

DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN'S GUIDE



**THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION
PO BOX 1055
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206**



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 one hundred 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

"I 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."



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Foreword

This guide is your call to every blue cap Legionnaire to galvanize into action the reality of our Americanism programs. Every program is not only a worthwhile activity, but a strong catalyst for increased knowledge, healthy competition, the development of character and a bona fide appreciation of The American Legion's contribution to the betterment of life in each home community.

Young Americans benefit through the value of your diligent efforts in promoting American Legion Baseball, the National High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, School Medal Awards, American Legion Boys State, Junior Shooting Sports Program, Boys Scouts, Flag Etiquette, Education and Scholarship and the kindred activities related to the finest in citizenship training. Let this guide be your best working instrument for achievement of our goals for God and Country as outlined in the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

JOSEPH E. CAOQUETTE, JR., Chairman
National Americanism Commission

Congratulations!!

By accepting this important appointment as your Department's Americanism Chairman, you have inherited a proud tradition of service to our Nation's youth. 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:

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 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;
4. Spread throughout the people of the Nation information as to the real nature and principles of American government;
5. Foster the teaching of Americanism in all schools."

It is the main objective of the National Americanism Commission to translate Americanism precepts, principles, and ideals in an understandable and practical manner to Legion Posts/Auxiliary Units, other groups and individuals, including Young America.

Now ... Let's Get Down To Work

I hate to be the first to burst your bubble, but the road you have chosen is not paved with glory. It's a rocky road which requires your commitment, hard work and a high level of energy. Don't let this scare you. You are not alone. Feel free at any time to call on your National Staff for assistance. We are here for YOU! Yet while the challenge is great, your potential rewards are greater; and the personal satisfaction you will derive is immeasurable. You have been entrusted by your Department with many responsibilities. They will look to YOU for information, leadership and enthusiasm. Don't let them down.



There are countless children in your state who could benefit from your programs, and many Legion Family volunteers who stand ready to assist you in reaching your goals.



Goals??

Yes, goals are an important part of the planning process. After all, if you do not set some measurable objectives; how will you know what you have accomplished at year end? In developing your goals remember that for something to be a goal it must be: Realistic, that is something that can be done; It must be 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! As soon as possible, get out and talk with District and Post representatives. If it is not possible to meet with them in person, call them. Listen to their concerns and allow yourself some time to 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 small pieces. This not only makes them more manageable, but also promotes motivation and enthusiasm. 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. As Chairman, you may promote a special project to be accomplished in the coming year. Any of these areas should be supported with practical projects your Districts and Posts can realistically handle. Your main project could cover any area affecting Americanism that you feel is important. Maybe your Districts will want to promote individual projects. This is fine! Give them all the support you can. The important point to remember here is that is better to concentrate on one or two yearly projects and be successful, than to run off in 15 different directions and accomplish nothing.

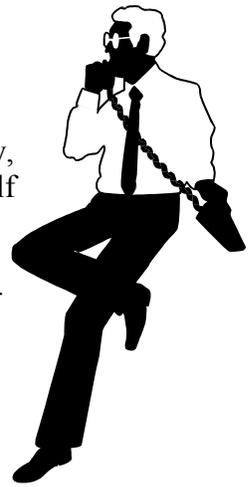
Delegate...



Delegation is the key to a successful year. One person cannot be expected to do it all. You are going to need help in promoting your programs. If your Department has an Americanism Commission or Committee, use it. If not, why not suggest one! On this Committee, you could have a representative from each District to help you generate interest at that level and at the Post level. Use this Committee to help generate ideas to produce a well-rounded program that reaches out to every corner of your state.

... And Communicate

Open communication is a must between yourself and your District leaders. They, in turn, must be in tune with their respective Posts. Here you must assert yourself and your program goals as soon as possible each year. How many District mailings do you make specifically about Americanism? As Chairman, reaching Districts and Posts is vital. How you do it is your decision, but in order for your program to be successful, you must maintain open pathways of communication and then initiate action.



Department and District Meetings

Meetings are an excellent way to communicate internally. You need to constantly remind others of your program. How many Department level meetings are held each year? How often do Districts meet? 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

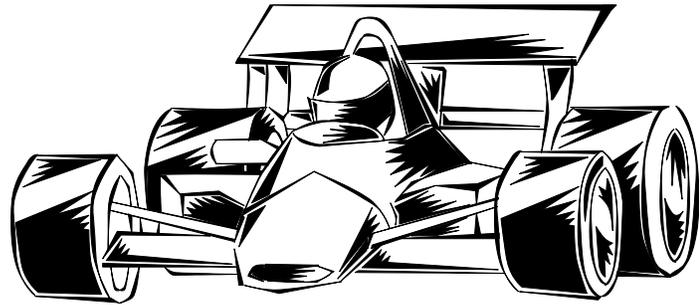
Your internal lines of communication are important, but don't stop there. You need to get the word out. Promote your programs to the general membership and the public. There is an old saying, "Publish or Perish!" While a bit on the dramatic side, it holds true. Does your Department have a Public Relations Committee? How can they assist you in spreading the news? What are you planning and who needs to know? Do you know how many Posts and Districts in your Department carry a monthly, or biweekly, flyer or publication about their specific activities and future plans? How much space do you have in your Department newspaper? If you have no Department 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. If you are proud of your program goal and the fact that The American Legion is behind you in this effort, then we know you will find a way to tell your neighbor.

