines their rights as states. Our rights, therefore, are protected by provisions in the original Constitution, by the Bill of Rights and by supplementary amendments.

The Bill of Rights, which is the individual's shield and armor, guarantees every American citizen protection of life, liberty and property; recognizes that human life is sacred and that the home of every American is his castle; and further guarantees that the

government itself is not permitted to invade this castle.

Every guarantee of liberty written in the Bill of Rights becomes the obligation of every Legionnaire and of every Legion post to preserve for posterity.

### **Patriotic Observances**

The American Legion should be the leader in establishing and promoting observances of patriotic holidays in communities and in all schools. (See section on Patriotic Holiday Programs.)

### **Textbook Analysis**

The American Legion adopted Resolution No. 57 at its National Convention in 1964 that urged its membership in each state to check their educational laws and where legislation does not exist, to ask that steps be taken to protect the content of textbooks used by the youth of their state. It is recommended this important area of interest be discussed with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to determine the adequacy of existing laws and recommendations for changes or adoption of new legislation.

### ***Veterans in the Classroom***

The American Legion believes that our military veterans are living textbooks of American history. Their accounts of experiences while in the uniform of this country should be preserved and shared with others, especially with students in America's schools.

With that objective in mind, The American Legion has embarked



on an initiative connecting the local American Legion post and the schools in its community. The Veterans in the Classrooms program encourages veterans to volunteer their time to share their life experiences with a generation many feel is not receiving a proper and accurate historical account of this country's involvement in armed conflicts.

Veterans of service in the United States Armed Forces have participated in many monumental events or have been eyewitnesses to them, thus putting them in a unique position to help students learn and appreciate the sacrifices and achievements of America's service men and women. Firsthand accounts add the perspective of being there; learning from those who actually fought the battles with their lives on the line.

The interaction of veterans and students is an interaction of two generations of Americans, without the slant of media moguls and textbook academicians. Veterans who fought in the battlefields of Europe, in Vietnam, Korea and the Persian Gulf will give students a better understanding of the sacrifices our armed forces are

making today by reflecting on their lives in past wars.

To organize a program, representatives of the local American Legion post should visit with school officials, specifically those educators who teach American history. Discuss how local veterans can contribute to students' understanding of military service and its historical implications. This meeting is important in that both parties can use the occasion to voice their concerns, their objectives and set guidelines for meeting their goals.

The following support a Veterans in the Classroom program and may be obtained from the Americanism and Children & Youth Division at [acy@legion.org](mailto:acy@legion.org) or (317) 630-1212.

- Veterans in the Classroom – History in the First Person (Stock No. 23-015)
- Veterans in the Classroom – Resource Materials (Stock No. 23-016)

Additional resources to support Veterans in the Classroom, such as DVDs and comic books, are available from American Legion Emblem Sales. Call 1-888-453-4466 or visit <http://emblem.legion.org> for availability and pricing.

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## FLAG EDUCATION

The major objective of the Flag Education program is to build patriotism in our youth and to develop a thorough understanding of proper flag display and courtesy.

Since the establishment of the National Americanism Commission, flag education has been a major

program of The American Legion. Each year, posts in every section of the country distribute hundreds of thousands of copies of flag literature to local schools and youth groups as a community service. Thousands of Flag Codes, *For Which it Stands* flag education DVDs and *Let's Be Right on*

*Flag Etiquette* are distributed annually. Single copies of these pamphlets are available gratis from the National Americanism Commission by contacting the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division at [acy@legion.org](mailto:acy@legion.org) or (317) 630-1249. These publications are sold in quantity by American Legion Emblem Sales (888-453-4466 or <http://emblem.legion.org>).

### *History of the Flag*

The United States Flag is the third oldest of the national standards of the world; older than the Union Jack of Britain or the Tricolor of France.

The flag was first authorized by Congress on June 14, 1777. This date is now observed as Flag Day throughout America.

The flag was first flown from Fort Stanwix, on the site of the present City of Rome, New York, on August 3, 1777. It was first under fire three days later in the Battle of Oriskany.

It was decreed that there should be a star and a stripe for each state, making 13 of both, for the states of that time had just been created from the original 13 colonies.

The colors of the flag may be explained as follows: The red is for valor, zeal and fervency; the white for hope, purity, cleanliness of life and rectitude of conduct; the blue, the color of heaven, for reverence to God, loyalty, sincerity, justice and truth.

The star (an ancient symbol of India, Persia and Egypt) symbolizes domin-

ion and sovereignty, as well as lofty aspirations. The constellation of the stars within the union – one star for each state – is emblematic of our Federal Constitution, which reserves to the states their individual sovereignty, except as to rights delegated by them to the Federal government.

The symbolism of the flag was thus interpreted by George Washington: “We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty.”



