

**American Legion
Department of Florida**



**Post
Americanism
Guide**

2017-2018



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Department of Florida

Dear District & Post Americanism Chairman,

As a Chairman of the Americanism Committee I want to welcome you to the “Americanism Team.” Our task is a very important one for the American Legion Department of Florida. We are responsible for upholding and carrying out the Americanism Pillar.

It is our responsibility to reach out to our communities and schools to help them be more aware of our civic responsibilities. You will find enclosed a Post Americanism Chairman’s Guide which will help you better understand your duties and responsibilities as a Chairman.

You are the front line. You have the closest contact with those in your community who are most influential regarding Americanism activities. We are a team in this effort. Feel free to contact myself or your District Chairmen if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year. We are here to back you up and assist you.

For God and Country
Respectfully yours,

Ira Anderson, Chairman
Department Americanism Commission

2017-2018

DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM COMMISSION

Baseball Chairman

Andy Burkett
786-351-5485
Baseball@legionmail.org

Oratorical Chairman

Meri West
904-704-0939
Oratorical@legionmail.org

Boys Scout Chairman

Rick Hewett
703-508-9384
Scouting@legionmail.org

School Medals Chairman

Troy Horsley
904-534-1692
SchoolMedals@legionmail.org

Boys State Chairman

George Wehrli
772.584.2450
DeptBoysState@legionmail.org

Shooting Sports Chairman

Loretta Young
954-257-6763
ROTC@legionmail.org

2017-2018 AMERICANISM COMMISSION

Department Chairman

Ira Anderson
863-528-0655
Americanism@legionmail.org

Central Area

Eunice Butts
813-247-4267
songbirdbutts@verizon.net

Eastern Area

TBD

Northern Area

TBD

Southern Area

Joe Motes
954.441.8735
joemotes@aol.com

Southwestern Area

TBD

Western Area

James Brennan
850-212-8677
james.brennan@earthlink.net

1st District

August Viehweger
850-596-4222
redgusv@aol.com

2nd District

Thomas Napier
850-385-9084
rotag1@comcast.net

3rd District

Mike Hutto
352-490-1756
diverhutto@yahoo.com

4th District

John Bennett
352-288-0168
buffloader@yahoo.com

5th District

Troy Horsely
904-534-1692
troy.horsley68@outlook.com

6th District

Wilfredo Lopez
941-445-4100
wlopez5193@aol.com

7th District

David Tucker
863-640-9010
djt108@msn.com

8th District

Patricia Stiles
941.704.7318
Taira45@yahoo.com

9th District

Donald Schwiesow
954-591-6070
navvet6872@gmail.com

11th District

Edward Manak
561-379-8945
manake@pbs.org

12th District

Wayne Newland
772-584-2480
waynewland@att.net

13th District

Michael Raymond
618-616-2753
nuwayteacher47@aol.com

14th District

Wayne Schorr
786-208-3068
wayneschorr@hotmail.com

15th District

Eunice Butts
813-247-4267
songbirdbutts@verizon.net

16th District

Raymond Perez
727-412-5356
alpost104@tampabay.rr.com

17th District

Michael Wolohan
386-852-5732
pappywolohan@aol.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

History of Americanism	5
Setting Goals	6
Responsibilities	6-7
Timeline for the Year	8
Americanism Programs	9-13
Brochure Order Form	14
Flag Folding	16-17
Patriotic Holiday Suggestions	18-23
Certificate of Appreciation	24-25
Youth Award Medals	26-33

HISTORY OF AMERICANISM:

At the first National Convention held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1919, the National Americanism Commission of The American Legion was created. The charge at that convention made for the establishment of the Americanism Commission was as follows:

"... 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:

- *Combat all anti-American tendencies, activities and propaganda;*
- *Work for the education of immigrants, prospective American citizens and alien residents in the principles of Americanism;*
- *Inculcate the ideals 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 people;*
- *Spread throughout the people of the Nation information as to the real nature and principles of American government;*
- *Foster the teaching of Americanism in all schools. "*

It is the main objective of the Americanism Commission to translate Americanism precepts, principles, and ideals in an understandable and practical manner to Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units, Sons of the American Legion, community, individuals, and Young America.

SET GOALS FOR THE YEAR:

Yes, goals are an important part of the planning process. After all, setting measurable objectives will let you know what you have accomplished at year end. In developing your goals remember:

- ***Be Realistic*** - That is something that must be done.
- ***Make them Measurable*** - If it is not measurable then how will you know when it is accomplished? You must have a time limit in which to accomplish your goal and your goal must be written down!
- ***Listen*** - Find out your Post's concerns and allow yourself some time.
- ***Formulate a Plan of Action*** - This plan will be the basis of your coming year, so make sure your objectives are realistic. Look at them carefully in terms of the resources you have available (manpower, time and money). Break them down into bite size pieces. This makes them more manageable.
- ***Promote a Special Project*** - Your main project could cover any area affecting Americanism that you feel is important. Maybe your Post will want to promote individual projects. This is fine! Give it all the support you can. The important point to remember here is that it is better to concentrate on one or two yearly projects and be successful, than to run off in many different directions and accomplish nothing.

