

**2023-2024 American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of New York  
Americanism**

**Department Chairman**

**Judy Wallace**

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**Purpose:** The purpose of the Americanism program is to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship.

**Be knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette, and proper disposal methods, and promote the observation of patriotic holidays so your community will look to the ALA for information.**

- Work with The American Legion to increase respect for the flag in your community, including the proper way the American flag should be flown.
- At schools and organizations, teach proper handling, displaying, and respect for the American flag, as well as our National Anthem, and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Organize a patriotic holiday event or volunteer for local patriotic events in Auxiliary attire and network with prospective members.
- Sign up at <https://www.legion.org/flag/246720/sign-american-legion-flag-alerts> to receive notifications on when to display the flag at half-staff.
- Contact and ask state and federal government representatives to support the flag amendment. To find your representatives, visit <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>.
- Encourage members to participate in and utilize Wreaths Across America patriotic curriculum. For more information, visit <https://learn.wreathscrossamerica.org/teach>.
- Recruit others to support the flag amendment by explaining what it is and why it is important. Sign up for The American Legion's legislative action alerts and follow the flag issues.
- Work with schools and organizations to promote Star Spangled Kids. For more information and resources, visit <https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Americanism/How-to-Promote-Star-Spangled-Kids>.

**Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest.**

The Americanism Essay Contest topic for 2023-2024: "What Does Freedom Mean to Me?"

- Encourage Junior members and family members to participate in the essay contest.
- Work with school administrations to identify guidance counselors, and English and history teachers whose students would be interested in participating.
- Contact youth organizations to identify potential youth for participation in the contest.
- Provide all interested students with information packets explaining contest rules, deadlines, topics, and award opportunities.
- For details on the Americanism Essay Contest, visit <https://www.legion-aux.org/americanism-essay-contest>.

## **Participate in the promotion of The American Legion Americanism programs.**

Support American Legion Baseball:

- Support, sponsor, or donate to an American Legion Baseball team.
- Assist with the logistics of transportation, concession, and statistics for the teams.
- Contact local sports shops and ask if they would be willing to make donations toward a fundraiser or offer a discounted price to purchase needed items.
- Attend events in Auxiliary attire and network with prospective Legion Family members.
- For more information and resources, visit [www.legion.org/baseball](http://www.legion.org/baseball).

Support the Oratorical Contest:

- Help prepare your post home to sponsor a local or district contest.
- Volunteer to assist as a judge or timekeeper.
- Offer to help with refreshments.
- Provide transportation for candidates.
- Help recruit candidates at local schools and community organizations.
- Attend events in Auxiliary attire and network with prospective Legion Family members.
- For more information and resources, visit [www.legion.org/oratorical](http://www.legion.org/oratorical).

Support Junior Shooting Sports, which promotes gun safety and marksmanship training for youth:

- Volunteer to help out with scoring, supervision, or transportation.
- Assist in fundraising for events.
- Help recruit candidates at local schools and other organizations.
  - Contact JROTC.
  - Contact Civil Air Patrol Cadets.
- Attend events in Auxiliary attire and network with prospective Legion Family members.
- For more information and resources, visit [www.legion.org/shooting](http://www.legion.org/shooting).

## **DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM AWARDS**

### **DEPARTMENT AWARD RULES**

- Entries must be typed, double spaced, not to exceed 1,000 words.
- Word count in lower left corner of cover sheet unless otherwise noted under award instructions.
- Entries must be in narrative form and placed in a folder.
- Pictures, newspaper clippings and other materials and/or documents may be included.
- All entries must include a cover sheet with the name of the award entry, name of the Unit/County/District, name, and address of the Unit/County/Chairman.
- Entries must be received by the Department Chairman no later than MAY 1<sup>st</sup> unless a different date is specified.

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

**DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S AWARD:** To the Unit that submits the best overall Americanism Program in a school. Entry may include parades, celebrations of Patriotic Holidays like Veterans Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July or a Flag etiquette/disposal ceremony. Write-up cannot exceed 1,000 words, must include photos, PR clippings, printout of social media posts,

etc. All entries are to be mailed to the Department President at her home no later than May 1, 2024. Email entries will not be accepted or considered.

**THE MARIE C. MOCK AWARD:** Awarded to the Unit with membership of 10-99 submitting the most outstanding Americanism program of the year.

**THE JOAN CACCAMO AWARD:** Awarded to the Unit with membership of 100 or more submitting the most outstanding Americanism program of the year.

**THE PATRICIA M. HENNESSY AWARD:** Awarded to the County submitting the best year-round Americanism Program.

## **NATIONAL AMERICANISM AWARDS**

1) Please follow instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet found in the Department Plan of Action.

2) Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the award's materials and guidelines.

