



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Your Post's History

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Why Is a History Important?

- Because it's a story worth telling
- History helps us learn how we got here and where we are going
- It helps us understand and appreciate our successes and failures
- It can help develop a sense of accomplishment and pride in your Post
- It will become a permanent record of the legacy of your Post for future Legionnaires
- It can help recruit new members



Where to Start?

- See what records the Post has retained: minutes, documents, photographs, artifacts, rosters, etc.
- Talk with senior members
- Use outside resources: local media, libraries, and historic societies.
- Appeal to the community for information
- Use online resources: archived newspapers, obituaries, library collections, etc.



What to Include in the History?

- Who founded the Post and when?
- Who are the charter members and early leaders?
- Who was the Post named for and why?
- Who are notable members of the Post or notable alumni from youth programs?
- What are significant events, projects, and unique/interesting activities?
- What makes your Post special or unique?



Get Organized

- A Post history will take time...**START NOW!**
- Appoint a Post Centennial Committee
- Use the Legion's *Legacy Vision* booklet as a guide
- Use the Legion's *Centennial Celebration Workbook* and web page to organize and publish your history



Sharing Your History

- Publish your history and make it available to members and the community
- Put it on your Post's website, Facebook page, and the Legion's Centennial web page
- Organize a centennial exhibit at the Post or one that can be displayed in the community
- Plan a community celebration



A Final Thought

The history of The American Legion is not just one story of a national organization, but rather 1,000s of stories in communities across the country served by individual posts. Sharing your post's story will not only tell what you have done to enrich your own community, but it will help illustrate the rich history of our organization across the country.