In 1791, Vermont, and in 1792, Kentucky were admitted to the Union and the number of stars and stripes was raised to 15. As other states entered the Union, it became evident there would be too many stripes. So in 1818, Congress established that the number of stripes be reduced and restricted henceforth to 13, representing the 13 original states, while a star should be added for each succeeding state. That law is still current today.

The name “Old Glory” was given to our national flag on August 10, 1831, by Captain William Driver of the brig Charles Doggett.

The flag was first carried in battle at the Brandywine, September 11, 1777. It first flew over foreign territory on January 28, 1778, at Nassau, Bahama Islands; Fort Nassau having been captured by the Americans in the course of the war for independence. The first foreign salute to the flag was rendered by the French admiral, LaMotte Piquet, off Quiberon Bay, February 13, 1778.

The United States Flag is unique in the deep and noble significance of its message to the entire world – a message of national independence, of individual liberty, of idealism and of patriotism.

It symbolizes national independence and popular sovereignty. It is not the flag of a reigning family or royal house, but of 300 million free people welded into a nation, one and inseparable, united not only by community of interest, but by vital unity of sentiment and purpose; a nation distinguished for the clear individual conception of its citizens alike of their duties and their privileges, their obligations and their rights.

It incarnates for all mankind the spirit of liberty and the glorious ideal of human freedom; not the freedom of unrestraint or the liberty of license, but a unique ideal of equal opportunity for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, safeguarded by the stern and lofty principles of duty, of righteousness and of justice, and attainable by obedience to self-imposed laws.

Floating from the lofty pinnacle of American idealism, it is a beacon of enduring hope, like the Statue of Liberty, enlightening the world to the oppressed of all lands.

It embodies the essence of patriotism. Its spirit is the spirit of the American nation. Its history is the history of the American people. Embazoned upon its folds in letters of living light are the names and fame of our heroic dead, the Fathers of the Republic who devoted upon its altars their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. It has emerged



triumphant from several great national conflicts. It bears witness to the immense expansion of our national boundaries, the development of our natural resources, and the splendid structure of our civilization. It prophesies the triumph of popular government, of civic and religious liberty and of

national righteousness throughout the world.

The flag first rose over thirteen states along the Atlantic seaboard, with a population of some three million people. Today it flies over fifty states, extending across the continent, and over great islands of the two oceans; and 300 million owe allegiance. It has been brought to this proud position by love and sacrifice. Citizens have advanced it and heroes have died for it. It is the sign made visible of the strong spirit that has brought liberty and prosperity to the people of America.

## Flag Literature

The following flag literature is published by the National Americanism Commission and is available from American Legion Emblem Sales. Call 1-888-453-4466 or visit <http://emblem.legion.org> for current pricing.

- Let's Be Right On Flag Etiquette (Stock No. 755.200) Contains Flag Code and American Legion interpretations of proper flag etiquette in situations not specifically covered by the law.
- Flag Code (Stock No. 755.201) Illustrates and describes the correct way to display the American flag.
- For Which it Stands (Stock No. 755.400) Consists of an interactive DVD, a 40-page Teacher's Guide and an outline for use by volunteer presenters.
- Our Country's Flag (Stock No. 755.300) A 20-page educational comic book relating the history, significance and proper treatment



of the United States flag. Ideal for the classroom.

- I Pledge Allegiance (Stock No. 755.302) A 16-page educational comic and activity book teaches the meaning and importance of our Pledge of Allegiance.

## Description of the Flag

The flag of the United States of America has 13 horizontal stripes – seven red and six white – the red and white stripes alternating, and a union which consists of white stars of five points on a blue field placed in the upper quarter next to the staff and extending to the lower edge of the fourth red stripe from the top. The number of stars is the same as the number of states in the Union.

The canton or union contains 50 stars. On the admission of a state into the union, a star will be added to the union of the flag, and such addition will take effect on the 4th day of July next succeeding such admission. The proportions of the flag as prescribed by Executive Order of President Dwight D. Eisenhower on August 24, 1959, are as follows:

Hoist (width) of flag . . . . .	1.0
Fly (length) of flag . . . . .	1.9
Hoist (width) of union . . . . .	7/13
Fly (length) of union . . . . .	.076
Width of each stripe . . . . .	1/13
Diameter of each star . . . . .	0.0616

*In 1989, Congress agreed that the term "flag of the United States" means any flag of the United States, or any part thereof, made of any substance, of any size, in a form commonly displayed.*

## *How to Display the Flag of the United States of America*

There are certain fundamental rules of heraldry that indicate the proper method of displaying the flag of the United States of America. It should be remembered that the flag represents the living country and is itself considered as a living thing. The union of the flag is the honor point; the right arm is the sword arm and therefore the point of danger, hence the place of honor.

Following are facts all Americans should know about the proper display of the United State flag.

