



Ohio Unit Plan of Action



AMERICANISM

CITATION OF MERIT



REQUIREMENT

CHAIRMAN

Kathy Linn
 1201 Chaucer Circle
 Lakemore, OH 44312
 (330) 860-4225
 Email – pebbles0916@yahoo.com

VICE CHAIRMAN

Marie Schulz
 1631 Pleasantview Ave.
 Ashtabula, OH 44004-2435
 (440) 645-0103
 Email – maries867@yahoo.com

**REPORT DUE TO DISTRICT
 CHAIRMAN BY: APRIL 15, 2024**

**DISTRICT CHAIRMAN SEND REPORT TO DEPARTMENT
 CHAIRMAN BY MAY 1, 2024**

Your District Americanism Chairman is listed below.

District Americanism Chairmen

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|----------|-----------|----------------------------------|-------------------|----|------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 01 | 468 | Jane Ann | Brenneman | 5702 Angola Rd. Lot 317 | Toledo | OH | 43615 | (419) 345-9091 | jrhoodes@bex.net |
| 02 | 355 | Natalie | Mescher | 10965 N Patterson Rd | Piqua | OH | 45356 | (937) 638-6213 | natalie_m2010@hotmail.com |
| 03 | 763 | Tina | White | 2614 Greenside | Beavercreek | OH | 45431 | (037) 776-5764 | ala763president@gmail.com |
| 04 | 194 | Kathy | Niehaus | 7912 Crest Acres Dr. | Mason | OH | 45040-9656 | (513) 885-5063 | katlulu27@yahoo.com |
| 05 | 292 | Darlene | Leiter | 329 Lyndale Ave. | Ashland | OH | 44805 | (419) 651-6598 | darleiter@yahoo.com |
| 06 | 107 | Penny | Scott | 166 Coors Blvd. | Pataskala | OH | 43062 | (785) 375-1624 | pennyscott@cox.net |
| 07 | 062 | Peggy | Park | PO Box 32 | Chillicothe | OH | 45601-0032 | (740) 775-5751 | None |
| 08 | 282 | Tammy | DeRosier | 5258 Deeds Rd. | Pataskala | OH | 43062 | (740) 927-4614 | cartha59@aol.com |
| 09 | 214 | Maribeth | Hannon | 287 E. 235 th Street | Euclid | OH | 44123 | (216) 408-6284 | scarfitup@att.net |
| 10 | 499 | Linda | Porter | 1080 Country Club Dr. Unit 18 | Wooster | OH | 44691 | (330) 345-7393 (330) 641-8570 | lscrp@sssnet.com |
| 11 | 071 | Carole | Sowards | 420 Zanesville Rd. | Roseville | OH | 43777 | (740) 704-8518 | dsowards3@columbus.rr.com |
| 12 | 239 | Paula | Lombardo | 1400 Pegwood Dr | Columbus | OH | 43229 | (614) 827-5362 | Pqaile1354@gmail.com |
| 13 | 421 | Cindy | Boehnlein | 6669 Rochelle Blvd | Parma | OH | 44130 | (440) 212-5150 | cboehnlein55@gmail.com |
| 14 | 449 | Patty | Miller | 400 May Ave | Cuyahoga Falls | OH | 44221 | (330) 212-1411 | pattym54@yahoo.com |

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Department Report Form

This Form should be attached to each narrative that is submitted for information, Citation of Merit requirements and possible Department award. Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. A Unit must submit this report form with boxes completed and answer the questions below in order to earn the Citation of Merit. Narrative -word count must follow directions given in award guidelines. Simple or elaborate stories will be accepted as a report.

Please complete the following. Be sure to give the complete name of your Unit: _____

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------|------------------------------------|--|--|------------|
| District _____ | Unit # _____ | Unit Membership Goal _____ | Unit Membership Total as of Report _____ | | |
| Name of Person Completing Report: | | | Unit Chair. | | Unit Pres. |
| | | | | | |
| Phone # _____ | Email _____ | Membership ID (if available) _____ | | | |
| Specific Award Name (if applicable) _____ | | | | | |

Narrative Deadline: April 15, 2024

Answer the following Questions in your narrative.

Narrative must be typed written in narrative form.

Narrative must not exceed 1,000 words. (Can be fewer words if program dictates)

Narrative may include photographs and news articles.