It's Time To Begin!

At this moment, you are either chomping at the bit, holding at bay your unbridled enthusiasm for the year ahead - or asking yourself a simple question, "What the heck did I get myself into?" Either way, it should prove to be an interesting time. So get set for the adventure and begin your journey through the nuts and bolts of the Americanism Program.

How To Be A Good Chairman

Any journey takes planning. This manual provides a road map, and outlines the suggested directions you must travel to get the job done. But, planning alone is not enough. Normally, you wouldn't take a trip of any length, be it by car, bus, ship or plane, without throwing a few essential items in a suitcase. So, before we begin our travel through this important year ahead, let's get **PACKED!!**



PACKED represents the six "Be's." Be Practical; Be Available; Be Cooperative; Be Knowledgeable; Be Energetic and Be Dedicated.

Be Practical

To succeed, be practical. As Department Chairman, there will be many demands on both your time and your energy. No matter how involved you become with the total Americanism Program, 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.** With all your goals and objectives, it is impossible to complete every single task yourself. Delegation to others on your committee will enable you to concentrate on the overall program and provide you with more time to guide and advise others. Remember - when someone does not accomplish their task in the prescribed way, you need to be on hand to explain what is wrong, and help them restructure their efforts. On the other hand, a job well done, always deserves a word of thanks.

Be Available

Whether you realize it or not, when you accepted the position as Department Americanism Chairman, you said, in fact, "I will make myself available." Therefore, you not only have to be available to people at the Post and District levels, but you must also be available to your Department as you attempt to reach your ultimate goal. As we just said, it is nearly impossible for you to do the entire job yourself. You must be prepared to delegate duties to other members on your committee or commission. For example, if you are asked to attend several meetings on the same night, send a designated individual to represent you. By delegating, you are able to be in several places at the same time, if only in thought. 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 externally, 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

A good chairman should be especially 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 National, Department and District levels. In addition, the Chairman should know the key people of the Auxiliary and the SAL, where applicable.

Be Energetic

A good chairman must be energetic. You must demonstrate to others that you possess the capacity to do the job. This will soon 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. Remember, a clear understanding of program purposes enhances motivation. If people fully understand the purpose behind a task and believe it to be worthwhile, they can move mountains. Motivation influences individuals or groups to act and respond in order to solve problems. It is an energizing force that mobilizes the potential of individuals and organizations. As Chairman, you must first motivate yourself to the highest degree possible. Highly motivated chairmen tend to have an awareness of the future, a consciousness of the present and a realistic appraisal of the past.

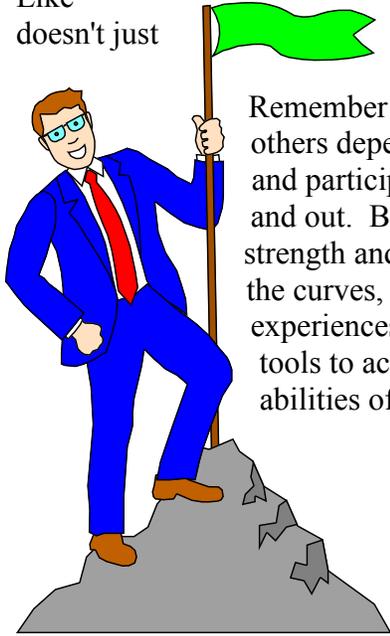
Be Dedicated

To have a successful year, you must be dedicated. Believe me, this dedication will be tested throughout the year ahead. But if you are grounded in your firm sense of commitment, you will overcome. Dedication is much more than words; it is action. Dedication is attending the multitude of meetings, even when you are tired. It is answering the same questions, you may have answered over and over again. It is providing direction, even when you are unsure of which way you are going. Dedication is maintaining your own level of motivation and enthusiasm, even when it appears most of your committee members have misplaced their own. 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.

Summing Up...

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

Like anything, becoming a good Chairman takes plenty of work. It doesn't just happen overnight. But it will happen.



Remember ... Be practical - Stop, Evaluate and Prioritize. Be available - others depend on your advice and guidance. Be cooperative - encourage input and participation from others. Be knowledgeable - know your program, inside and out. Be energetic - delegate and motivate. Be dedicated - have the strength and commitment to persevere. So, take your road map in hand, watch the curves, and get **PACKED!!** This year could be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. Accept the challenge. You have all the necessary tools to accomplish the job. Have faith in yourself, your abilities, and the abilities of others. So, buckle up, relax, and let the adventure begin!!

Coordinated Committees On Americanism Everyone Pulling Together...

