



# CELEBRATE & EDUCATE

American Legion Family Youth Programs advance civics and responsible citizenship for our nation's 250th anniversary and beyond.



## ORATORICAL CONTEST

The American Legion Oratorical Contest challenges high school students to explore and understand the U.S. Constitution while developing confidence, leadership and communication skills. National contestants compete for more than \$200,000 in scholarships each year.



## BOYS STATE/BOYS NATION

American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation are government-education programs that have shaped thousands of careers in public service and leadership since 1935. Boys State offers students entering their senior year a glimpse into how government functions in a democracy. Two delegates from each Boys State program are selected to attend Boys Nation, where they form and operate a mock federal government, visit congressional delegations, military leaders and The White House to enrich their understanding of U.S. leadership.



## GIRLS STATE/GIRLS NATION

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and Girls Nation closely mirror American Legion Boys State/Boys Nation, for students entering their senior years of high school seeking understanding about participation in government. Two delegates from each ALA Girls State program are chosen each year to participate in Girls Nation in Washington, D.C. Participants leave with "leadership lessons for life" and an understanding of the fundamentals of U.S. government, rights, privileges, and responsibilities of citizens.



## AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

More than 10 million young athletes have since 1925 learned the principles of sportsmanship, teamwork, discipline, fitness and responsible citizenship through the American Legion Baseball program.

## JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a gun-safety education and marksmanship program that encompasses the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment, competition and citizenship.



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS

### AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST:

The Americanism Essay Contest of the American Legion Auxiliary teaches students the value of patriotism and what it means to be Americans. Students (grades 3 to 12) explore the fundamental rights and freedoms, following a theme.

**Current Theme:** "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for Our Freedom."

### POPPY POSTER CONTEST:

American Legion Auxiliary units sponsor poppy poster contests in local schools across the country for schools and youth groups. Seven classes of contestants are available.



## FUN WAYS TO LEARN ABOUT OUR FLAG

The American Legion publishes comic and activity books about the U.S. flag, veterans and the founding values of our nation. Many items can be ordered in bulk at discounted prices for classrooms or youth groups.

**I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE:** Early readers will learn the meaning behind the Pledge and the freedoms it symbolizes.

**LIGHT OF LIBERTY:** Advanced elementary-age readers meet a Revolutionary War minuteman who tells how and why America achieved independence and the rights and responsibilities of all U.S. citizens.

**OUR COUNTRY'S FLAG:** Set on the 4th of July, preteens learn the story of our nation's colors and how to properly display the flag.

**OUR COUNTRY'S VETERANS:** As a veterans memorial is dedicated, young people learn from one who served the importance of protecting our freedoms.

**RISE OF OUR FLAG:** The epic story of our nation's flag is illustrated in a "graphic novel" format for teen and adult readers who discover the reason behind The American Legion's sacred ceremonies to retire U.S. flags when their useful days are over.

**INDIVISIBLE: THE STORY OF OUR FLAG:** A 116-page, photo-filled bookazine shows the complete story of our nation's flag.

Also available are flag decals, pins, stick flags, copies of U.S. Flag Code and pocket-sized U.S. Constitutions and Declarations of Independence.

Order online at [emblem.legion.org](http://emblem.legion.org)  
Or call (888) 453-4466



For more information and how to participate visit [legion.org/usa250](http://legion.org/usa250) or scan the QR code



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Legion Family is urged to make connections with young people and drive participation heading into the 250th anniversary -

Now that America's 250th birthday is nearly upon us, there's no better opportunity to "celebrate and educate" in honor of the freedoms we enjoy in the nation we swore with our lives to defend than to promote those programs like never before.

Details can be found by clicking: <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/usa250/2025/october/made-to-celebrate-and-educate-american-legion-family-youth-programs>

For God and Country

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