- It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstuffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. It should be hoisted briskly, but should be lowered slowly and ceremoniously.
  - The flag should be displayed on all national and state holidays and on historic and special occasions. However, being the emblem of our country, it should fly from every flagpole every day throughout the year, weather permitting. An all-weather flag can be flown daily, even during inclement weather. The flag should be displayed daily on or near the main administration building of every public institution and in or near school buildings. The flag should be
- displayed in or near every polling place on election days.
  - When carried in a procession with one or more other flags, the flag of the United States of America should be either on the marching right, i.e., the flag's own right, or when there is a line of other flags, the flag of the United States may be in front of the center of that line.
  - When displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, the flag of the United States should be on the right, the flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag. When several flags of states or cities or penants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs with the flag of the United States, the latter should be at the center and at the highest point of the group.



- When other flags (states, cities, POW/MIA, organizational banners) are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant flown in the former position should be placed above, or in the latter position to the right of the flag of the United States of America, i.e., to the observer's left, except during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea, when the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for the personnel of the Navy.
- When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they should be flown from separate staffs of the same height and the flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.
- When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony or front of a building, the union of the flag should go clear to the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff. When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope, extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out from the building towards the pole, union first.
- When the flag is displayed in a manner other than being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out, or so suspended that its folds fall as free as though the flag were staffed. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right; that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, the flag should be displayed in the same way, that is, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.
- When displayed over the middle of the street, the flag should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street, or to the east in a north and south street.
- When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the flag of the United States should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker or to the right of the audience.
- When featured in the unveiling of a statue or monument, the flag should form a distinctive feature during the ceremony, but the flag

itself should never be used as the covering for the statue.

- When flown at half-staff, the flag should be hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position; but before lowering the flag for the day, it should be raised again to the peak. By half-staff, it is meant that the flag is lowered to one-half the distance between the top and the bottom of the staff. On Memorial Day, the last Monday in May, the flag is displayed at half-staff from sunrise until noon and at full staff from noon until sunset; for the Nation lives and the flag is the symbol of the living Nation.
- When used to cover a casket, the flag should be placed so that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave nor allowed to touch the ground. The casket should be carried feet first.
- When the flag is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should not be cast aside or used in any way that might be viewed as disrespectful to the national colors, but should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning or by some other method in harmony with the reverence and respect we owe to the emblem representing our country.
- Any rule or custom pertaining

to the display of the Flag of the United States may be altered, modified or repealed or additional rules may be prescribed by the President of the United States when he deems it appropriate or desirable; and any such alteration or additional rule shall be set forth in a proclamation.

### **Bunting**

Bunting of red, white and blue can be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping over the front of a platform and for decoration in general. Bunting should be arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle and the red below.

### ***Protecting the Flag from Physical Desecration***

The American Legion was instrumental in creating The Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc. (CFA), a coalition of organizations, most of which are national in scope, that have organized to persuade the Congress of the United States to propose a constitutional amendment to protect the flag from acts of physical desecration and send it to the states for ratification.



In 1989, the United States Supreme Court, in *Texas v. Johnson*, found a right within the Constitution to desecrate the American flag. Americans were outraged. Public opinion showed three out of four Americans favored protection for the flag, and a similar number believed a constitutional amendment was needed to achieve that goal.

In June 1994, The Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc. was formed from among

a handful of like-minded organizations, growing to more than 100 organizations within a year's time.

Dedicated to returning to the American people the right to protect their flag, the CFA is committed to the concept that it is not a matter of "if" the flag amendment passes, but only of "when." In the meantime, the Citizens Flag Alliance will continue to press for constitutional protection for the flag of the United States.

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## IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION ACTIVITIES

The American Legion's interest in immigration and naturalization focuses on the security and protection of our nation's borders, the assimilation of immigrants into American society, immigration quotas and citizenship and naturalization matters. The Americanism Commission works closely with the Legislative Commission to review all legislation affecting these subjects.

The American Legion is unalterably opposed to illegal immigration and the granting of amnesty to any and all illegal aliens.

The American Legion supports rigid enforcement of employer sanctions as called for in current laws that provide penalties for employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens. Because certain industries within the United States face persistent and/or seasonal labor shortages, The American Legion supports a temporary workers program but supports the establishment of a numerical quota to be established with strict control of the program by

the appropriate government agency.

The American Legion has consistently opposed any great influx of legal immigrants and has insisted that immigration should be on such a moderate and regulated scale that they be readily absorbed into the life stream of our country. The American Legion has insisted that legal immigrants should not be admitted in such numbers that they would displace veterans from either employment or housing.

The American Legion does not assist with individual immigration admissions, appeals or deportations, but it will try to direct the individual to the proper federal authority.

While The American Legion opposes any great influx of legal immigrants and stands firmly against those who bypass the system to cross our borders illegally, the organization has been a recognized leader in mentoring legal candidates for U.S. naturalization and citizenship. That



proud tradition dates back to the beginning of The American Legion and continues yet today. Working closely with federal courts, and in more recent years with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the Legion has conducted naturalization sessions throughout the country. These sessions set legal immigrants upon the path to citizenship by

teaching them lessons about U.S. history, government and proficiency in the English language. The Legion has helped countless naturalized citizens become assimilated, contributing members of our society.