Coordinated Committees are vital to the success of effective Americanism programs. If you look at Departments, Districts or Posts which have run outstanding programs, more often than not there has been a concerted effort among all members of The American Legion Family (the Legion, the Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion).



So, What Are Coordinated Committees?

Coordinated Committees are cooperative ventures organized at the Post, District and Department levels to coordinate the Americanism activities of the Legion and the Auxiliary. By working together, duplication of efforts and expense can be reduced and a greater number of children and programs can be served.

How Are They Structured?

The American Legion Americanism Chairman should serve as Chairman of the Coordinated Committee with the Auxiliary Americanism Chairman serving as a member. Other members should include:

1. The Legion Adjutant
2. The Auxiliary Secretary
3. The Legion Commander (ex-officio)
4. The Auxiliary President (ex-officio)

In addition, the following members are suggested:

1. SAL Americanism Chairman
2. Additional members depending on the size and scope of your Americanism activities.

How Do They Function?

The basic function of the Coordinated Committee is to put forth a organized effort to carry out the Americanism program activities both constructively and effectively. The following functions are necessary to make it work:

1. Any Coordinated Americanism Committee must have the support from the top (the Department Commander, Adjutant, President and Secretary).

2. Members must be ready, willing and interested in the Americanism Programs. Remember this basic principle -- to maintain a well-rounded program in tune with the needs of children and youth in today's world, you need awareness, commitment, and energy.
3. The qualifications and experience of each person must be carefully considered prior to their appointment, if your Coordinated Committee is to be successful.
4. The Chairman of the Committee must be responsible for keeping the other members informed. Communication is the key. Let the members know that they have a real part in the total Americanism program.
5. The Committee should hold regular meetings, whether monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly. Each meeting should have prepared agenda and should be conducted in a business-like manner.
6. Those who are teaching are, in turn, learning themselves. When you are discussing a Legion publication, make sure you have sufficient copies on hand for each member.
7. Those representatives on the Coordinated Committee must communicate periodically with their home organization and its members, to provide status reports on program objectives, updates and successes.
8. Your Department should specifically assign committee people to the Americanism program. But these people should not be assigned in name only. Since there is much to be accomplished, and limited time available, make sure the people assigned to your committee are there to contribute.
9. Be willing to share information about your Americanism program. Don't be jealous of your successes. Remember, they who serve others, better serve themselves. After all, in the end, the true benefactors of your efforts should be those served by the various Americanism programs.
10. Meet the chairmen of other Department programs so that efforts can be coordinated with mutual concerns. By following these few simple guidelines, you should be able to produce a well-organized and well-run Coordinated Americanism Committee.

How Important Are They?

Coordinated Committees are important enough to be organized at the Local, District and Department levels to carry out the Americanism Program effectively without duplication or confusion. Nationally, The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary work together through our National Committee on Education. Our experience has revealed Coordinated Committees as the best approach in dealing with the problems of children. However, this collective effort faces a tremendous challenge. It can only be met through strong attitudes of cooperation and dedication to helping youngsters, and through our commitment to carry out the total Americanism Program of The American Legion.

National Americanism Commission

The National Americanism Commission is one of the twelve standing national commissions of The American Legion. The purpose of the Commission is to supervise and coordinate national committee activity, promoting understanding and appreciation of American Government and activity in the American way of life through youth activities, community service, instruction of prospective citizens and immigrants, education and educational facilities, and to combat subversive activities.

Who Serves on the Commission?

The National Americanism Commission consists of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, and not more than 30 members selected at large; provided, however, that the Chairman may, and the Vice Chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the Commission. The Chairmen of the Counter-Subversive Activities Committee and the National Americanism Council are ex-officio members of the Commission.

Appointments to fill expiring terms are made annually at each Fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments are for terms of three years. The National Commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its Fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee appoints, upon nomination by the National Commander, a Chairman and a Vice Chairman of the Commission to serve in such capacity for one year; and, the National Commander designates, with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee, an Executive Section of the Commission for the ensuing year. The Executive Section is composed of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, and no more than 10 members of the Commission.

When Do They Meet?

The National Americanism Commission meets three times a year - during the Spring and Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana and at the National Convention. The Executive Section, however, can be called into meeting at such time and place as determined by the National Commander to perform such tasks as specified, between meetings of the full Commission.

What Are Their Duties?

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; and foster the teaching of Americanism in all schools.

Programs of Americanism

Service to God and Country

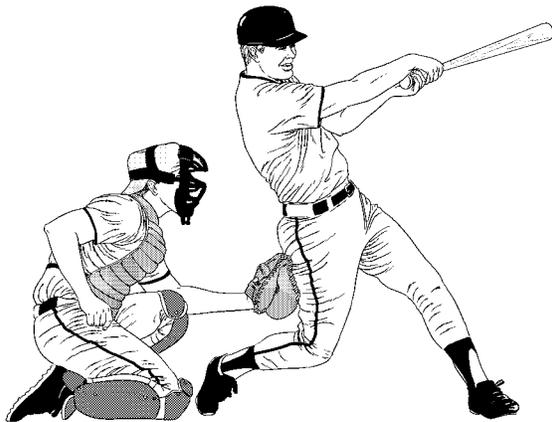
The American Legion's Service to God and Country program is basic Americanism and is designed to help prevent the spiritual decay of America and to charge our citizens with a spirit of positive Americanism, respect for law, regard for authority and an awareness of our human rights and freedoms.

