



NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS FALL 2019

DESCRIPTION

The National American Legion College is the highest level of education offered by The American Legion. The course is intended to teach the principles and techniques necessary for effective leadership at the higher levels of The American Legion. The successful graduate will possess the education and skills necessary to provide program and command leadership at the district level and above.

ORGANIZATION

The course length is one week and requires that the student remain in attendance for the entire session. Tuition, lodging, and transportation costs for the course are paid by National and your Department. All applicants must complete the online version of Basic Training as a prerequisite prior to submitting an application and have been a member in The American Legion for at least two years. Prospective students should also have experience at the post level, ideally having served in a command or leadership role and being familiar with conducting a meeting using parliamentary procedures. Additional experience and command leadership at the county level and/or program experience at the district and department level will better prepare the prospective student to achieve the maximum benefit from attending The National American Legion College.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND TOPICS

The National American Legion College will provide instruction using both classroom lecture, small group interactive techniques and team building. Primary topics to be addressed include:

- Build on your leadership and mentoring skills in a non-profit, volunteer environment
- Enhance your communication skills using both face-to-face, written and social media methods
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Team building to set and accomplish goals
- Recognizing and effectively utilizing personality types in decision-making
- Refine and articulate “*Your Why*” in belonging to The American Legion
- Develop and broaden networking skills outside of your department to discuss best practices

- Develop, facilitate, and or support a department, district, or post level training platform

TEXT AND REQUIRED SUPPLIES

All course materials will be supplied to the students before, at the start of and during the week of instruction. No additional material is required but students are encouraged to explore additional outside sources on their own initiative. Students will be informed in those instances when only college-supplied materials may be used. The use of a personal laptop or tablet is encouraged but not required.

GRADING PLAN AND RULES OF CONDUCT

The course is graded pass/fail. Students may withdraw at any time and return home. Completion of the week's instruction and interaction will be considered satisfactory to meet graduation requirements. No formal class ranking will be kept. All graduates will receive a diploma indicating completion of The National American Legion College and become eligible to join the National American Legion College Alumni Association. Serious personnel or behavior issues will be the only grounds for expulsion of a student.

YOUR IDEAS, EVALUATIONS, ETC

In general, your ideas, comments, suggestions, questions, grade challenges, etc. are welcome and encouraged for most topics. Your discretion in these matters is expected, however.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS

Most students will find this course to be challenging both intellectually and personally. For some students, this will be their first experience as a member of a group of talented, highly motivated, strong minded individuals. Defending your ideas and positions with skill and passion but at the same time respecting the same level of passion from other students is critical. Leadership while working within a team is essential to achieve the maximum results from the college.