By taking these small steps and building on their successes, you are maintaining interest, reducing potential frustration, and climbing ever closer to your overall objective.

DEPARTMENT, AREA AND DISTRICT MEETINGS:

Meetings are an excellent way to communicate internally. You need to constantly remind your members of your program. How many Department, Area, or District meetings do you attend each year? How often do you meet with other Posts in your District? At these meetings, do you or your designated representative have a spot on the agenda? Remember ... You know your program is the greatest, give others the opportunity to learn and share in your enthusiasm. If you do not get this program "out front" and "out front often," interest will be lost and the importance you have originally given this program will suffer. *Do not let this happen.*

PUBLISH OR PERISH:

Your internal lines of communication are important, but don't stop there. Promote your programs to the general membership and the public. There is an old saying, "Publish or Perish!" While a bit on the dramatic side, it holds true. Does your Post have a Public Relations Committee? How can they assist you in spreading the news? What are you planning and who needs to know? Do you know that many Posts and Districts in the Department carry a monthly or bi-monthly flyer or newsletter about their specific activities and future plans? How much space do you have in your Post or District newsletter? If you have no Post publication, how will you inform others about your program? Newspapers, suburban weeklies and even public service announcements on local television or radio are excellent ways to get the word out.

RESPONSIBILITIES AS A POST CHAIRMAN:

BE PRACTICAL - It is imperative to keep things in proper perspective. One person can only do so much. Take a reality check. That is STOP, EVALUATE, PRIORITIZE, and DELEGATE. Delegation to others on your committee will enable you to concentrate on the overall program and provide you with more time to guide and prepare others. Remember ... *a job well done, always deserves a word of thanks.*

BE AVAILABLE - When you accepted the position as Post Americanism Chairman, you said, in fact, "I will make myself available." Make yourself available to answer questions. Be prepared to talk with people before, during and after the meetings. If you are out when someone calls, always make the effort to return their call. From time to time, you will encounter questions that you cannot answer. Be wise enough to say, "I do not know," then find the answer, and get back with the person who asked the original question. You will find if you make it a point to be there when you are needed, either in person or by delegation, you will like yourself a lot better and others will too!!

BE COOPERATIVE - There is always room for change and improvement. As our society today is so complex, it is extremely difficult to meet the needs of every child. Therefore, it is imperative for us to cooperate extremely, with other sound organizations and agencies concerned about our nation's children and youth. We do this to avoid duplication, and to reach as many young people as we can. Internal cooperation is also extremely important, as The Legion works closely with the members and partners of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion. Remember, there is but one Americanism program for The American Legion Family, and it is through such cooperative ventures, that our program can be most effective.

BE KNOWLEDGEABLE - You must be knowledgeable about the total program, always keeping in mind its purposes, principles and methods of operation. The Chairman should know the key Legion officials at the Department, Area and District levels. In addition, the Chairman should know the key people of the Auxiliary and the SAL, where applicable.

BE ENERGETIC - You must demonstrate to others that you possess the capacity to do the job. This will become evident as you proceed with the challenges ahead, and will be seen in both your ability to delegate responsibilities and your ability to motivate others.

BE DEDICATED - Your dedication gives you the strength to carry on, and provides the conviction to do what is needed. It is the glue that holds the whole equation together. **YOUR DEDICATION IS THE KEY** to a successful Americanism Program.

Your year as Post Americanism Chairman is very important, not only for yourself, but for the thousands of young people in your area. They are depending on you to show them the way.

Post Americanism Chairman Timeline

Keep the Americanism Manual and extra brochures with you.

AUGUST

- Contact your Area Americanism Chairman; Let him/her know you are available
- Attend all Post meetings to promote Americanism and maintain Communication

OCTOBER

- Posts may begin to send in Boys State Registration Fees – Due January 31

NOVEMBER

- Contact your District Chairman to let them know if you are holding any Americanism events; Encourage them to participate
- Election Day, Veterans' Day

DECEMBER

- **Reminder:** Shooting Sports Targets due to National by January 15
- **Reminder:** Boy State Registration Fee due January 31

JANUARY

Has anything new come from Department concerning Americanism? Are there any current local, state or national issues which your Post should become involved with?

- **Shooting Sports Targets due to National by January 15**
- Post Oratorical Contests must be complete by **January 21**
- **Boy State Registration Fee due January 31**
- **DUE MARCH 1st** - ROTC Cadet of the Year, Eagle Scout of the Year, and General Scholarship Applications.

FEBRUARY

- February is Americanism Month!
- District Oratorical Contest must be completed by **February 11**
- Area Oratorical Contests should be complete by **February 25**

MARCH

- Scholarship Applications due **March 1**
- State Oratorical Contest – **March 10**

APRIL

- Teacher of the Year Applications due to Department **April 15**
- End of Year Reports will go out this month.
- **Submit a one to two page narrative to the Department for a chance to win Best Post Americanism Program award (The narrative can be written in paragraph or bullet format)**
- School Medals and ROTC medals – Make sure each Post has a Chairman going to the local schools to present these medals to deserving children.