The program has dual objectives. The first is service to God through regular public worship, daily family prayer and the religious education of children.

The second objective is 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.

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.

American Legion Baseball



"In this city on July 17, 1925, by action of the South Dakota Department of The American Legion, the nationwide organization of Legion Junior Baseball was first proposed as a program of service to the youth of America." Those words are inscribed on a marble monument in the community of Milbank, South Dakota, as a reminder of the beginning of this fine Americanism Program. The Program's years of existence can be explained best by a portion of that inscription: "A program of service to the youth of America."

Since its beginning, over seven million young men, typically ages 16-18, have played Legion Baseball.

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.

State-level championship teams representing 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.

Over fifty American Legion Baseball graduates have been inducted into the **Baseball Hall of Fame in COOPERSTOWN, including:** Robert E. Feller – 1962; Theodore S. Williams – 1966; Joseph M. Medwick – 1968; Stanley F. Musial – 1969; Roy Campanella – 1969; Louis Boudreau – 1970; Early Wynn – 1972; Lawrence “Yogi” Berra – 1972; Warren E. Spahn – 1973; Ralph M. Kiner – 1975; Bob Lemon – 1976; Eddie Mathews – 1978; Al Kaline – 1980; Robert Gibson – 1981; Frank Robinson – 1982; George Kell – 1983; Brooks C. Robinson – 1982; Harmon Killebrew – 1984; Donald Drysdale – 1984; Harold Henry “Pee Wee” Reese – 1984; J. Hoyt Wilhelm – 1985; Bobby Doerr – 1986; Jim "Catfish" Hunter – 1987; Willie Stargell – 1988; Johnny Bench – 1989; Carl Yastrzemski – 1989; Joe Morgan – 1990; Jim Palmer – 1990; Hal Newhouser – 1991; Rollie Fingers – 1991; Tom Seaver – 1991; Gaylord Perry – 1992; Reggie Jackson – 1993; Steve Carlton – 1994; Richie Ashburn – 1995; Jim Bunning – 1996; Phil Niekro – 1997; Nellie Fox – 1997; Robin Yount – 1999; George Brett – 1999; Carlton E. Fisk – 2000; George Lee “Sparky” Anderson – 2000; Dave Winfield – 2001; Eddie Murray – 2003; Gary Carter – 2003; Paul Molitor – 2004; Dennis Eckersley – 2004; Wade Boggs – 2005; Ryne Sandberg – 2005; Bruce Sutter – 2006 and Tony Gwynn – 2007.



The Baseball Program owes its success to the hard work and dedication of American Legion Posts and individual Legionnaires who promote this activity. Complete information on organizing and operating an American Legion Baseball program is included in The American Legion Baseball Handbook or from the Americanism and Children & Youth Division, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206.

Howard P. Savage Trophy:

Awarded annually to that department having within its jurisdiction the National Championship team of The American Legion 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 World Series.

Commissioner of Baseball Trophy:

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

Louisville Slugger Award:

Presented annually by the Hillerich & Bradsby Company to the player with the highest batting average in national tournaments.

James F. Daniel, Jr., Memorial Sportsmanship Award:

Presented annually to The American Legion World Series player who best represents teamwork, loyalty, cooperation, self-reliance, fair play and courage.

The George W. Rulon American Legion Baseball Player of the Year Award:

Presented annually to The American Legion World Series player who best personifies the principles of citizenship and sportsmanship stressed by the program.

American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year Award:

Presented annually to the graduate of American Legion Baseball in the professional ranks who best represents the aims of the program in his adult life.

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. Irvin L. (Click) Cowger Memorial RBI Award:

Presented annually by the department of Kansas to the player with the most "runs batted in" during the National Playoffs of American Legion Baseball.

Rawlings Big Stick Award:

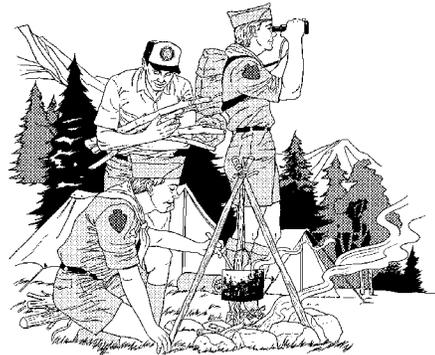
Presented annually by the Rawlings Company to the player with the highest total bases in National Tournaments.