Posts desiring to lead or assist with these efforts in their communities should contact their department.

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## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The youth activities programs of The American Legion are designed to build physical, mental and moral alertness in youth; to cultivate in young America strong character, wholesome ideals and an appreciation for their heritage of freedom; and to develop devotion to civic responsibility. The respect and zeal for democratic institutions acquired by youths participating in the highly commendable “learn by doing” programs of The American Legion has received national acclaim.

American Legion posts can render no greater service than that of sponsoring youth activities that instill deep loyalty to country and a practical knowledge of the functioning of government.

Citizenship responsibility, which is one of the major objectives of all American Legion youth activities, includes obedience in spirit and letter to the democratically-made law of the land. It also includes good sportsmanship in yielding to the will of the majority, tolerance for other people and their opinions, willingness to grant the privileges of liberty to all other citizens of our land re-

gardless of race, creed or color, and patient and intelligent exercise of the right to vote.

### *American Legion Baseball*

American Legion Baseball began in 1925 and held its first national tournament the following year. Today, nearly 5,000 teams serving about 95,000 youngsters participate in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. In addition, it is believed that thousands of players compete under local Legion supervision that do not register for department or national tournament play.

American Legion Baseball strives to teach practical lessons in sportsmanship and citizenship. Such qualities as loyalty, respect for the rules and decisions rendered, fair play, courage, and physical fitness are emphasized in the activity. The basic principle that underlies the success of this program is the self-evident truth that organized and directed play molds character.

In 1928, the National and American Leagues of Professional Baseball agreed to underwrite the National

program. With the exception of two years, Major League Baseball has annually contributed funds to assist American Legion Baseball. This support has returned great dividends, with more than half of the players entering the Major Leagues having played on American Legion diamonds.

When department champions have been declared, National Headquarters conducts a series of elimination tournaments. Eight regional tournaments are held, with the eight regional winners then meeting for the National Championship of American Legion Baseball. The winner receives a trip to the Major League World Series with expenses paid for by The American Legion.

The Baseball program depends upon the ability, the willingness and the enthusiasm of American Legion posts, Legionnaires and other Legion family organizations to promote the activity. With millions of younger men, either members or potential members of the Legion, enthusiastic leadership for further promotion of the Baseball program is available in almost every American Legion post in the nation.



## **Team Organization Operation**

There are certain basic principles that must be followed in order to organize and operate a successful American Legion Baseball team. Those principles include, but are limited to, the following:

**Post Baseball Committee** – A Post Baseball Chairman and committee should be appointed, being careful to fill the positions with members having a good knowledge and understanding of the sport. The responsibilities of the committee include: 1) Appoint a manager and a coach; 2) Promote publicity; 3) Maintain sponsor relations; 4) Handle financial matters; and 5) Maintain a close liaison with the post by reporting regularly.

**Cost** – The cost of fielding a team is determined by several factors. Included is the cost and care of uniforms, transportation, equipment and supplies, mandatory general liability and medical insurance coverage. Sponsors often pay the cost of some or all of the team expenses.

**Team Manager/Coach** – The team manager should have a keen interest in baseball and in the young people in his or her community. The team manager should be capable of handling all finances and transportation matters along with serving as the business manager. The coach does not have to be a Legionnaire but should be familiar with baseball rules and procedures. He should be of good character and familiar with the aims and principles of American Legion Baseball.

**Sponsor** – Many teams have spon-

sors to ease the financial obligation that is part of fielding a team. Community organizations, businesses, service clubs, parks and recreation associations, and professional associations are sometimes called upon to serve as sponsors and relieve some of the expense to the local post. To obtain and keep your sponsors requires continual communication between the sponsors and the post. Don't take them for granted.

### **Baseball Trophies and Awards**

**Howard P. Savage Trophy:** Awarded annually to the department having within its jurisdiction the National Championship team of the American Legion Baseball World Series.

**Ford C. Frick Trophy:** Awarded annually to that department having within its jurisdiction the runner-up baseball team in the finals of the American Legion Baseball World Series.

**Commissioner of Baseball Trophy:** Presented by the Office of the Major League Baseball Commissioner to the National Championship team of American Legion Baseball.

**Louisville Slugger Award:** Presented by the Hillerich & Bradsby company to the player with the highest batting average in national tournaments.

**James F. Daniel, Jr., Memorial Sportsmanship Award:** Presented to the American Legion Baseball player at the World Series who best represents teamwork, loyalty, cooperation, self-reliance, fair play and courage.

**George W. Rulon American Legion Baseball Player of the Year Award:** Presented annually to the American

Legion Baseball player selected at the World Series who best personifies the principles of citizenship and sportsmanship.