MAY/JUNE

- Memorial
- Make sure all paperwork is turned in and everything is ready for the next year.
- **May 1** – all Consolidated Post Reports and Americanism Narratives due to Department Headquarters to be nominated for Best Post Americanism Program.

American Legion, Department of Florida

PROGRAMS OF AMERICANISM

Program Name	Description
Service to God and Country	<p>The American Legion's Service to God and Country program is basic Americanism and is designed to help prevent the spiritual decay of America and to charge our citizens with a spirit of positive Americanism, respect for law, regard for authority and an awareness of our human rights and freedoms.</p> <p>The program has dual objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service to God through regular public worship, daily family prayer and the religious education of children. 2. To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and Nation by preparing young Americans to take up tomorrow's responsibilities. It is achieved by teaching them moral and spiritual values, renewed interest in our Country's history, self-discipline, self-reliance, thrift and ideals of loyalty, honesty and physical fitness. <p>This program is coordinated by the Post Chaplain in cooperation with local clergy and other public service and civic organizations which hold to the principles of The American Legion's Service to God and Country program.</p>
American Legion Baseball	<p>American Legion Baseball is one of the major youth activities of the National Americanism Commission. It teaches citizenship through organized recreation. Qualities such as loyalty, respect for the rules and decisions rendered, fair play, courage and physical fitness that are essential to the proper development of American youth, are learned on the field.</p> <p>State-level championship teams, who represent all 50 states and Puerto Rico, annually enter competition for the national championship of American Legion Baseball. National recognition and a trip to the Major League World Series goes to the winners. The Department of Florida won the 1996-1997 World Series.</p>
Boy Scouts of America	<p>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 goodwill to the Post. Legion-sponsored Scout units should be a "must" in every Post.</p>

	<p>Eagle Scout of the Year</p> <p>The Florida American Legion sponsors Eagle Scout of the Year scholarship awards. The winner receives \$2500, the first runner-up receives a \$1,500 scholarship, second runner-up receives \$1,000 and third runner-up receives \$500.</p> <p><i>Selection Process</i></p> <p>Post/Unit nominations must be received by Department Headquarters no later than March 1. The Department Selection Committee will receive all nominations. They will select, in their judgment, the most deserving nominee as Department Eagle Scout of the Year. The application judged best in the Department will be forwarded to the National competition where first place is awarded \$10,000 and three runners-up receive \$2,500 each in scholarships.</p>
<p>Florida American Legion Boys State</p>	<p>American Legion Boys State has been a program of the National Americanism Commission since 1935. Forty-nine states conduct this program of citizenship education and instruction in the operation of government.</p> <p>At Boys State, high school students are exposed to the rights and privileges, the 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 Boys State. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, glee clubs, and recreational programs.</p> <p>High school juniors are selected cooperatively by school officials and Legionnaires to participate in Boys State. More than 28,000 boys take part annually in the program; 500+ boys within the Department of Florida. They learn the wheels of politics as they operate their own government, acquiring the knowledge and practical experience that is vital to the development of responsible citizenship. Many of these young men go on to the military academies and universities and become responsible citizens. Several return each year to help with the Department's program.</p>
<p>American Legion Boys Nation</p>	<p>Two of the most outstanding participants in each of 48 Boys State programs are invited to participate in American Legion Boys Nation. This activity, held annually in Washington, DC, also emphasizes citizenship education but is centered on the study of the federal government and its supporting agencies.</p> <p>Like American Legion Boys State, Boys Nation is an exercise in the two-party system of government. Each delegate becomes a senator and is assigned to one of two parties, Nationalist or Federalist. The boys' caucus, organized into committees, conduct hearings and act on bills that they</p>

	<p>introduce into the Boys Nation Senate. People who are prominent on the Washington scene participate in Boys Nation, providing their expertise on the many facets of federal government. Special visits to federal agencies, national shrines and other points of interest are included in the busy week-long session</p>
<p>Community Service Activities</p>	<p>In many instances, the community service project will place special emphasis on the organization of safety-first campaigns, the elimination of fire hazards, establishment of playgrounds and the erection of living memorials.</p> <p>More than 200 different types of projects, designed for the betterment of communities, are sponsored by more than 15,000 Posts each year. Realizing that every community is in need of improvements, many local American Legion Posts take the leadership role in campaigns for community betterment.</p>
<p>Veteran of the Month</p>	<p>The National Americanism Commission conducts a program whereby American Legion Posts can recognize and memorialize the service of area veterans.</p> <p>The program is based on a recognition period of one month at which time a deceased veteran's burial flag is flown from a designated flagpole in the community and the individual's service record is memorialized by the sponsoring American Legion Post.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Education Assistance Program</p>	<p>The American Legion offers a unique educational assistance package for students (and parents) as they enter the world of higher education. Part of the program is USA Funds, based in Fishers, Indiana (www.usafunds.org). Through this association a wide range of services are offered.</p>
<p>American Education Week</p>	<p>The American Legion has had a vital role in American Education Week since 1921. Representatives of the National Education Association and the then newly formed American Legion discussed problems in the schools and their talks led to the first joint observance of American Education Week in 1921. Since that time, ten other groups have joined in national co-sponsorship, the most recent of which are the United States Office of Education, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, and the National School Boards Association.</p> <p>Although American Education Week is a nationally observed program, the</p>