Bob Feller Pitching Award:

Presented annually by the National Americanism Commission to the player striking out the most batters in Regional and National competition as a salute to American Legion Baseball's first graduate elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Boy Scouts of America

The American Legion, at its first National Convention, voted approval and support to the Boy Scout movement. Since that time in 1919, The American Legion's support of Scouting has remained relatively steady with local Posts chartering more than 2,700 units. Hundreds of other units benefit from financial and other forms of support by local posts.



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.

The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year

The American Legion annually sponsors a national scholarship awarded to the Eagle Scout who is selected "The American Legion Scout of the Year." Eligibility requirements are: Be a registered active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew chartered to an American Legion Post, American Legion Auxiliary Unit, or Sons of the American Legion Squadron OR be a registered active member of a duly chartered Boy Scout

Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew, and the son or grandson of a Legionnaire or American Legion Auxiliary member; Have received the **Eagle Scout Award**; Be an active member of his religious institution and must have received the appropriate **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; Submit at least four letters of recommendation and testimony with Nomination Application, with one letter required from each of the following group leaders: religious institution, school, community and Scouting. The winner is eligible to receive a \$10,000 scholarship. Three additional scholarships of \$2,500 each are also awarded. Further information and nomination applications are available from Department Adjutants and from the Americanism and Children & Youth Division in Indianapolis.

Selection Process

Department: Nominations must be received by Department Headquarters no later than **March 1**. The Department Selection Committee should receive all nominations. They will select, in their judgment, the most deserving nominee as Department Scout of the Year. The application judged best in the Department and a list of the members of the Department Selection Committee will be forwarded to The American Legion, Attn: Boy Scouts, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

National: Nominations must be received by National Headquarters no later than **April 1**. The National Americanism Commission's Youth Activities Subcommittee will review all Department nominations and, in their judgment, select The American Legion Scout of the Year.

Announcement of Finalist: The selection will be announced in the National Americanism Commission Report to the National Executive Committee during the Spring Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana.

American Legion Boys State

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.

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 a Boys State. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, glee clubs, and recreational programs.

High school juniors are selected cooperatively by school officials and Legionnaires to participate in Boys State. More than 20,000 boys take part annually in the program. 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.

American Legion Boys Nation

Two of the most outstanding participants in each of 49 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.

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, organize into committees, conduct hearings and act on bills that they 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.



Organization of parties, party conventions, the nomination and election of a President of Boys Nation, all provide practical experience in politics and the administration of a republic. These and similar activities create an understanding of, and an appreciation for, our system of government.

Community Service Activities

The community is an important part of our American way of life. American Legion Posts have, for many years, made lasting contributions that have made American communities better places in which to live.

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.

More than 200 different types of projects, designed for the betterment of communities, are sponsored by more than 14,000 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. Stimulating interest and participation in these programs is one of the greatest services that The American Legion renders to the cause of free government.

Counter-Subversive Activities

The major emphasis of Americanism Commission activities is teaching Americanism precepts to the youth of this country. However, the objective of the Counter-Subversive program suggests that an enlightened and informed citizenry is the greatest deterrent to subversive influences within the United States of America. It stands to reason that, if a citizen understands the objectives, methods and mechanics of how the enemy operates in order to subvert this country, the objectives of subversive groups will not be successful.



Veteran of the Month

The National Americanism Commission conducts a program whereby American Legion Posts can recognize and memorialize the service of area veterans. The program, called Veteran of the Month, was adopted from an activity designed and conducted by Tyler-Seward-Kubish Post 44 of Bantam, Connecticut.

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.

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.

Education Assistance Program

The American Legion offers a unique educational assistance package to assist students (and parents) as they enter the world of higher education.

The American Legion publishes *Need A Lift?* a 152-page booklet which contains information on scholarship, loan and grant opportunities; specific information on colleges and career development information. *Need A Lift?* Also included in the booklet is procedural information and a "Do List" to take a student step-by-step through the task of finding financial aid and gaining college admittance.



Need A Lift? can be purchased for \$3.00 each, plus a \$1.95 for shipping and handling prepaid, from The American Legion National Emblem Sales, P.O. Box 1050, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206. Call Emblem Sales toll free at 1-888-453-4466. To view, search and download a copy of *Need A Lift?* go to www.needalift.org.

Samsung American Legion Scholarship

The Samsung Group, an international electronics company, has endowed a scholarship fund of five million dollars to be administered by The American Legion. The endowment was made to show appreciation to U.S. veterans who came to the aid of Korea during its struggle against communist forces during the Korean War. "The Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program" established a series of scholarships derived from interest and other income from the \$5,000,000 principal amount. The size and number of scholarships awarded is dependent upon the amount of income derived from the fund.

Those eligible to apply for the scholarships are students who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans who served during one or more of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion by the United States government: WW I -- April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918; WW II -- December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946; Korean War -- June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955; Vietnam War -- February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975; Lebanon and Grenada -- August 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984; Panama -- December 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990 and Persian Gulf War -- August 2, 1990 to cessation of hostilities as determined by the United States government.