- How did your Unit promote Americanism in your community? _____

- Did your Unit support The American Legion with their Americanism program and how? _____

- How did your Unit promote patriotic holidays? _____

- How did your Unit promote the Wreaths Across America Youth Service Program and what was your service project? _____

- What fundraiser did your Unit do to purchase wreaths for Wreaths Across America? _____

4. Our Service Representing the ALA in Our Communities

| | For any service not included in Sections 1-3 | Obtain Total From | Total |
|---------|--|--------------------------|-------|
| Line 19 | Total number of hours | <i>Unit Form Line 19</i> | |
| Line 20 | Total dollars spent | <i>Unit Form Line 20</i> | \$ |

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AMERICANISM

Get Involved

Purpose: The purpose of the Americanism program is to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship. *Standing Rules #6, Core National Standing Committees*

Be knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette, and proper disposal methods, and promote the observation of patriotic holidays so your community will look to the ALA for information.

- Work with The American Legion to increase respect for the flag in your community, including the proper way the American flag should be flown.
- At schools and organizations, teach proper handling, displaying, and respect for the American flag, as well as our National Anthem, and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Organize a patriotic holiday event or volunteer for local patriotic events in Auxiliary attire and network with prospective members.
- Sign up at <https://www.legion.org/flag/246720/sign-american-legion-flag-alerts> to receive notifications on when to display the flag at half-staff.
- Contact and ask state and federal government representatives to support the flag amendment. To find your representatives, visit <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>.
- Encourage members to participate in and utilize Wreaths Across America patriotic curriculum. For more information, visit <https://learn.wreathsassamerica.org/teach>.
- Recruit others to support the flag amendment by explaining what it is and why it is important. Sign up for The American Legion's legislative action alerts and follow the flag issues.
- Work with schools and organizations to promote Star Spangled Kids. For more information and resources, visit <https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Americanism/How-to-Promote-Star-Spangled-Kids>.
- OHIO - Be the go-to organization in your community for flag promotion and protection. Be active in observing patriotic holidays. Encourage flying the flag every day. Be knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette, and proper disposal.
- OHIO - Participate in the Pocket Flag project by providing flags to deployed troops. Publish flag etiquette tips in the local newspaper and on social media. Model respect for the flag at public events.
- OHIO - Teach flag awareness in your local schools, giving flags to the schools. Teach youth about folding the flag. Have a veteran explain the folds. Involve students in flag retirement ceremonies, learning the proper way to dispose of the flag.

Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest.

The Americanism Essay Contest topic for 2023-2024: "What Does Freedom Mean to Me?"

- Encourage Junior members and family members to participate in the essay contest.
- Work with school administrations to identify guidance counselors, and English and history teachers whose students would be interested in participating. OHIO – network with home-schooled students to participate in essay contest.
- Contact youth organizations to identify potential youth for participation in the contest.
- Provide all interested students with information packets explaining contest rules, deadlines, topics, and award opportunities.
- For details on the Americanism Essay Contest, visit <https://www.legion-aux.org/americanism-essay-contest>.

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Participate in the promotion of The American Legion Americanism programs.

- OHIO - Work with the Legionnaires to host an open house and explain who we are, what we do and why we do it. Wear your official American Legion Auxiliary blouse or shirt with your pins, smile and be professional.
- OHIO - Strive to have an Americanism chairman in every unit to explain the importance of this chairmanship. Present Americanism facts at a unit meeting

Support American Legion Baseball:

- Support, sponsor, or donate to an American Legion Baseball team.
- Assist with the logistics of transportation, concession, and statistics for the teams.
- Contact local sports shops and ask if they would be willing to make donations toward a fundraiser or offer a discounted price to purchase needed items.
- Attend events in Auxiliary attire and network with prospective Legion Family members.
- For more information and resources, visit www.legion.org/baseball.

Support the Oratorical Contest:

- Help prepare your post home to sponsor a local or district contest.
- Volunteer to assist as a judge or timekeeper.
- Offer to help with refreshments.
- Provide transportation for candidates.
- Help recruit candidates at local schools and community organizations.
- Attend events in Auxiliary attire and network with prospective Legion Family members.
- For more information and resources, visit www.legion.org/oratorical.

Support Junior Shooting Sports, which promotes gun safety and marksmanship training for youth:

- Volunteer to help out with scoring, supervision, or transportation.
- Assist in fundraising for events.
- Help recruit candidates at local schools and other organizations.
 - Contact JROTC.
 - Contact Civil Air Patrol Cadets.
- Attend events in Auxiliary attire and network with prospective Legion Family members.
- For more information and resources, visit www.legion.org/shooting.