	<p>success of this activity may well be determined by the degree of Post and Unit involvement in each community. The caring and willingness to face school problems with a positive attitude is most important in combating the forces which threaten our education system.</p>
<p>High School Oratorical Contest</p>	<p>The American Legion's National High School Oratorical Contest was first conducted as a national Americanism activity in 1938 and was developed primarily to instill a greater understanding and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States among high school students. Other objectives of the contest include leadership development, the strengthening of speaking ability, and inducement to study in preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.</p> <p>High school students who are U.S. citizens are eligible to compete; subject to national rules. Prepared orations of 8 to 10 minutes and extemporaneous talks of 3 to 5 minutes are based upon some aspect of the U.S. Constitution.</p> <p>There are three rounds of competition in the national contest. Each Legion Department (state) winner who participates in round one will receive a \$1,500 scholarship. Each 1st round winner who participates in the second round, but does not qualify for the Finals, will receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship. Contestants in the National Finals will be ranked according to the opinion of the judges and will receive scholarships in the following amounts: first, \$18,000; second, \$16,000; third, \$14,000. The Department of Florida offers scholarships at the state level. First place is \$2,500, second place is \$1,500, third place is \$1,000 and fourth through sixth place is \$500. District winners who compete in the Area Contests, but do not advance to the State finals, will receive a \$100 scholarship.</p> <p>Students interested in participating should contact their local American Legion Post or Department (State) Headquarters offices.</p>
<p>School Awards Program</p>	<p>The School Awards program is designed to place emphasis on the development of the qualities of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service. Promoting the development of these qualities encourages young people to live their lives as outstanding examples of good citizens. The School Award program, with medals and certificates made available by National Emblem Sales, recognizes the most outstanding boy and girl of the graduating class in elementary, junior high, high school and college.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Flag Education</p>	<p>Flag education has been a major program of The American Legion. Each year, American Legion Posts across the country distribute volumes of Flag literature to schools and groups as a community service. Hundreds of thousands of Flag Codes and Let's Be Right On Flag Etiquette, a compilation of the most-asked questions regarding the Flag, are distributed annually.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Flag Protection</p>	<p>The National Americanism Commission is actively involved in an effort to obtain an amendment to the United States Constitution to protect the U.S. Flag from public physical desecration. This campaign, based on a Supreme Court decision in 1990 which ruled all state and federal flag desecration laws unconstitutional, was initiated by The American Legion and now involves many other organizations.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Junior Shooting Sports</p>	<p>The American Legion's Junior Shooting Sports Program is a national activity administered through Post-sponsored Junior Shooting Clubs. The program exists to provide gun safety and marksmanship training for young people, ages 14 through 18, as well as offering opportunities for competitive shooting which includes an annual national tournament.</p> <p>The American Legion recognizes the fact that guns are a part of society and probably always will be. Proper instruction in the safe handling of firearms serves as a means of protecting youth and adults alike. Shooting is an attraction for all, and target shooting is not only safe and fun, it is a legitimate athletic discipline. The national network of Legion Posts provides a vehicle to conduct club operations, while Districts and Departments are encouraged to promote and supervise the overall operation of the program.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ROTC Achievement Program</p>	<p>The American Legion ROTC Medals Awards were established by National Convention mandate as a way in which The American Legion can show its support for ROTC programs throughout the nation. This program is a way for our schools and Legion family to work together and help develop our young leaders of the future.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Annual Americanism Post Awards</p>	<p>Each year a Distinguished Service Citation is awarded to the 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 which conducts a satisfactory Americanism Program may receive an Annual Americanism Citation.</p>

BROCHURES AND MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

Limit 25 - copies may be made locally.

Manual	Quantity
Americanism Manual	
Policy on Education	
Adult Literacy	
School Medals	
Oratorical Brochures <i>Must be ordered by Post Oratorical Chairman</i>	
Boys State Brochures	
Jr. Shooting Sports	
Baseball Handbook	

Please send requests to:

The American Legion, Dept. of Florida

ATTN: Programs Director

P.O. Box 547859

Orlando, FL 32854-7859

Post name and number: _____

Name/title: _____

Address: _____

City, State, & ZIP: _____

AVAILABLE FROM NATIONAL EMBLEM SALES

(See current National Emblem Sales Catalog for prices)

Guide for Parents & Students

Know Your America

Declaration Of Independence

Service to God and Country

Our Country's Flag Comic Book

Light of Liberty Comic Book

Geography Coloring Book

School Medallion

School Lapel Pin

Oratorical Medal

Oratorical Lapel Pin

Also available thru Department Headquarters

800.393.3378

Chaplains Manual

Chaplains Prayer Manual

Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette

Flag Code

School Award Certificates

School Award Honorable Mention Certificates

School Medals

Flags (Indoor or Outdoor)

United States Flag Folding Program

We fold from the stripes toward the stars, for whereas the stripes represent the thirteen original colonies, they are now embodied in the fifty sovereign states represented by the stars.

