



**American Legion Auxiliary Dept of OK**

**Serving Those Who Served!**

***2024-2025 "Americanism" Plan Of Action***

**What is this program, and why do we have it?**

We must all do what we can to promote patriotism, provide care and comfort not only for our veterans, but to the families and communities who do so much for our great nation as well.

**Several ways to participate in this program:**

**Star Spangled Kids:**

**HOW TO PROMOTE "STAR SPANGLED KIDS"**



Educate youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism and the U.S. Constitution.

- In conjunction with local schools, create a Unit Citizenship Award for children and youth who have demonstrated the ideals of the U.S. Constitution.
- Team with the Education chairman to bring veterans or servicemembers into the classroom to talk about what their service means to defending the ideals of the

Constitution.

- Share "Fascinating Facts about the U.S. Constitution" each month in the department or unit bulletin, in tweets, or in a newspaper editorial.
- List important constitutional dates by chronological order or by month. • Encourage students to test their knowledge of the Constitution.
- Distribute patriotic coloring book pages for children in primary grades.
- Celebrate Constitution Day (also known as Citizenship Day) on September 17, the day set aside each year to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution.
  - o Celebrate at September's Junior meeting with a cake or cupcakes.
  - o Let Juniors report on different sections of the Bill of Rights
- Print and distribute pocket copies of the U.S. Constitution for school children and/or Juniors.
- Put on a skit or musical about the Constitution and the signers.
- Hold a scavenger hunt in the post where children find information relating to the Constitution.
- Have members dress up as signers of the Constitution and describe the role of their character in the writing and signing of the Constitution.
- Encourage high school-aged students to use their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution by participating in The American Legion Oratorical Contest.

**Americanism Essay Contest:** Essay title “What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?”



- ☐ Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs.
- ☐ Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division.
- ☐ Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund.
- ☐ Essay Classes: Class Grade Level Word Requirement is on Americanism Essay Cover sheet. THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.

- ☐ Units choose a school submission deadline in time for you to select and submit winning entries to Department Chair.
- ☐ Submissions are due to the department chairmen no later than March 29, 2025.
- ☐ The current [Americanism Essay Cover sheet](#) is attached and also located at <https://www.legion-aux.org/americanism-essay-contest>.

Questions? Contact [Americanism@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:Americanism@ALAforVeterans.org)

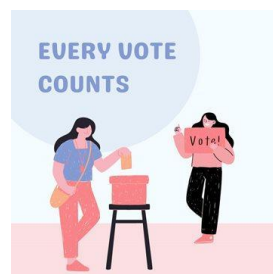
### Fine Print:

Award submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters. Through submission of reports and award entries, the submitter grants nonexclusive reproduction and publication rights to the materials submitted and agrees to have their names and submission published for ALA use or commercial use without additional compensation or permission.

Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. Award certificates will be completed using the information given on this sheet, so please be sure to complete the [electronic form](#) in its entirety.

Please refer to the webpage for the specific criteria such as photographs, narrative length, submission deadline, and point of contact. All awards will be mailed to the department office after ALA National Convention. Department presidents may wish to recognize award recipients by presenting them with the award at a department function.

**Get Out The Vote:** Your civic duty as an American citizen is to participate in the democratic process using the fundamental right to vote. Voting is a crucial tool used for making your voice heard at the local, state, and national levels. Your vote at the poll gives you a voice on the issues most important to you and helps decide who will take care of the issues you care most about, like veteran affairs, human rights, the education system, and climate change. The leaders we elect may sail the ship, but we are their guiding compass.



The American Legion Auxiliary is an institution with 99.72% of its members being female. The ALA was founded in 1919 before women were granted the right to vote. For 100 years, activists and political reformers — including many of the Auxiliary's founding members — fought tirelessly to gain equal access to voting. Making the choice not to vote could be considered disrespectful to the legacy of all the women who fought decades to earn all women in the future the right to vote. To continue the efforts of our foremothers, all Auxiliary members should not only exercise their right to vote, but they should also encourage all citizens to participate in our democracy.