**American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year Award:** Presented annually to the graduate of American Legion Baseball in the professional ranks who exemplifies the qualities of citizenship, community service and fair play.

**Jack Williams Memorial Award:** Presented annually by the Department of North Dakota to the manager and coach of the American Legion Baseball championship team.

**Dr. Irwin L. (Click) Cowger Memorial RBI Award:** Presented by the Department of Kansas to the player with the most "runs batted in" during the National Regional and World Series tournaments of American Legion Baseball.

**Rawlings Big Stick Award:** Presented annually by the Rawlings Company to the player with the highest total bases while competing in National Regional and World Series tournaments of American Legion Baseball.

**Bob Feller Pitching Award:** Presented annually by the National Americanism Commission to the player striking out the most batters in National Regional and World Series play. This award was named in honor of American Legion Baseball's first graduate to be elected to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

### ***Junior Shooting Sports***

The American Legion's Junior Shoot-

ing Sports program provides young people through the age of 18 the opportunity to learn gun safety and basic marksmanship and participate in competition while having fun doing it. Any recognized youth activity (school and club) with responsible adult leadership can affiliate with the Junior Shooting Sports Program. The club must be sponsored by an American Legion post.



*Junior Shooting Sports Precision athlete Emily Houston of Burke, Virginia.* —photo: Price Chambers

The program uses .177 caliber air-guns. There are sporter rifles available that sell for \$350-\$550. Information on obtaining rifles and other shooting related equipment is provided following affiliation with the program.

There are three parts to the program. First is the Basic Marksmanship Course, a comprehensive instruction package developed for the beginning shooter. Second is the National Rifle Association (NRA) Qualification Awards Program, a personal skill development ladder where standards

range from “Marksman” to “Distinguished Expert.” The third part of the Junior Shooting Sports program is Competitive Shooting. This would include individual competition within a club or between shooters from two or more different clubs. The ultimate competition, a national three-position air rifle tournament is conducted annually.

The tournament has three phases of competition: 1) State/Region Championships; 2) Qualification Round; and 3) National Championship. Both the State and Qualification phases of the tournament are postal matches that determine the thirty participants for the National Championship. The championship is a shoulder-to-shoulder match, usually conducted at the United States Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The winner of the National Championship is invited to participate as a distinguished guest of the National Commander at the annual American Legion National Convention.

In order for an American Legion post to affiliate a club, an enrollment form must be obtained from and completed and returned to: The American Legion, Attn: Junior Shooting Sports, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206. There is no charge to affiliate.

The Junior Shooting Sports brochure (Stock No. 22-003) is available by contacting the National Americanism and Children & Youth at [acy@legion.org](mailto:acy@legion.org) or (317) 630-1249.

### **Gun Safety and Marksmanship Program**

In an effort to increase the availabil-

ity of gun safety and marksmanship training in communities throughout the United States, some American Legion posts offer National Rifle Association (NRA) Basic Firearms Education Courses. These courses provide the opportunity to learn the basic knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to pursue special interests in safety, personal protection, recreation and competitive shooting and hunting.

Basic NRA courses include study and practical learning opportunities in gun parts and their operation; ammunition and its function; gun handling and shooting safety; shooting fundamentals and an opportunity to develop them on a range; how to select, clean and maintain a gun; and an in-depth review of various shooting activities and opportunities.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030.

### *American Legion Boys State*

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students in the nation. It is a participatory program where each young man becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government.

Boys State has been a program of the National Americanism Commission since 1935. Forty-nine states conduct this program serving nearly 20,000 young men each year. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a similar program for young women called Girls State.

At Boys State, young men are exposed to the rights and privileges, and duties and responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by elected and appointed officials duly placed in office by citizens of their respective Boys State. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs.

High school juniors are selected by local posts following recommendations by school officials. In most cases, expenses associated with attendance are paid for by a sponsoring American Legion post, a local business or another community-based organization.

It is usually a college or university campus that serves as the site for Boys State. In some instances, military installations and 4-H camps are used. The length of a Boys State varies from five to nine days, with the majority being one week.

Upon arrival at a Boys State, each citizen is assigned to a mock political party and to a city and county.



The citizens of each city and county nominate members of their individual parties to be candidates for the various city and county offices. Elections are held and the successful candidates assume the offices to which they were elected. Those not elected are usually given appointive offices.

Boys State citizens are instructed in the duties of the various public offices – they learn the function of each office, its powers and its limitations. They set up their own state government, elect their own governor and staff of state officials. They establish a system of courts and organize the legislature and all other divisions of government.

Materials are usually provided to explain the practical operation and function of local and state government. Presentations are made by experienced public officials and professional leaders. Many Boy States conduct law schools and citizen attorneys defend and prosecute fellow participants in a mock court activity. Every phase of the program includes practical instruction on the duties and responsibilities both of citizens and of public officials.