- **FIRST FOLD** - A symbol of life
- **SECOND FOLD** - A symbol of our belief in the eternal life
- **THIRD FOLD** - Made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks and who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.
- **FOURTH FOLD** - Represents our weaker nature; for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for his divine guidance.
- **FIFTH FOLD** - A tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but she is still our country, right or wrong."
- **SIXTH FOLD** - Stands for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
- **SEVENTH FOLD** - A tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all the enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.
- **EIGHTH FOLD** - A tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it files on Mother's Day.
- **NINTH FOLD** - A tribute to womanhood It has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the characters of the men and women who have made the country great have been molded.
- **TENTH FOLD** - A tribute to father, for he too, has given his sons and daughters for the

defense of our country since he or she was first born.

- **ELEVENTH FOLD** - in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in their eyes, the god of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- **TWELFTH FOLD** - In the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our National motto, "In God We Trust."

PATRIOTIC HOLIDAY PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

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.

Here is a suggested program for the day:

Call to Order.

Song "America," by assembly.

Reading of Governor's proclamation

Recitation by school child, "The Little Red Apple Tree," by James Whitcomb Riley

Talk, "History of Arbor Day"

Song by school children, "Trees," by Joyce Kilmer

Planting of trees

Appropriate poems that can be used for an Arbor Day program

"Among the Trees", William Cullen Bryant

"Under the Willows", James Russell Lowell

"The Friendly Trees", Henry Van Dyke

"Woods in Winter", Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

NOTE: If the trees planted are memorial trees, a Legion speaker should be on the program to talk on the purpose of memorial trees.

FLAG DAY

June 14 is the birthday of the Flag of the United States of America. It is truly "Old Glory's" day and every Post of The American Legion should see to it that ceremonies are conducted in their community to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of our Flag. It is suggested that your program be scheduled to include a "Pause for the Pledge" of Allegiance at 7:00 PM, EDT, to coincide with Flag Day activities held at historic Fort McHenry in Baltimore, MD.

1. See that every school in your community has a Flag and a Flagstaff.
2. Organize a student Flag squad to raise and lower the school Flag every day.
3. Promote the idea that every home in the city should own a Flag and properly display it on special occasions.
4. Distribute copies of the *Flag Code*, *Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette*, and of *Our Country's Flag*.

Here is a suggested program for a Flag Day observance:

Call to Order

Invocation Post Chaplain or local minister

Bugle Call To the Colors, at which time Colors will be advanced

Mass singing of "America"

Pledge to the Flag -- by assembly

Reading -- "Your Flag and My Flag," by Wilbur D. Nesbit

Introduction of speaker -- by Post Commander

Address on the Flag

Mass singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner"

Bugle Call -- Taps

Benediction

INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Fourth of July, 1776, was the date of the birth of the United States of America.

Here is a suggested program:

Meeting called to order by Chairman

Music 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 speaker 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

Other Activities: dedicate a memorial or new community achievement, community picnics, band concerts, athletic events, battle re-enactment, Boys Scout rallies, model airplane contests, veterans' reunions and pilgrimages to sites having a historical significance.

MEMORIAL DAY

Thousands of 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.

A suggested program for a community Memorial Day service follows:

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", or other appropriate world war poem

Introduction of the speaker by Post Commander

Memorial Day address

Benediction by clergyman

Taps by Post Bugler

Where ceremonies are held in the cemetery, the following is suggested:

Order of march to the cemetery -- Colors, music, firing squad, Gold Star Mothers in cars, Spanish-American war veterans, American Legion, others. On arrival at the cemetery the entire assembly will take seats. Gold Star Mothers, Spanish-American war veterans and distinguished guests will take seats reserved for them on the platform and Legionnaires will file into a reserved section.

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

NOTE: 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 victory in the world wars. All speakers, for the day, should be so advised.

WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN BIRTHDAYS

The birthdays of Washington and Lincoln should be observed in every schoolroom in America. Your Post should cooperate with the schools in the two observances. Preparatory to the observances of Lincoln's birthday, the Gettysburg Address should be taught. A contest in the delivery of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address might interest the school and the public. The winner should appear on the holiday program.

The following is suggested for the observance of Lincoln's Birthday:

Post Colors

Opening song, "America"

Salute to the Flag

Reciting in unison the Pledge to the Flag

Song, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"

Story of Lincoln's life, told by pupil

Reading, "Why Should the Spirit of Mortal Be Proud?"

Reading, "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address"

Citizenship talk by war veteran

Song, "The Star-Spangled Banner"

Following is a suggested program for observance of Washington's Birthday:

Post Colors.

