The American Legion has long recognized the family as the foundation of this nation. A guiding principle of The American Legion’s Children & Youth programs continues to be maintaining the integrity of the family. To demonstrate our resolute belief in the importance of strong families, The American Legion’s Committee on Children & Youth, by mandate, advocates the passage of federal legislation that would establish the Thanksgiving holiday week as National Family Week. All members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to initiate and engage in local activities during National Family Week that promote, encourage and celebrate healthy families and communities.

As the world’s largest veterans’ service organization, the Legion embodies strong middle-class American values and forms a grassroots force dedicated to love of country, and committed to veterans, their families, their communities and the young people of this nation.

For additional information and family resources:

**Administration for Children and Families**
202-401-9200
www.acf.hhs.gov

**Alliance for Children & Families**
800-221-3726
www.alliance1.org

**Focus on the Family**
800-232-6459
www.family.org

**The American Legion**
Americanism Commission
Committee on Children and Youth
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
c&y@legion.org
www.legion.org
Urge local and state governments to proclaim National Family Week.

**COORDINATE volunteer projects**
Work with other groups to improve local conditions through family projects.

Invite families to volunteer with community projects.

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**Sample proclamation**

*Whereas*, the family is the foundation upon which our society is structured, and the family is one of our society’s most important units; and

*Whereas*, life in our communities begins within our families’ homes; and

*Whereas*, within the family unit, each individual’s character, happiness, and future success are largely determined by the environment within the home; and

*Whereas*, since family life is the strength of our society and Thanksgiving week is a time when families gather together to share their love and abundance, it is fitting we recognize families at this time:

*Now, therefore*, I, [full name and title], do hereby proclaim [date: month, days, year] as Family Week in [location], and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

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Societal pressures on the American family threaten its integrity. These threats come in many forms:

- Divorced and separated families are commonplace and continue to grow in number.
- Families can find themselves isolated from other family members due to the high mobility of our society.
- Military families are more likely to experience separations due to increased deployments and activations.

*Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.*  
– Jane Howard