The American Legion Boys State brochure (Stock No. 20-004) is available for download at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) or by contacting the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division at [acy@legion.org](mailto:acy@legion.org) or (317) 630-1207

### ***American Legion Boys Nation***

Youth training in citizenship programs of The American Legion reaches its pinnacle at Boys Nation, held annually in the Washington,

D.C. area. The two most outstanding participants in each of 49 Boys State programs are selected to attend Boys Nation, which focuses on the study of the federal government and its supporting agencies.

Like American Legion Boys State, Boys Nation is an exercise in the two-party system of our federal government. Each delegate becomes a “senator” and is assigned to one of two mythical political parties. The senators caucus, organize into committees, conduct hearings and act on bills that they introduce into the Boys Nation Senate.

Political figures and others prominent on the Washington scene par-



ticipate in Boys Nation, providing their expertise on the many facets of the federal government. Field trips to federal agencies, national memorials and other points of interest are included in the weeklong session. The delegation spends a day on Capitol Hill meeting with their respective state’s elected officials and have been invited to the White House, at times having an audience with the President.

The organization of parties, party

conventions and the nomination and election of officers all provide practical experience in politics and the administration of a republic for the young senators. These and similar activities create an understanding and an appreciation for our system of government.

Since its beginning in 1946, Boys Nation has seen many of its graduates elected to public offices which include the Presidency of the United States, U.S. Congress, state governors and state legislators. Many others became inspired to actively work for the campaigns of individuals seeking public office.

### *American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program - "A Constitutional Speech Contest"*

The American Legion's Oratorical Contest is an activity designed to develop in high school students a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Constitution of the United States. Other objectives are those of leadership, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

High school students are eligible to compete, subject to the rules established by the National Americanism Commission. The contest has two phases: prepared orations and an assigned topic. Prepared orations must be based upon the Constitution of the United States. Assigned topics, which follow the prepared orations,

are also based on the Constitution. All contestants at any one contest speak on the same assigned topic. Prepared orations must be eight to ten minutes in length with assigned topics running from three to five minutes. Each contest uses five judges. Oratorical contests are often held before high school student bodies, thus affording students the opportunity of listening to the interpretation of certain articles and sections of the Constitution.

Legion department (state-level) contests are usually held during the months of February and March. Dates for the national finals contest are determined by the National Americanism Commission and published in the annual oratorical contest rules brochure. These contests are usually held during the month of April.

The first national contests were held in 1938, when 11 states participated. Today, 54 departments, including the Departments of France, Mexico and Puerto Rico, sponsor contestants into the National Finals, who compete for \$138,000 in scholarships provided by The American Legion Life Insurance Committee.

Each department winner who participates in the first round of the national finals will receive a \$1,500 scholarship. Second round contestants who do not qualify for the national finals round will receive an additional scholarship of \$1,500. The three contestants in the national finals round will be ranked according to the opinion of the judges and will receive scholarships in the following amounts: first, \$18,000; second,

\$16,000; and third place, \$14,000. Many more thousands of dollars in scholarships are awarded each year by American Legion departments, districts and posts.

The national champion is invited to participate as a distinguished guest of the National Commander at the annual American Legion National Convention.

Copies of the contest rules are distributed by the National Americanism Commission through all Legion department headquarters.

The following oratorical brochures are available for download at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) or by contacting the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division at (317) 630-1249.

- Oratorical Contest Rules (Stock No. 22-005)
- Post Chairman's Guide to the Oratorical Contest (Stock No. 22-006)
- Oratorical Contest Promotional Brochure (Stock No. 22-008)

### *Boy Scouts of America*

Based on the principle of duty to God and Country, the Scouting program is for all youth, ages 6 through 21, regardless of ethnic background, creed, or physical or mental ability. Scouting offers a way for you and other dedicated volunteers of your post and community to bring fun, adventure, and leadership skills to young people and to provide effective character building, citizenship training, and personal fitness opportunities for youth.

At the first National Convention of

The American Legion, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1919, the Legion voted approval and support to the Scouting movement. Posts began to sponsor Scout units immediately following that convention. Organized guidance and cooperation did not take place until 1922, when Scouting was included in the activities of the Americanism Commission.

American Legion use of the Scouting program has steadily increased over the years, marred only by a temporary drop during World War II when many leaders entered military service. At present, American Legion posts, Auxiliary units, and Sons of The American Legion squadrons charter more than 2,700 units of Scouting serving more than 69,000 young people. The Americanism Commission believes that this number could and should be greatly increased.

Specialized phases of the Scouting program have been developed for boys and girls on several age levels. **Cub Scouting** activities involve the parents, adult leaders, and friends of Cub Scouts in home-centered programs that teach life skills, habits, values, and attitudes consistent with the interests of their church and com-





munity. Millions of boys and their families participate in Cub Scouting, the largest of the three Boy Scouts of America (BSA) membership divisions.

