

**2025-2026 American Legion Auxiliary
Department of New York
Americanism**

Department Chairman

Luanna Gilbert

8314 Veley Rd.

Mt. Morris, NY 14510

C :585-317-3548

E-mail – nyalaamericanism@gmail.com

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 2025-2026: "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans who fought for our freedom."

- 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.

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.

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.

2025-2026 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 1st 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, Flag etiquette/disposal ceremony, promoting Star Spangled Kids and the Americanism Essay Contest.

Write-up cannot exceed 1,000 words, it 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, 2026. **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.

2025-2026 NATIONAL AMERICANISM AWARDS

Deadlines and Submission Requirements

All award submissions must include a narrative (either a PDF or Microsoft Word document) explaining why the department or unit you’re nominating should receive the award. The narrative can also be the department chair’s report. You may also upload other supporting documentation that will give the committee a full picture of the important mission work your department or unit has accomplished this year. These files can be photos (JPG, JPEG or TIFs -- no larger than 14MB) or PDF documents. If you have more than three supporting files, please email the committee email address listed in the form.

National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

Unit Award: Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program (per division)

Presented: One unit in each division

Materials and guidelines:

- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words that includes specific examples of how unit delivered mission service. Narrative can also include portions from department chair’s report
- Should include action (high-resolution) photos, scans/links to news articles, etc.
- All unit entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1. *Note: entries will be accepted from unit chairs.*
- Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.

Department Award: Best Department Americanism Program (per division)

Presented to: One department in each division.

Materials and guidelines:

- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words that includes program-related mission service; may include department chair’s report.
- Should include action (high-resolution) photos, scans/links to news articles, etc.
- All entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.
- Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.

Americanism Essay Contest

Submissions are due to the department chairmen no later than April 1. The current essay question and other important information may be found on the Americanism Essay Cover sheet located at <https://www.legion-aux.org/americanism-essay-contest>. Please refer to your local unit and department guidelines for their submission dates for this contest.

The American Legion Auxilliary's Americanism Essay Contest is for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs, divided into six classes. One award in each class will be presented in each division. Winners will receive a \$50 check and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Spirit of Youth Scholarship fund.

Essay Title:
***"Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the
Veterans who Fought for Our Freedom."***

Essay Classes:

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

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.

Essay Checklist:

- Class competing in _____
- Sponsoring ALA unit _____
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay _____
- Due date for student to return to ALA unit _____

To be completed by the student and parent/guardian:

** Please write legibly in ink.*

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): _____

Student or Parent/Guardian E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name and Signature: _____

School Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

School City/State: _____

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, 2026

2025-2026 UNIT AMERICANISM REPORT

REPORTING DATES: November 1, 2025 March 1, 2026 May 1, 2026

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Unit: _____ County: _____ District #: _____

_____ **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) on the back of this report.

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 \$34.79 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**

2025-2026 COUNTY AMERICANISM REPORT FORM

Reporting Dates: November 10, 2025 March 10, 2026 May 10, 2026

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

County: _____ District: _____

County does not have an Americanism Chairman

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

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

Please answer the following questions (1-4) on the back of this form.

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 \$34.79 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	From line 7	
Line 20	Total dollars spent	From Line 10	\$

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

**Department Americanism Chairman:
Luanna Gilbert
8314 Veley Rd.
Mt. Morris, NY 14510
C :585-317-3548
E-mail – nyalaamericanism@gmail.com**