AMERICANISM RESOURCES

- Americanism National Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/818779828161560>
- ALA National website: <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/americanism>
- Pocket Flags: www.pocketflagproject.com
- Capital Building Flags: to order flags flown over the Capitol, contact your Senator or House of Representative.

Year-End Report

Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the department and may result in a national award for participants if award requirements are met. **Each Unit Americanism chairman is required to submit a narrative report by April 15, 2024, to the District Americanism Chairman.** (addresses on front of POA)

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NATIONAL AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINE

Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program Award – one per division. The Patricia Logan Plaque winner will be sent on to National to compete for this National Award.

Americanism Essay Contest – one per class per division. Essay contest is for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. Follow the guidelines on attached 2024 Cover Sheet.

DEPARTMENT AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINE

- NOTE: The Annual Report Forms must be sent to your **District** Americanism Chairmen. Reports are due by **April 15, 2024**. You are highly encouraged to **send photos** of your Unit conducting Americanism events and promoting the program. We hope to highlight your Units and its members during the Department Convention. Please send along with your narratives, photos and clippings showing your Americanism.
- The **District Chairmen** Annual Reports are due to Department Americanism Chairman Kathy Linn, 1201 Chaucer Circle, Lakemore, OH 44312, and is due by **May 1, 2024**.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|
| Group 1 | 10-50 members | Group 2 | 51-100 members |
| Group 3 | 101-200 members | Group 4 | 201-400 members |
| Group 5 | 401-600 members | Group 6 | 601 & up |

Patricia Logan Plaque – “Best All-Around Americanism Program” presented to the Unit with the most outstanding Americanism Program based on the annual report/narrative. The winner will be selected from the First Place Winners in each membership categories submitted to the District Chairman. **Due to District Chairman by April 15, 2024**.

Mary Walker Plaque – This plaque is given to the Unit that contributes the most money per capita to the Americanism and Government Test Trip Fund. Contributions are to be sent to Department Headquarters by **June 1, 2024**, and earmarked “Americanism and Government Test Trip Fund”.

Norma Frazier Plaque – Given to schools displaying the most outstanding Americanism program throughout the year. One plaque each is presented to a High School, Middle School, and Elementary School. Send to Department Americanism Chairman Kathy Linn, 1201 Chaucer Circle, Lakemore, OH 44312, and is due by **April 1, 2024**.

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! Your story may inspire another member into service. It also helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Please send pictures of you wearing something with the flag, how you are promoting the Americanism program, if you’re in a parade, etc., by email or text to Kathy Linn. The Unit Americanism Chairman that sends the most pictures will win a custom tumbler! Also, if you are going to be in a parade or a community event, I would love to attend! Please email or text Kathy Linn the information.

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

PROGRAMS ACTION PLAN HOW TO GUIDES

HOW TO PROMOTE "STAR SPANGLED KIDS"

Committee: Americanism

Contact Information for Questions: Americanism@ALAforVeterans.org

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.
 - Celebrate at September's Junior meeting with a cake or cupcakes.
 - 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.

Resources:

- www.constitutionfacts.com
- Constitution Day Resources: <http://ca3rsproject.org/pages/ConstitutionDayResources.html>

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AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

2024 Cover Sheet

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 Title: *"What does Freedom mean to me?"*

Essay Classes:

| Class | Grade Level | Word Requirement |
|-------|-----------------------------|--|
| I | 3 and 4 | 150-250 |
| II | 5 and 6 | 250-300 |
| III | 7 and 8 | 350-400 |
| IV | 9 and 10 | 450-500 |
| V | 11 and 12 | 450-500 |
| VI | Students with special needs | Word count should correspond with student's grade level. |

Essay Checklist:

- Class competing in _____
- Sponsoring ALA Unit _____
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay _____
- Due date for student to return to ALA Unit _____

To Be Completed by the Student/Parent

Student Name: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

School Name: _____

School City/State: _____

Teacher Name and Signature: _____

Auxiliary Use Only: *(Must be completed for entry to be considered)*

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit winner due to Department on: _____ Department: _____

Signature of Department Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit winner to be sent to Department Americanism Vice Chairman, Marie Schulz, 1631 Pleasantview Ave., Ashtabula, OH 44004-2435.

Due by April 1, 2024.