**Boy Scouts** learn to develop personal strengths by example through hands-on experience. Activities include fitness and leadership training, wilderness adventures, and merit badge incentives for boys mastering hobby and career skills. Scouting encourages boys to expand and test their personal initiative, courage, and resourcefulness.

**Venturing** is an effective co-ed young-adult program designed to improve character, citizenship and fitness. Venturing provides a variety of challenging activities to teach young people ages 14-20 the real-world meaning of values, ethical decision making and life skills.

There are four BSA regions in the United States. These are made up of local Scouting councils. American Legion departments are divided into districts. Legion districts and Scouting councils correspond in general and, in some cases, coincide. In The American Legion organizational plan, every department should have a Scouting committee. Each Legion district should have a Scouting chairman who serves on the Department Scouting Committee.

The department Scouting chairman and the department Scouting committee work with the regional or area director of the Boy Scouts of America. Together they outline plans and policies for the promotion of Scouting.

When a Legion post decides to orga-

nize a Boy Scout unit, the post commander appoints a Scouting committee consisting of a chairman and at least five members. This committee meets with the local Scouting executive, an outline for the successful functioning of the unit is developed, and a Scout leader and assistant are named by the Scouting committee.

Scouting utilizes the service-learned skills and abilities of the veteran in building character and desirable habits in "young America." It's a post activity that brings public credit and good will to the post. It provides the service-minded veteran with a channel to give of their services. It binds them closer to Legion activity; Legion-sponsored Scout units should be a "must" in every post.

### **Square Knot Award**

This award is designed to recognize American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion members who are actively involved in the Scouting programs of The American Legion. This award is not meant to be a selective or limited award, but one that is available to any American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member who completes the requirements for the award. The award recognizes the dedication and work required by an American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member to assist in furthering the Scouting program in The American Legion.

### **The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year**

The American Legion Life Insurance Committee provides annually for a

national scholarship to be awarded to the Eagle Scout who is selected "The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year." The winner receives a \$10,000 scholarship and is invited as a Distinguished Guest to the National Convention of The American Legion. Three additional scholarships of \$2,500 each are to be awarded to the first, second and third place runners-up.

Eligibility requirements specify that a nominee must be a registered, active member of a Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, or Venturing crew chartered to an American Legion post, Auxiliary unit, or Sons of The American Legion squadron or be a registered, active member of a chartered Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team or Venturing crew and the son or grandson of a Legionnaire or Auxiliary member; have received the Eagle Scout Award; be an active member of his religious institution and have received the appropriate Scout religious emblem; have demonstrated practical citizenship in church, school, Scouting and community; have reached his 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection; and submit along with the application at least four letters of recommendation

and testimony one each from their religious institution, school, community, and scouting leaders.

The deadline for nomination applications to the department headquarters selection committee is March 1. The application judged as most outstanding must be forwarded to National Headquarters by no later than April 1.

The National Americanism Commission will review all department nominations and announce the winning Scouts during the annual Spring Meetings in Indianapolis. The top-ranked individual will be designated The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year.

The following brochures are available by contacting the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division at [acy@legion.org](mailto:acy@legion.org) or (317) 630-1249. For limited online availability visit [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

- American Legion & Scouting (Stock No. 22-001)
- Eagle Scout of the Year Application (Stock No. 22-002)
- American Legion and Scouting Square Knot (Stock No. 22-010)

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## PATRIOTIC HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

The American Legion has been the acknowledged leader in observing patriotic holidays since its inception in 1919. Patriotic observances, like those listed below, revitalize our intrinsic beliefs; beliefs which make ideas, institutions and progress possible. It is therefore hoped that all Legion posts

participate to the fullest extent in these programs, as well as other observances at the community level.

### *Arbor Day*

The exact date for the observance of Arbor Day is set by proclamation.

However, it is generally observed throughout the United States during the months of April and May each year. The American Legion should take the lead each year in the observance of the day because it's an appropriate time for the planting of trees as living memorials to the war dead of the community.

### *Flag Day*

June 14 is the birthday of the flag of the United States of America. Every American Legion post should observe the day with appropriate ceremonies. It is suggested that the program be scheduled to include a "Pause for the Pledge" of Allegiance at 7 pm, EDT, to coincide with Flag Day activities held at historic Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland.

#### **Methods of promoting Flag Day include the following:**

1. Provide flags to area schools in your community.
2. Organize a student flag squad to raise and lower the school flag each day.
3. Promote the ownership and display of a U.S. flag in your community.
4. Distribute copies of the Flag Code, Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette, and Our Country's Flag; all three available from Emblem Sales.

#### **Suggested program:**

- Call to Order
- Invocation – Post chaplain or local minister
- Bugle Call – To the Colors, at

which time the Colors will be advanced.