Scholarship applications are distributed to participants in American Legion Boys State programs and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs. Each American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program will select one application to forward to The American Legion National Headquarters. The National Selection Committee meets each fall to select that year's recipients. For more information go to: www.legion.org.

American Legion Legacy Scholarship

The American Legion established the American Legion Legacy Scholarship for the child/children or legally adopted child/children or a child of a spouse by a prior marriage or dependent child as defined by the United States Armed Services for active duty personnel of the United States military and National Guard, and military reservists who were federalized and die on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Applicant must be a high school senior or high school graduate to apply for the scholarship. Scholarship is for undergraduate study at a U.S. school of higher education. The amount and number of awards depends upon the income from the trust. Scholarship recipients may reapply for the award. For more information go to: www.legion.org.

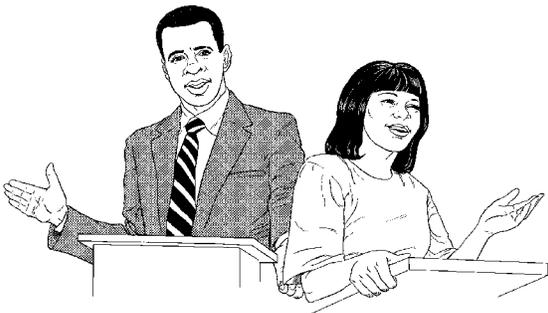
American Education Week

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. Although American Education Week is a nationally observed program, the 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. For resource materials go to www.nea.org.

High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

The American Legion's National High School Oratorical Program "*A Constitutional Speech 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.

High school students who are U.S. citizens are eligible to compete, subject to national rules. Prepared orations of 8 to 10 minutes and assigned topic talks of 3 to 5 minutes are based upon some aspect of the U.S. Constitution.



There are three levels of competition in the national contest. Each Legion Department (state) winner who participates at the Regional level will receive a \$1,500 scholarship. Each Regional winner who participates in the Sectional, 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; and third, \$14,000. Many more thousands of dollars in scholarships are awarded each year by Departments of The American Legion, their Districts and their Posts. Students interested in participating should contact their local American Legion Post or Department (State) Headquarters offices.

Spafford National Trophy:

Awarded annually to that Department of The American Legion having within its jurisdiction the winner of the National High School Oratorical Contest.

School Awards Program

The American Legion is an organization dedicated to service to God and Country. One of the best ways to perform this service is to take an active interest in the preparation of our youth so that they will become patriotic, freedom-preserving citizens. It is in this interest that the School Awards program was born and is maintained on a national level through the National Americanism Commission.

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.

Ralph T. O'Neil Trophy:

The Ralph T. O'Neil Trophy is awarded annually to that department, within the United States, showing the greatest Americanism activity in use of The American Legion School Medal Awards.

Hearst Americanism Trophy:

The Hearst Americanism Trophy is awarded annually to that department which performs the most outstanding Americanism accomplishments during the Legion year.

Flag Education

The American Legion was instrumental in convening the first National Flag Conference in 1923. At this conference, several organizations formulated a set of rules of civilian flag courtesy which later became the basis for the Flag Code first adopted by Congress in 1942.

Since the establishment of the National Americanism Commission, 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** (Title 36, U.S.C., Ch. 10) and **Let's Be Right On Flag Etiquette**, a compilation of the most-asked questions regarding the Flag, are distributed annually.

Flag Protection

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 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.



Junior Shooting Sports

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 20, as well as offering opportunities for competitive shooting which includes an annual national tournament.

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.

Junior Position Air Rifle Tournament

The American Legion conducts a Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament which provides the shooters with an opportunity to test their marksmanship ability in competition with other junior shooters from throughout the nation.

The tournament has three phases of competition: 1) State Championships; 2) Qualification Round; 3) National Championships.

Both the state and qualification phases of the tournament are postal matches whereas the National Championship is a shoulder-to-shoulder competition. The State Championships and the Qualification Round will be conducted in accordance with the Official Match Program (OMP) and NRA Position Air Rifle Rules.



Who May Compete

Sponsorship: Entry in the tournament is limited to individual shooters who are active members of a Junior Shooting Club sponsored by an American Legion Post.

Age Limits: All contestants must be at least 14 and under 20 as of January 1 of the competition year. Contestants must be enrolled in a junior or senior high school or be a high school graduate, of that competition year.

Other Limitations: Each competitor may fire on only one set of "official match targets" during the state championship phase of the tournament. A shooter is ineligible to compete in the National Championship in successive years UNLESS he/she is moving FROM Sporter to Precision Category.

Categories

Competitors may enter either one of two categories in the tournament based on the type of rifle they wish to use. The categories are: **Precision Air Rifle** and **Sporter Air Rifle**.

Course of Fire

The State Championship level of the air rifle match will consist of 60 rounds for record, fired at ten (10) meters (33 feet). Twenty rounds from the **prone position**. Twenty rounds from the **standing position**. Twenty rounds from the **kneeling position**. The qualification level of competition will also consist of 20 rounds in each of the three positions. The NRA 10-meter Air Rifle Target AR 5/10 will be used at all levels of the tournament.