- A. **Unit Award:** Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program (per division)
  - Deadline: May 1, 2024
  - Send to the Department chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above.
  
- B. **Department Award:** Best Department Americanism Program (per division)  
Deadline: May 1, 2024
  - Send to the national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above.
  
- C. **Americanism Essay Contest**
  - 2023– 2024 Essay Title: “What does Freedom mean to me?”
  
  - All department entries must be sent by the **Department Chairman** to the national division chairman emailed or postmarked by April 15, 2024.



**AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST  
2024  
Cover Sheet**

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grade 3-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) after convention.

**Essay Title: "What does Freedom mean to me?"**

**Essay Classes:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Class</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Word Requirement</b>
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level.

**Essay Checklist:**

- Class competing in \_\_\_\_\_
- Sponsoring ALA unit \_\_\_\_\_
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class Completed
- essay cover sheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay \_\_\_\_\_
- Due date for student to return to ALA unit **February 15, 2024**
- Date due to Dept. Americanism Chairman: March 15, 2024**

**To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name and Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):**

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Unit winner due to Department on: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Department Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

*Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2024*

# UNIT AMERICANISM REPORT FORM

## 2023-2024

**REPORTING DATES:**       November 1, 2023       April 1, 2024

Unit Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ District #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person Reporting: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit does not have an Americanism Chairman**

**Please indicate the Number of events held by your unit for each category**

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ____ Flag etiquette program         | ____ Get out and Vote                              |
| ____ Americanism Essay Contest      | ____ Support of the American Legion Programs       |
| ____ Flag Day Celebration           | ____ Thank You Certificate for displaying the Flag |
| ____ Flag Disposal Ceremony         | ____ Boy/Girl Scout                                |
| ____ Flags donated to the Community | ____ Other: (Please list below or add sheet)       |

**Please answer the following questions (1-4) below :**

1. How did the unit promote the Americanism essay contest?
2. How did the unit promote the Flag history, etiquette, proper disposal methods?
3. How did the unit promote observation of patriotic holidays?
4. How did the unit support American Legion Americanism programs?
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Total number of miles driven in providing ALA service?
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Total number of volunteers for all projects
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Total volunteer hours for all projects
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Total number served.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Total dollar value of the volunteer hour (multiply total hours by \$31.80 hour)
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Total dollar value of goods and materials

**Please describe activities/projects carried out in the unit. (write on back or add a page)**

**Impact Report: YOU MUST FILL IN THIS INFORMATION**

**\*\* Insert Information from Unit Report line 7 & 11 as indicated below\*\***

**4. Our Service Representing the ALA in Our Community**

Impact Report Line#	For any service not included in Sections 1-3	**Obtain Total From		Total
Line 19	Total number of hours	From line 7		
Line 20	Total dollars spent	From Line 10		\$

**Please send this report form to your County Americanism Chairman  
Keep a copy of this report for your records**



## COUNTY AMERICANISM REPORT FORM 2023-2024

**Reporting Dates:**     **November 10, 2023**                      **April 10, 2024**

County: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person Reporting: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ County does not have an Americanism Chairman**

**Please indicate the Number of events held by your units for each category.**

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| ___ Flag etiquette program         | ___ Get Out and Vote                          |
| ___ Americanism Essay Contest      | ___ Support the American Legion Programs      |
| ___ Flag Day Celebration           | ___ Boy/Girl Scouts                           |
| ___ Flag Disposal Ceremony         | ___ Thank you certificate for displaying flag |
| ___ Flags donated to the Community | ___ Other: (Please list below or add sheet)   |

**Please answer the following questions (1-4) below:**

1. How did the units promote the Americanism essay contest?
2. How did the units promote the Flag history, etiquette, proper disposal methods?
3. How did the units promote observations of patriotic holidays?
4. How did the units support American Legion Americanism programs?
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Total number of miles driven in providing ALA service?
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Total number of volunteers for all projects
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Total volunteer hours for all projects
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Total number served
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Total hours members volunteered \_\_\_ (multiply X \$31.80 hour)
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Total dollar value of goods and materials

**Please describe activities/projects carried out in the unit. (on back or add separate sheet )**

**Impact Report: YOU MUST FILL IN THIS INFORMATION:**

**\*\* Insert Information from County Reports Enter information from lines 7 & 11\*\*\*\*\***

**4. Our Service Representing the ALA in Our Community**

Impact Report Line#	For any service not included in Sections 1-3	**Obtain Total From		Total
Line 19	Total number of hours	<b>From line 7</b>		
Line 20	Total dollars spent	<b>From Line 10</b>		\$

**Send this report to the Department Americanism Chairman / Keep copy for your records**

**Department Americanism Chairman:  
Judy Wallace  
25032 County Route 37, Carthage, NY 13619  
Email: nyalaamericanism@gmail.com**