- Mass singing of "America"
- Recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance
- Reading – "Your Flag and My Flag," by Wilbur D. Nesbit
- Introduction of speakers – by post commander
- Address on the subject of the U.S. Flag
- Mass singing of "The Star Spangled Banner"
- One minute of silent prayer
- Bugle Call – Taps
- Benediction

### *Independence Day*

To celebrate our nation's independence – the birthday of our great republic – American Legion posts are encouraged to sponsor and conduct appropriate activities.

#### **Suggested program:**

- Meeting called to order by chairman.
- Music provided by band or orchestra.
- Invocation by chaplain or local minister.
- Advancement of Colors by Legion Color Guard
- Pledge of Allegiance
- "America" sung by assemblage
- Introduction of speakers by post commander

- Independence Day address
- Flag drill (massing of Colors)
- “The Star-Spangled Banner,” by band.
- Retirement of Colors
- Benediction by chaplain or local minister.

The afternoon can be used to dedicate a memorial or a new community achievement. Community picnics, band concerts, athletic events, battle reenactments, Boy Scout rallies, model airplane contests, veterans’ reunions and pilgrimages to sites having a historical significance can all be made a part of the afternoon program.



## ***Memorial Day***

Thousands of American Legion posts conduct Memorial Day services in their respective communities. They decorate veterans’ graves and scatter flowers upon the water in memory of the sailor dead.

### **Suggested program:**

- Call to Order
- Reading: “Original Order” by General Logan in 1866
- Post Colors
- “The Star Spangled Banner” sung by entire assembly
- Invocation by clergyman
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Reading: “Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address”
- Vocal Solo
- Recitation, “In Flanders Field”
- Introduction of speakers by post commander
- Memorial Day Address
- Benediction
- Taps by post bugler

Many American Legion posts conduct Memorial Day programs at their local cemeteries. In those situations where a procession marches to the cemetery, the suggested order of march is: 1) Colors; 2) Music/Band; 3) Firing Squad; 4) Gold Star Mothers in cars; 5) Honored veterans; 6) American Legion members; and 7) Others.

On arrival at the cemetery, the entire assembly will be seated. Gold Star Mothers and honored guests will take seats reserved for them on the platform. Legionnaires will be seated in a reserved section. A suggested program follows:

- Post Colors
- Invocation
- Introduction of Memorial Day speaker by post commander
- Brief Memorial Day address
- Decoration of graves
- Salute to the dead by the firing squad
- Taps

It is suggested that all speeches used in Memorial Day services be strictly in the nature of a tribute to or eulogy of the dead of all wars, as distinguished from Veterans Day speeches, which are to commemorate military service.

### *Veterans Day*

Veterans Day will always have a very deep personal significance to many members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion. All posts are strongly encouraged to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies. Some may choose a community observance while others may opt for a school program.

### **Suggested program:**

#### **10:00 am**

- Invocation and playing of the “Star Spangled Banner”
- Reading of Governor’s/Mayor’s proclamation on Veterans Day
- Remarks by post commander or his designee
- Music by soloist or chorus
- Roll call of departed comrades by post adjutant
- Address by keynote speakers

#### **11:00 am**

- Salute of three guns; bugle call, “Taps,” with echo followed by 30 seconds of silent prayer for those who died in the service of our country.
- Introduction of guest speakers
- Address
- Musical number, possibly “America”
- Adjournment

During the noon hour, a community dinner, picnic or barbecue may be served. Afternoon festivities may include competitive drill by SAL squadrons, Boy Scout troops, ROTC units, fraternal drill teams and others. Other activities could include a football game or other sporting event. An evening banquet can climax the day’s activities.

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## COUNTER-SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

The 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks have made Americans painfully aware of their vulnerability to attack from domestic and international terrorists here in America.

### **Objectives**

An enlightened and informed citizenry is the greatest deterrent to subversive activities (terrorism) within the United States of America. It stands to reason that, if a citizen understands the objectives, methods, and mechanics of how terrorists operate, the chances that terrorists will be successful in their attempts to attack America will be diminished.

### **Combating subversive (terrorist) activities**

As Americans each of us has a right and duty to be alert to suspicious or unusual activity in and around military installations and other potential terrorist targets within our communities. Vigilant citizens can make a difference in the war on terrorism.

### **Following are some things investigators are asking people to look for:**

- Suspicious persons photographing, videotaping or peering into a military installation, or other potential targets, with binoculars.
- Someone asking questions about troop movements, ship movements or how to get onto an installation.
- Unusual small aircraft or boating activity around installations.
- Thefts of uniforms or ID cards or other military items, including decals from cars.
- Potential intrusions onto military bases, possibly by people claiming to be lost.

If you do notice something odd, get a good description and write it down – estimated height, weight, unusual scars, license tag number and description of their vehicle. Do not approach or intervene with suspicious persons or activities, but do immediately call the police or the FBI.





## THE AMERICAN LEGION

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