Song, "America"

Salute to the Flag

Reciting in unison the Pledge to the Flag

Story of Washington's life, told by pupil

Song, "Columbia the Gem of the Queen"

Tableaux, depicting scenes from Washington's life or the American Revolution

Reading, "Washington's Farewell Address"

Song, "America, the Beautiful"

Citizenship talk by a war veteran

VETERANS DAY

For many members of The American Legion, Veterans Day will always have a very deep personal significance. All Posts are urgently requested to see to it that their communities observe the occasion.

Here is a suggested program for the day:

7:00 A.M. -- Sunrise gun (can be fired with anvils in case no cannon is available).

8:15 A.M. -- First call (bugle or parade formation).

8:30 A.M. -- Assembly (bugle call for parade formation).

8:45 A.M. -- Starting gun or bomb parade.

9:45 A.M. -- Arrival of parade elements at the assembly point.

9:50 A.M. -- Salute of one gun; band, "The Star-Spangled Banner."

10:00 A.M. -- Invocation.

10:05 A.M. -- Music by band, soloist or chorus.

10:10 A.M. -- Reading of Governor's or Mayor's proclamation on Veterans Day.

10:15 A.M. -- Remarks by Post Commander or designated person.

10:20 A.M. -- Music by soloist or chorus.

10:25 A.M. -- Roll call of the dead of world wars of the community by Post Adjutant of The American Legion.

Ceremonies; presentation of service flag, plaque or roll of men serving in armed forces; presentation and dedication of U.S. Flag in honor of members of community in service.

10:45 A.M. -- Address by Legion speaker of day (caution must be used not to permit this speaker to utilize more than 15 minutes if this time schedule is used).

11:00 A.M. -- Salute of three guns; bugle call, "Taps," with echo, if possible (in larger cities several calls may be used in various sections). Thirty seconds of silent prayer for the dead of the world wars. All business ceases.

11:10 A.M. -- Introduction of guest speaker of the day.

11:15 A.M. -- Address by guest speaker of the day.

11:55 A.M. -- "America" by audience.

12:00 Noon -- Pledge to Flag

Adjournment

During the noon hour, a community dinner, picnic or barbecue may be served, or Posts may serve dinner in large hall:

1:30 P.M. -- Afternoon program opened by firing cannon or aerial bomb.

1:40 P.M. -- Competitive drill by S.A.L. Squadrons, Boy Scout troops, ROTC units, fraternal drill teams and others; Football game or other sports program.

6:00 P.M. -- Banquet

The Certificate on the next page can be given from your Post to businesses who display the American Flag. We encourage you to publicly acknowledge the giving of this certificate, by ceremony or an ad in your local paper, in the hopes that other businesses will follow the example and want to proudly fly our Nation's Flag.

Please send _____ certificates to:

Name/title _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip+four _____

Mail certificate request to:

American Legion Department Headquarters

ATTN: Programs Director

PO BOX 547859

Orlando, FL 32854-7859



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Department of Florida



presents this

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

to

***For loyalty and patriotism to our Country as exemplified by
proudly displaying the Flag of the United States of America***

Presented this _____ day of _____, 20____

American Legion Youth Awards Programs **Developing Future Leaders ... Today**

Purpose: The purpose of the American legion youth award programs is to develop America's future leaders by motivating and encouraging youth and recognizing exceptional performance in the areas of ROTC, citizenship, Americanism, Scholarship, Music, Athleticism and Essay. This program cannot be accomplished without at least minimal general guidelines for delineating the level of awards that would be appropriate commensurate with the youth efforts as acknowledged by parents, youth leadership, and school counselors. These general guidelines are not published by the national office of the American Legion or any of the Posts. General guideline suggestions or recommendations are intended to assist the Post, citizen, family member and youth leadership on acceptable criteria for awarding these awards from the Post or Legion. Additionally, these guidelines will assist in the current disconnect between American Legion and the schools today by suggesting a viable missing link that can help facilitate communications between the legion post and the schools they are affiliated with. This missing link is the Parent Advisory Councils (PAC) and Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA).

Background: the American Legion does not have paid positions to oversee these programs. Many of the school counselors cannot understand these programs even though introduced by the Legions, as most do not have a military background to support understanding of the core values of these programs. Furthermore school counselors are not so inclined to promote these programs, as it simply means an additional workload that they simply cannot afford to invest their time in, due to the complex and vague nature of the award submissions criteria. Currently all these awards are highly subjective without any definitive criteria, which makes understanding the programs nearly impossible for the civilian but also even more difficult for the individual with the military background to discern the appropriate award or level of award that should be utilized to acknowledge the youth endeavors.

Areas of Responsibility: Posts are assigned regions that encompass the schools (elementary, middle and high school) that exist within their local regional boundary, as dictated by the number of available Posts and reasonable division of the existing schools among the Posts. The school may submit the award requests to the (local) regional Post, but in the absence of the Post or the inability of the Post to process the award, an alternate Post may be used to submit the award(s).

