

# Americanism

2010-2011 National President's Theme: The Power of One  
2010-2011 Department President's theme: It is Great to be an American

## Plan of Action: Americanism Committee

Purpose: To promote patriotism and responsible citizenship.

## Committee Contact Information



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# Americanism

## Department Objectives

- 1. Objective:** Be a patriot through Unit involvement in community events. Promote the ALA's value of Americanism through community education about flag etiquette and respect by demonstrating leadership in support of our country and our military.

### Action Steps

- Be the go-to organization in your community for flag promotion and protection.
  - Promote community awareness of yellow ribbon days (reintegrating troops back to the community), deployment of troops and welcome-home ceremonies. Contact your local Family Readiness Group support person for details. Information is available at [www.armyfrg.org](http://www.armyfrg.org). More information on yellow ribbon days is available in the National Security Plan of Action.
  - Be active in observing patriotic holidays. Encourage flying the flag every day but especially on patriotic holidays. Hold community-wide special events significant to the individual holiday.
  - Be knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette and proper disposal.
  - Participate in the Pocket Flag project by providing flags for deploying troops.
  - Participate in the Get Out The Vote and Kids Voting USA campaigns. Follow the guidelines here: <http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/gotv2010.pdf> and [www.kidsvotingusa.org](http://www.kidsvotingusa.org).
  - Support the amendment to protect the United States flag from desecration (H.J. Res 47's companion piece in the Senate is S.J. Res. 15). The amendment, which reads, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States," currently is assigned to the House Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
- 2. Objective:** Increase awareness and participation in youth activities that support proper respect for our flag and loyalty to our country.

### Action Steps

- Encourage participation in the Americanism Essay Contest by increasing awareness through stronger networking in schools, youth groups (i.e., 4-H, YMCA, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, FFA/FHA), and home school associations. The Americanism Essay Contest encourages participants to learn about the fundamental rights and freedoms we enjoy today. This year's theme will be "How Can I Encourage My Friends to Show Pride in Being an American?"
- 3. Objective:** Promote Auxiliary participation in The American Legion Americanism programs.

### Action Steps

- Support American Legion Baseball – sponsor a team, help with statistics, man the concession booth, hold a fundraiser, or drive the team to games. Contact your local American Legion chairman to see what their needs are.
- Oratorical Contest – a speaking contest to help students develop a deeper understanding of the U.S. Constitution. Support your local chairman by offering to locate interested students, be an escort or timekeeper or even a judge.
- Junior Shooting Sports – promotes gun safety and marksmanship training for youth. Offer your local chairman help with scoring, supervision or transportation.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI WILL CONTINUE THE POCKET FLAG PROJECT AS WE STILL HAVE TROOPS FIGHTING FOR OUR FREEDOMS OVERSEAS. PLEASE CONTINUE TO ORDER FLAGS AND FOLD THEM FOR DISTRIBUTION.**

# Americanism

## Americanism Awards:

1. Americanism Essay Contest:

One award in each of five classes will be presented in each National Division. Division winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 honorarium in the student's name to the National President's Scholarship and then sent to the National Chairman.

The Department Americanism Chairman must receive all Unit entries by April 1, 2011. She and her committee will select ONE Department winning essay for each class. The Department winner in each class will be awarded a \$50 Savings Bond and a certificate at State Convention in July 2011. One winner in each class will be sent to the Division Chairman by May 1, 2011. **Use essay cover sheet.**

2. Department Awards:

A plaque will be presented to the Department Chairman in each division reporting the Most Outstanding Overall Americanism Program. The entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. Do not include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc. All entries must be postmarked by June 1, 2011, and sent by the Department Chairman to the Division Chairman.

3. Most Outstanding Americanism Program targeted to children and youth:

An award will be presented to the Unit that reports the Most Outstanding Americanism Program targeted to children and youth. The entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. The entry may include no more than five pictures and news articles. All entries must be postmarked by May 1, 2011, and sent to Department Committee Member Grace Kersh. The Department winner will be forwarded to the Division Chairman for award consideration. Use Award Cover Form #2.

4. Junior Americanism Award:

An award will be presented to a Junior group that reports the Most Outstanding Americanism Program. The entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. A maximum of five pictures and news articles may be included. All entries must be postmarked by May 1, 2011, and sent to the Department Committee Member Connie Kate. The Department winner will be forwarded to National for award consideration. Use Award Cover Form #1.

5. Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Award (Department award only):

**On the Department level**, a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place award will be presented to deserving units, based on year-end reporting. Certificates of participation/appreciation will be given to each reporting Unit.

6. Pocket Flag Stars

A special certificate will be presented to each unit who produces at least 300 Pocket Flags during the 2010-2011 year. These flags should be sent to the Department for use at Camp Shelby or other Mississippi military bases for our troops. Also qualifying will be those units who purchase Pocket Flag supplies for Magnolia Girls State use in June 2011.

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## Resources

1. Capitol Building flags: To order flags flown over the Capitol, contact your Congressional Representative or Senator or visit his/her website. Flags are available for a nominal fee; 4-6 weeks should be allowed for delivery.
  2. Pocket Flag Project: [www.pocketflagproject.com](http://www.pocketflagproject.com) or write Pocket Flag Project, P.O. Box 740847, Arvada, CO 80006.
  3. Emblem Sales: [www.emblem.legion.org](http://www.emblem.legion.org) - flag education DVD: explains the history, significance, meaning, proper display and treatment of the U.S. flag. *Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette* - a "question and answer" booklet on proper flag etiquette.
  4. The American Legion Flag Advocacy: <http://www.legion.org/flag>
  5. The American Legion's *Action Program of Americanism* brochure: [http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/actionprograms\\_09.pdf](http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/actionprograms_09.pdf)
- See program page on [www.legion-aux.org](http://www.legion-aux.org) for additional resources.