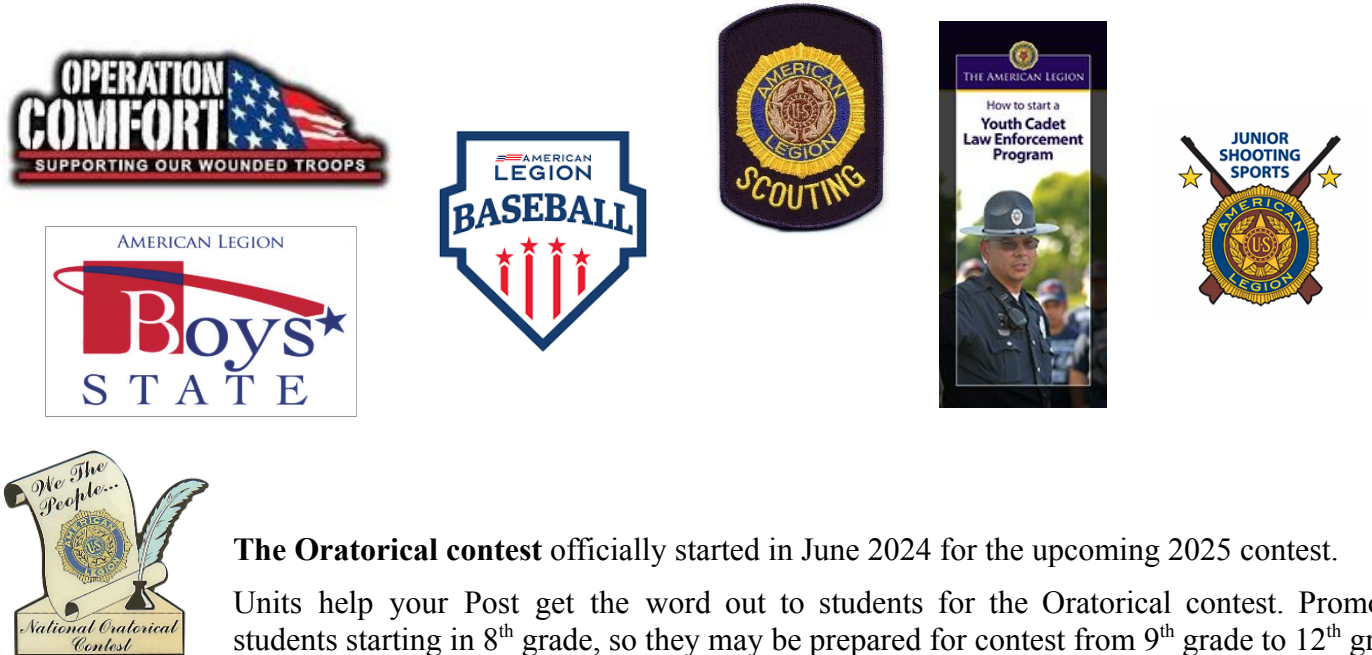
By refraining from or refusing to vote, you are also supporting the “status quo,” either intentionally or unintentionally. Not voting also means you are allowing other people to choose what happens that directly affects your life. Although voting is a fundamental right for every American citizen, many citizens still

experience barriers that prevent their vote from being cast. The privilege of being able to vote is a power that many still do not have equitable access to. You can use the power you have to speak up and create change for a better, more equitable future. Cast your ballot for leaders who will create positive change on the issues that matter most.

*By Staff Writer Clay Wright*

### **Support The American Legion's Americanism programs:**

The American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW), American Legion Baseball, Scouting, Youth Cadet Law Enforcement, The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports, American Legion Boys State, The American Legion Oratorical Scholarship.



**The Oratorical contest** officially started in June 2024 for the upcoming 2025 contest.

Units help your Post get the word out to students for the Oratorical contest. Promote to students starting in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, so they may be prepared for contest from 9<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### ☐ **District Contest:**

- ✓ Each year, the Post will identify two contestants in December to compete in a District Contest, which usually takes place in January.
- ✓ You will find the official rules, Assigned Topics, and other valuable tools to help prepare your five speeches at [www.legion.org/oratorical](http://www.legion.org/oratorical).
- ✓ Your prepared oration is an 8–10-minute speech on any part of the US Constitution, and you must prepare a 3-5 speech on each of the Assigned Topics. Speeches must be memorized and presented without notes, props, a microphone, and a podium. You have all summer to work on your speeches; members of the Post should help you with feedback and take you to different Posts in their District to expose you to more opportunities.

#### ☐ **Department Oratorical Contest**

- **Date:** March 1, 2025
- **Time:** TBD
- **Where:** Roger Webb Forensic Science Institute UCO.  
Yukon Post 160, located at 1010 W Main St, will be your starting point for the magnificent journey into the United States Constitution.

Students can use their 8–10-minute oration each year they participate through their senior year class.

At the end of their junior year, they can apply for Girls State at [www.okgirlsstate.com](http://www.okgirlsstate.com).

**Report Due Dates:** Unit End of Year Report due by **MAY 1, 2025**

**Committee-Specific Reporting Guidelines:** What to include in your report:

- How did your units and department promote Star Spangled Kids, educating children and youth about the U.S. Constitution from the aspect of patriotism and Americanism? Incorporate how your department and units utilized the Star Spangled Kids kits provided by National, including the success stories highlights.
- What training on flag history, etiquette, and proper disposal methods did your units and departments provide in communities?
- How did your unit and department identify as the resource for training and assistance in promoting patriotism and Americanism in communities?
- What avenues were used to increase participation in the ALA Americanism Essay Contest?
- How did members, units, and department contribute to the advancement of The American Legion's Americanism programs?
- Photo submissions should be in a high-resolution format (at least 300 DPI) or sent using the high-resolution option on your smartphone. When emailing the photo, select "actual size" for attaching to the email. The request for photos is important for our national chairs to highlight members serving our mission.

**Award Due Dates:** Send to Department Chairman

- ✓ Americanism Essay Contest –due by **MARCH 29, 2025**
- ✓ Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program – due by **MAY 1, 2025**

Jody Chisolm Department Americanism Chair / 918-808-7033 / [ala\\_jw@yahoo.com](mailto:ala_jw@yahoo.com)

## **2024-2025 National Americanism Program Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements**

All award submissions must include a narrative (either a PDF or Microsoft Word document) explaining why the department or unit you're nominating should receive the award. The narrative can also be the department chair's report. You may also upload other supporting documentation that will give the committee a full picture of the important mission work your department or unit has accomplished this year. These files can be photos (JPG, JPEG or TIFs -- no larger than 14MB) or PDF documents. If you have more than three supporting files, please email the committee email address listed in the form.

**National Awards Form Link:** <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

Here are the national awards for this committee:

Unit Award: Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program (per division)

- Presented: One unit in each division
- Materials and guidelines:
  - o Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words that includes specific examples of how unit delivered mission service. Narrative can also include portions from department chair's report
  - o Should include action (high-resolution) photos, scans/links to news articles, etc.

Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.

**National Awards Form Link:** <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>