The following are suggestions for consideration of recommended awards. Nothing herein should be considered to be absolute. The initial, (or in some cases the final), approval may come from the Legion Post where the award is submitted. Higher awards may need to be approved at the National Headquarters level.

Authority and References:

American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales, P. O. Box 36460, Indianapolis, IN 46236
<http://emblem.legion.org/Medals/products/164/>
call (888) 453-4466 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET

Award Criteria Guidelines

JROTC/ROTC Military Excellence Medal and Rebar: Bronze (High School), Silver (Jr. College or first two years of University), or Gold (last two years of college)

This award is normally recommended by the senior JROTC/ROTC instructor. It is awarded for outstanding cadet military performance.



- Approved for wear by Department of Defense
- Features Legion emblem
- Includes presentation box
- Item Number: 717.100M - \$18.95 - \$23.95

ROTC Military Excellence Ribar
Item Number: 717.100R - \$5.95

This metal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.



JROTC/ROTC Scholastic Excellence Medal with Rebar (High School), Silver (Jr. College or first two years of University), or Gold (last two years of college):

This award is normally recommended by the senior JROTC/ROTC instructor. It is awarded for superior sustained academic performance and achieving a Scholastic “A” in JROTC/ROTC studies.



- Includes medal and matching rebar:
- Approved for wear by Department of Defense
- Features Legion emblem
- Includes presentation box
- Item Number: 717.101

ROTC Scholastic Excellence Ribar
Item Number: 717.101R

This metal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.



Scholarship Medal: (Bronze Silver or Gold):

This award would be normally conferred upon a student who earns a scholarship or is awarded a stipend by a scholarship fund as a result either application to the scholarship fund or successfully winning an essay or other contest.



This medal may be awarded at three levels (Bronze, Silver or Gold).

- **Gold Medal:** This may be awarded for the top student in a significant endeavor or contest that wins the endeavor or contest.
- **Silver Medal:** This may be awarded to the student who is runner-up or second-place than earns a minor scholarship award.
- **Bronze Medal:** This may be awarded for noteworthy efforts resulting in a minor award for a scholarship or third place in a contest.

This metal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.314 - Bronze, Silver or Gold: \$15.95 – \$21.95

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box

Scholastic Medal (Bronze, Silver or Gold):

The purpose of the Scholastic Medal is to recognize and motivate students to excel to the highest levels of their scholastic abilities, and recognize the high achievers for scholastic achievements.



The Scholastic Medal should be awarded for sustained superior performance in academic endeavors. Recommendations may come from either parents, school counselors, teachers or youth leadership, which documented proof of academic excellence.

Based on the fact that there are 3 levels for this award, it could be considered that the 1st 2nd and 3rd choice for a youth (elementary school, middle school, high school) may be considered for either the gold, silver, or bronze medals, respectively for sustained Scholastic excellence.

- **Gold Medal:** This may be awarded for the top student in a grade, student of the year for the school, or for extraordinary performance in advanced classes.
- **Silver Medal:** This may be awarded for a high achieving student that achieved runner-up for student of the year, or was ranked 2nd in academic endeavors for their grades.
- **Bronze Medal:** This may be awarded for the high achieving student that was ranked 3rd for the grade or otherwise would be eligible for an honorable mention in their scholastic endeavors.

This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. This medal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.309 - Bronze, Silver or Gold

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box

Scholastic Medal (Award for Achievement)



The purpose of the Scholastic medal (award for achievement) is to recognize and motivate students to excel to the highest level of their scholastic abilities, and to recognize significant achievements attained in primary and secondary school. This award should be considered for achievements not reaching the level of the Scholastic medal (item 4. above).

The Scholastic metal should be awarded for significant and measurable areas of excellence in scholastic endeavors that are remarkable. Recommendations may come from either parents, school counselors, teachers or youth leadership associated with schools.

This award is issued in three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. These three levels may differentiate between different levels of achievement for each of the primary and secondary schools involved.

- **Gold Medal:** This may be awarded for the top student in a significant endeavor or contest, or for extraordinary performance in advance classes.
- **Silver Medal:** This may be awarded for a high achieving student not meeting the criteria for the Gold Medal.
- **Bronze Medal:** This may be awarded for a high achieving student not meeting the criteria for the Silver Medal.

This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. This metal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.312- Bronze, Silver or Gold

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box

Music medal: (Gold, Silver, or Bronze).



The purpose of music medal is to recognize and motivate students to excel to the highest levels of their abilities in the fine arts of music, and to recognize the high achievers for their musical talents and leadership. While the Scholastic metal recognizes the analytical side of the child's brain, the music medal should endeavor to recognize the creative side of the brain which is equally important to developing a well-rounded American citizen.

The music medal should be awarded for sustained superior performance in the fine arts of music (Band, Choir or Orchestra) at school or an individual demonstrating a high

level of skill in several instruments or performing for the community. Recommendations may come from either parents, school counselors, youth leadership or the music teachers, but document a proof of musical excellence.

