

# Americanism

February

Bulletin # 7

Hello Department of Defense,

February is the designated month for **Americanism**. Take the opportunity to plan an event inviting the public. Share with them the programs and opportunities provided by the Americanism program.

At this time our focus should be on the National and Department Essay Contests. Please be sure you have all the up-to-date forms that are provided on the Department website under Americanism. [www.calegiinaux.org](http://www.calegiinaux.org)

Reach out to the schools, community clubs, and home-schooled students for participants. These essays are designed to encourage our youth to promote respect for our flag and country and provide an opportunity for them to learn the fundamental rights and freedoms we enjoy today. It's our duty as an American Legion Auxiliary member to encourage that each student has an opportunity to participate in our essay contests. Our goal is to reach out to as many students as we can this year.

### **Some things to remember when submitting essays are:**

\*Judging sheets are available on Department Website.

\*The essays titles must be exactly as published on website.

\*Student's name, address, group #, age (if special needs), grade, school name, teachers name, unit chairman's name, unit name and district number must be listed on back of essay.

\*Coversheet is to be completed by the student or parent and the unit submitting the essays.

\*Teacher or parents name and signature is required.

\*Deadline dates are extremely important.

### **Department Essay Titles for 2023-24:**

		<u>word count</u>
<b>Group I – Grades 4 &amp; 5:</b>	Why do we honor the flag?	200 - 300
<b>Group II – Grades 6 &amp; 7:</b>	Why is voting important?	200 - 300
<b>Group III – Grades 8 &amp; 9:</b>	Who is responsible to keep our country safe?	250 - 400
<b>Group IV – Grades 10, 11, &amp; 12</b>	Is service to our country important?	300 – 500
<b>Group V – Special needs:</b>	How should the flag be disposed of?	25 or more

### **Department Deadline Dates:**

- First Friday in March (March 1, 2024) Unit chairman pick-up essays from schools.
- Fourth Friday in March (March 22, 2024) Unit chairman forward winners only (in each group) to District chairman for judging.

- Third Friday in April (April 19, 2024) District chairman forward winners only (in each group) to the Department chairman for judging.

**National Essay Title for 2023-24:** “What does freedom mean to me?”

**National Deadline Dates:**

- March 1<sup>st</sup> – Unit picks-up essays from schools.
- March 15<sup>th</sup> – Unit forward winners only (in each class) to District Chairman.
- March 29<sup>th</sup> – District forward winners only (in each class) to Department Chairman.
- April 15<sup>th</sup> – Department forward winners to National Western Division Chairman.
- (Please note deadline dates are different for Department and National)

**Reminders**

Even though your focus is on the essay contests, let’s not forget to honor our Blue Star Mother’s and their families.



You can still conduct a flag disposal ceremony or host a flag etiquette awareness event.

Honor residents and businesses with a thank you certificate for flying the United States flag.

Promote the Star-Spangled Kid.

Encourage members and the community to participate in “Get Out the Vote”.

Primary Election – Tuesday March 5, 2024

**Dates to remember.**

Feb 14<sup>th</sup> – Valentine’s Day

Feb 19<sup>th</sup> – Presidents’ Day

Thank you to all Units and Districts for promoting the Americanism program and for your patriotism to our Country.

Awesome Job, keep doing what you’re doing.

The Golden State United as One

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