How to Order Official Targets

Official postal targets for the tournament may be ordered by contacting: The American Legion, Attn: Junior Shooting Sports Program, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

The National Convention

There is a great deal of business handled at this annual affair, with all of the various commissions and committees meeting. The following is a brief discussion on the National Convention as it involves those people involved with the Americanism program.

National Commission Meetings

Each year, a number of National Commission members and other National officers are called to the National Convention for a one day pre-Convention meeting. At this meeting, the Commission members discuss and hear interesting presentations on topics concerning our nation's young people. Its members discuss plans for the new year and decide the best course of action for implementation.

Will you be in the Convention City the Saturday before the opening session? If so, we invite you to come and sit in on our meeting - you do not have to be a member of the Commission. You are welcome, and we encourage your attendance.

Convention Committee Meetings

There is a pre-Convention meeting, the purpose of this meeting is to discuss and make recommendations on all resolutions referred to this Committee pertaining to Americanism. These resolutions normally come from the various Department Conventions. If you are not an official delegate, but are interested in this meeting, we welcome you to attend as an observer.

Report To The Convention

Following the pre-Convention Committee meetings, a complete report of the sessions is prepared and presented by our elected Convention Committee Chairman on the Convention Floor. This report entails all of the program plans and most importantly, the recommendations on various resolutions. Once the report has been read and accepted by the delegates to the National Convention, any resolutions recommended for approval become the official position of The American Legion.

Following the acceptance of the Americanism report, copies are available in the Convention Headquarters' office on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you fail to pick one up, just leave your name and address at our temporary offices and the staff will be happy to send you a copy upon their return to Indianapolis.

National Headquarters Offices

One week prior to the Convention and during the week of the Convention, the National Headquarters' offices of The American Legion operate from the Host City.

The members of the National Americanism and Children & Youth Staff encourage you, as Department Chairman, to stop by and visit with them. Only a few times a year is there an opportunity for such a face-to-face meeting. If you want to discuss something important or just want to say hello, please do! Our offices are normally adjacent to, or in the same building as, the Convention Floor. Staff is normally quite busy during the Convention, but you are important, and we will always make time to talk with you. Take advantage of this opportunity while in the Convention City.

Services of the National Staff as a Support Group

The basic role of the National Staff is Service. As a support group, we are here to help you in any way possible. However, if you do not request our services, then we cannot support you. It is important the avenues of communication be kept open between you and the National Staff. If you have problems, maybe together we can arrive at a workable solution.

Another role of the Staff is that of visitation. If you need a member of the National Staff to attend your Department Convention or another very important meeting, use the proper channels as outlined in your Department to have such a request fulfilled.

As A Referral Agency

The National Staff keeps in touch with most of the major agencies and organizations interested in Americanism and children and youth. Should you need additional information on a specific topic, we can readily put you in touch with people that may be able to assist you.

In addition, there may be times when you would like to have a qualified outside speaker for a Department meeting. With advance notice, we may be able to help you with this task.

Assistance With Department and District Level Americanism Meetings

If you need assistance in carrying out your program at the District and Department levels, we can help. Let us know what you need, when you need it, and why. We will do our best to help you secure speakers, audio-visual aids and other materials necessary for a successful program.

Correspondence

If we can support your efforts with service, please write to us with your requests. Our address is:

The American Legion
The National Americanism Commission
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

You can also reach us by e-mail at ACY@legion.org or by phone at (317) 630-1200 or FAX (317) 630-1369. The office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

You have all the necessary information on how to reach us. The next step is up to you. If you need our services, please call or write.

National Resolutions

Why Do We Have Resolutions?

Resolutions are necessary to help formulate the policies and practices of The American Legion. As Department Chairman, you should be concerned with the development of the practices and policies necessary to a complete Americanism program. Any idea you have which you believe will improve The American Legion's Americanism Program at the National level, should be submitted in the form of a resolution. The National Organization cannot act on a given problem in the absence of a controlling resolution. Conversely, it must act on a matter when mandated to do so by a resolution which has been properly adopted by the National Convention or National Executive Committee.

How To Write And Prepare A Resolution

Resolutions have two major parts -- a Preamble and a Resolving Section. Each, consisting of one or more clauses (sometimes called paragraphs), is usually read in its entirety, beginning with the Preamble as one continuous complex sentence. The Preamble sets forth the reasons for the resolution. The Resolving Section sets forth the intent of the resolution. Certain general considerations applicable to all resolutions are as follows:

1. A resolution should contain "supporting arguments" and its intent should be clearly defined.
2. A resolution should be free of errors of fact and law.
3. A resolution should have material relevant to the purposes and programs of The American Legion.

