AMERICANISM **PIC 2025-26**

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Welcome! Let us get off to a great start this year and bring everyone together!

Promoting Americanism is taking advantage of every opportunity to share your knowledge of our country's history and enthusiasm towards informing people about our great country. Sharing NON-political views on Americanism should come from the heart, with the same or greater deep commitment you have toward this organization. We serve to honor and support our military and veterans in every way. The smallest action could mean the world to someone. If your area is holding public events, hand out flags or stickers. Give hand flags to everyone attending parades, while thanking veterans for their service and thanking others for attending. It is not hard to recognize a veteran. Veterans are proud to wear apparel that tells us. So, do not pass up an opportunity to show your appreciation. Show your pride in our country. Stand up with hand over your heart, to show how proud you are to be an American!

Celebrate 'America 250' ! Many towns are celebrating the Semi quintessential in 2026. Check with your town. Some celebrations are as early as February. This is a fantastic opportunity to get your name out there and celebrate Americanism with our fellow citizens. Check out this link. You might get inspired https://america250.org/

This is the perfect time to promote the '**Star Spangled Kids.'** Put a kit together for public distribution, in the schools, library, Town hall, etc. It does not have to be for only kids.

Make plans to have **flag folding presentations or lessons**. Reach out to organizations (youth or adults) to hold a presentation at their meetings. Or host a public event. Have a table at a craft fair or parade, so people can stop by to learn about flag etiquette.

ESSAY CONTEST : UNIT: Winning essays are **due to DEPARTMENT chairperson by MARCH 15**. This is a great program to get students involved while learning about Americanism in the process. Reach out to your local Board of Education to send the information throughout the school district. Advertise in newspapers, social media, set up a display in your local library. See attached application. PLEASE let us have the most units involved this year. I would love to see us up on the screen at National again! Let us keep our name UP FRONT and CENTER. We want National to know who we are!

Pocket Flag Project – Open up a session to the public. Have attendees learn how to fold a flag, and at the same time doing something in preparation for any future deploying military.

Red Shirt Friday Challenge– Promote it EVERYWHERE. What about running a school challenge? The class with the greatest number of **red shirts** worn on Friday wins a prize. (Pizza party, ice cream, etc.) In fact,
I CHALLENGE EACH AND EVERY UNIT TO DO THIS. Each unit, run a month-long challenge, send me pictures at the end of the event. Explain what you did, where, when and how. This can be done at any time from now until the end of **May 2026.** The winning unit will win a prize: pizza or ice cream party (up to $50) for the participating unit members. **Winner to be announced at Convention 2026.** Don't wait until the last minute. Details to be spelled out in the November Auxiliaire. If you have questions, please email me.

Please fill in the sheet that will be passed around. I would like your unit information for the Americanism Chairperson and/or your President. Since not every unit has sent in the officers' information to Dept. I am missing a great deal of information, and no other way to reach anyone.

National Americanism link:
https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/americanism

Looking for ideas?

ALA Committee Facebook Groups are spaces on the social media network for ALA members to discuss or share about broad or narrow topics related to each committee. Groups provide an arena for organic discussion about your local programs or services and present the opportunity to cultivate brand awareness.
The fundamental value of the American Legion Auxiliary is showing respect for our country and our nation's flag. This is a place to share activities and events, ask questions, obtain information and promote the love of our country.
https://www.facebook.com/groups/818779828161560 ,
Contact Americanism Committee: Americanism@ALAforVeterans.org

In the interest of saving paper, I will send any attachments through our monthly Auxiliaire email.

'In Service not Self'

Eileen D'Andrea, Americanism Chairman, Dept of CT

What is Americanism?

Americanism is love of America; loyalty to her institutions as the best, yet devised by man to secure life, liberty, individual dignity, and happiness; and the willingness to defend our country and flag against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

It is a vital, active, living force. Americanism means peace, strength, the will, and the courage to live as free men in a free land. It means a friendly hand to people everywhere who respect our institutions and our thinking.

It is not a word; it is a cause, a way of life; best way of life ever known; a challenge and a hope in this world.

Americanism is an ideal of loyal patriotism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom, fearless courage, honest integrity, abiding faith in the commanding destiny of the United States of America, and a fathomless love for the principles which led our forefathers to found this country.

It is complete and unqualified loyalty to the ideals of government as set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. It is respect for, and ready obedience to, duly constituted authority and the laws of the land. It is freedom without license, religion without bigotry, charity without bias, and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.