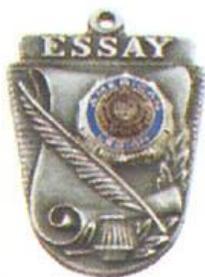
- **Gold-medal:** This may be awarded for the top student in a musical class, for excellence in mastering several instruments with documented proof of superior performance.
- **Silver medal:** This may be awarded for the high achiever for a level of excellence in not deserving of the gold-medal.
- **Bronze medal:** This may be awarded for the high achieving child shows documented proof of excellence in music to a lesser degree than that deserving of the Silver Medal.

This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. This metal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.321 - Bronze, Silver or Gold

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.

Essay Medal: (Gold, Silver or Bronze).



The purpose of the essay medal is to recognize and motivate the youth to compete in the higher level of thought process that requires a written essay, which can be demonstrated by and especially well written and thought out essay in the school environment or submission of and/or award in an essay or writing contest.

The essay medal should be awarded to recognize a youth's achievement in their cognizant and reasoning abilities, and to recognize the superior thought process that is involved in writing a successful essay that convinces the reader that the writer is sincere in their thought process. While this a highly subjective process in regards to determining the award and level of award, care should be taken to take into consideration the age and education level of the youth petitioning for the award; as well as the level thought process required in the essay contest (if applicable).

- **Gold-medal:** This may be awarded for the highest level thought processes as demonstrated by the context and substance of the essay. This could also be awarded as recognition for winning a significant essay contest.
- **Silver medal:** This may be awarded for a high level of thought process as demonstrated by the context and substance in the essay. This could also be awarded as recognition has runner-up in a significant essay contest.
- **Bronze medal:** This may be awarded for participation in an essay contest with good thought process as demonstrated in the context and substance of the essay. This could also be awarded as recognition for an individual significant effort in participating in an essay contest not resulting in being selected as a winner.

This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. This metal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.317 - Bronze, Silver or Gold
Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.

Athletic Achievement Medal: (Gold, Silver or Bronze).



The purpose of the athletic achievement medal is to reinforce the value that not only is scholastic wisdom and citizenship an excellent attribute, but also maintaining good health is of optimum concern for youth. This award recognizes a youths endeavors to excel in an athletic sport as recognized by longevity, awards and leadership in the field of chosen sport.

This should be awarded to the youth that endeavors or excels in one or more sports. The different level of metals should be conferred with consideration to the level effort required to achieve the level of excellence demonstrated and/or documented by coaches/teachers, parents or youth leaders.

- **Gold Medal:** This may be awarded for attaining the highest level in a particular sport demonstrating perseverance and determination as well as good sportsmanship.
- **Silver Medal:** This may be awarded for team leadership, a high level of proficiency in good sportsmanship.
- **Bronze Medal:** This may be awarded for outstanding participation in a sport and contributing to a team's success.

This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. This metal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.308 - Bronze, Silver or Gold
Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.

Americanism Medal: (Gold Silver or Bronze).



The purpose of this medal is to reinforce the core values of Americanism in our children as they mature.

The Americanism metal should be awarded for the youths endeavors to be a patriotic and good citizen.

This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. This metal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.301 - Bronze, Silver or Gold
Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.

Citizenship medal: (Gold, Silver or Bronze).

The purpose of this medal is to reinforce the core values that are expected of a good citizen in today's society as reflected by our forefathers.



This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. This metal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.302 - Bronze, Silver or Gold

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.

Marksmanship Medal: (Gold, Silver or Bronze).



This award is covered by the American Legion in the air gun program offered. This metal could also be awarded for excellence in handgun or long gun handling or perform some competitions by the youth.

This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. This metal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.313 - Bronze, Silver or Gold

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.

Marksmanship Medal: (Gold, Silver or Bronze).



This award is covered by the American Legion in the air gun program offered. This metal could also be awarded for excellence in handgun or long gun handling or perform some competitions by the youth.

This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. This metal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.307- Bronze, Silver or Gold

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.

Medal of Merit: (Gold, Silver or Bronze).



(Gold) conferred not only for meritorious achievement in various fields of endeavor, but also for achievement exemplifying ideals which The American Legion holds in high esteem like duty, honor, country, family, loyalty.

You are now on record at the gorgeous [American Legion Headquarters](#) in Indianapolis, Indiana in beautiful War Memorial Park, as being a Legion Gold Medal of Merit recipient.

This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. This metal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.304 - Bronze, Silver or Gold

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.

Heroism Medal: (Gold, Silver, or bronze).



This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. This metal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.316 - Bronze, Silver or Gold

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box.

Grateful Appreciation medal



- Presented to returning Service Personnel from your community
- Available in gold only

This medal may be awarded at the Post level. This metal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.300 (Gold Only)

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box

General medal



This medal may be awarded at the Post level. The level of award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) may be determined at the Post level. This metal should be awarded with the appropriate certificate.

Item Number: 717.310 - Available in bronze, silver, and gold

Furnished with regulation ribbon, pin back with safety catch, and presentation box