A resolution should deal with only one subject. Although it precedes the Resolving Section in appearance, the Preamble should be prepared after the Resolving Section is put into final form. Once the intent of the resolution is clearly stated, it is much easier to decide what statements need to be in the Preamble to make the reasons for the resolution. The Resolving Section of a resolution begins with the word "RESOLVED," usually printed in capital letters and followed by a comma. Between the opening work and the statement of the resolution's intent, there should be inserted the following information:

1. Identification of resolving authority;
2. The circumstances and the place of the action; and
3. The date of the action. Examples are:

"RESOLVED, By Post No. _____ The American Legion, Department of _____,
in regular (or special) meeting assembled in (Place and Date), That... "

"RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in (City and State),(Date), That. . ."

The word "That" aids the reader to **find** the point at which the meat of the resolution begins, and it aids the drafter of the resolution to launch a strong and unmistakable statement of intent.

Example:

"RESOLVED, . That The American Legion shall sponsor and support legislation to "

Although each resolution should deal with only one subject, it is often necessary to attach additional clauses to a resolution's Resolving Section in order to cover matters closely related to the main intent. This is especially useful for spelling out the details of how and by whom the intent of the resolution is to be carried out. Example:

"RESOLVED, By (etc.); and be it

(Add further resolved paragraphs as required) ... ; and be it finally

"RESOLVED, That (etc.) ...

The Preamble of a resolution is made up of one or more clauses (or paragraphs), each of which begins with "WHEREAS." Two or more of these clauses are joined together by a semi-colon followed by "and."

Example:

"WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of war veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and nation; and

"WHEREAS, This service is performed through The American Legion's basic programs; and (etc.)"

Each clause in the Preamble should contain a statement of fact which is logically related to the intent of the resolution. Resolutions are important business to The American Legion. Write them with thought and care.

The following is one example of a resolution:

RESOLUTION NO: 431

SUBJECT: Loyalty to the United States of America

WHEREAS, The members of The American Legion represent those who have demonstrated inflexible loyalty to our beloved United States of America; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has defended our God and our way of life in war and peace; and

WHEREAS, Our Country needs the united effort of these patriots once again to lead the nation in a rededication of the American people to our Declaration of Independence, our Bill of Rights, our Constitution, our Flag and to liberty; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 23, 24, 25, 1977, That we enthusiastically support the project to unify,

strengthen, renew our spirit and rededicate ourselves to the God given freedoms and liberty upon which this, our beloved United States of America, was founded.

Proper Channels For Submitting A Resolution

Resolutions requiring County, District or Department consideration must be prepared and forwarded in accordance with their respective regulations and by-laws. A well-written resolution stands a better chance of getting favorable consideration at your County, District or Department meetings than a resolution which is vaguely worded and carelessly formulated. Always keep in mind that any resolution transmitted beyond your Post and within the organization of the Legion must be "germane" or closely related to the purposes for which The American Legion exists. Submit supportive material or documents to further explain the intent of your resolution(s), especially to National.

How Are They Handled?

Resolutions which have received favorable action by Department Convention or Department Executive Committees requiring National action are acted upon by the National Executive Committee or the National Convention.

Resolutions from the DEC to the NEC are sent to the National Adjutant, where they are registered and referred to the proper National Commission or Committee for further study and appropriate action. Resolutions from Department Conventions calling for National Convention action are submitted by the Department Adjutant on the proper forms to the National Adjutant where they are registered and assigned by the Resolutions Assignment Committee to a Convention Committee for study and action at the National Convention.

Annual Americanism Post Awards

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.

Public Relations

Suggested Addresses are available from the Public Relations Division. For copies of the current addresses write to: The American Legion, Public Relations Division, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206 or call (317) 630-1253 or e-mail PR@legion.org. Materials can be obtained from the Legion's web site at www.Legion.org.

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.

* 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, Maryland.

How to help promote the observance of Flag Day.

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.

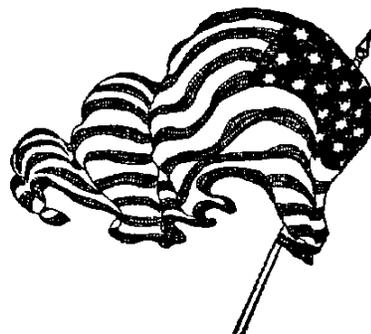
Address on the Flag.

Mass singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

One minute of silent prayer.

Bugle Call -- Taps.

Benediction.



Independence Day

The Fourth of July, 1776, was the date of the birth of our great republic--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.

The afternoon could be used to dedicate a memorial or some new community achievement. Community picnics, band concerts, athletic events, battle reenactments, Boys 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 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 of the day by the 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, distinguished guests, American Legion, others.

On arrival at the cemetery the entire assembly will take seats. Gold Star Mothers, 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's 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?"

Song.

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 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 DISPATCH

Stay informed about Legion programs, policies and priorities through the pages of *The Dispatch*, which has been delivering news and commentary to members of The American Legion family since the first issue of the twice monthly publication rolled off the presses in 1991.

The Dispatch is published 12 times a year, at an annual subscription rate of \$15. Complimentary subscriptions are sent to all Posts through the Post adjutant, who is encouraged to share the publication with officers and other Post members.

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