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The 2023-2024 ALL-AMERICAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT

Unit Name _____ Unit # _____ District # _____

Unit Chairman _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Name of School _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Grades Covered _____

Y () N ()

1. Did the above school display the U.S. Flag in their classrooms and outside the school building? Y () N ()

2. Has the school certified that they recite the Pledge of Allegiance in each classroom daily? Y () N ()

3. Did the school participate in the National Americanism Essay Contest? Y () N ()

4. Did the school have a presentation on any of the following: Y () N ()
History and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance; History of the U.S. Flag; or Flag etiquette? Which ones?

5. Describe how the teachers promoted Americanism in the school. _____

6. Describe at least one Community Patriotic Activity that the students participated in. _____

7. In 100 words or less, why does this school warrant receiving the All-American School Award? _____

Please use the back or additional paper if needed. Pictures may be included. This report must be received by **April 15, 2024**.
Mail to: Department Americanism Chairman Kathy Linn, by **April 15, 2024**.

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THE 2023-2024 ALL-AMERICAN MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT

Unit Name _____ Unit # _____ District # _____

Unit Chairman _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Name of School _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Grades Covered _____

Y () N ()

1. Did the above school display the U.S. Flag in their classrooms and outside the school building? Y () N ()
2. Has the school certified that they recite the Pledge of Allegiance in each classroom daily? Y () N ()
3. Did the school participate in the National Americanism Essay Contest? Y () N ()
4. Did the school have a presentation on any of the following: History and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance; History of the U.S. Flag; or Flag etiquette? Which ones? Y () N ()

5. Describe how the teachers promoted Americanism in the school. _____

6. Describe at least one Community Patriotic Activity that the students participated in. _____

7. In 100 words or less, why does this school warrant receiving the All-American School Award? _____

Please use the back or additional paper if needed. Pictures may be included. This report must be received by **April 15, 2024**.
Mail to: Department Americanism Chairman Kathy Linn, by **April 15, 2024**.

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THE 2023-2024 ALL-AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

Unit Name _____ Unit # _____ District # _____

Unit Chairman _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Name of School _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Grades Covered _____

Y () N ()

1. Did the above school display the U.S. Flag in their classrooms and outside the school building? Y () N ()
2. Has the school certified that they recite the Pledge of Allegiance in each classroom daily? Y () N ()
3. Did the school participate in the National Americanism Essay Contest? Y () N ()
4. Did the school have a presentation on any of the following: History and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance; History of the U.S. Flag; or Flag etiquette? Which ones? Y () N ()

5. Describe how the teachers promoted Americanism in the school. _____

6. Describe at least one Community Patriotic Activity that the students participated in. _____

7. In 100 words or less, why does this school warrant receiving the All-American School Award? _____

Please use the back or additional paper if needed. Pictures may be included. This report must be received by **April 15, 2024**.
Mail to: Department Americanism Chairman Kathy Linn, by **April 15, 2024**.



Wreaths Across America
2023 Youth Service Project

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Visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org to learn about our mission to *Remember, Honor, Teach*, sponsor a wreath for a veteran at any participating cemetery, or sign up to volunteer.

A veteran's wreath is a symbol of
HONOR, RESPECT, and VICTORY.



10 BALSAM BOUQUETS
make up each veteran's wreath, representing the

10 SPECIAL QUALITIES
that our veterans embody.



Evergreens =
**LONGEVITY
& ENDURANCE**



Red Bow =
**GREAT
SACRIFICE**



Forest Scent =
**PURITY &
SIMPLICITY**



Circular Shape =
ETERNITY

1. Their **BELIEF** in a greater good
2. Their **LOVE** for each other
3. Their **STRENGTH**, work ethic, & character
4. Their **HONESTY** & integrity
5. Their **HUMILITY**, selflessness, & modesty
6. Their **AMBITIONS** & aspirations
7. Their **OPTIMISM** for America
8. Their **CONCERN** for the future
9. Their **PRIDE** in their duties
10. Their **HOPES & DREAMS** that didn't always come true, but left them with no regrets

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Wreaths Across America 2023 Youth Service Project!

Remember - Honor - Teach

Veterans, active-duty military, police officers and firefighters are all examples of people who currently serve or have served our country or our communities! Many, if not all, will tell you the benefits of their service to others far outweighs any sacrifices or hardships they might have encountered as a result of their service. Individuals who serve selflessly in any capacity exhibit all of the attributes of a Veteran's Wreath. A person does not have to be in the military to serve.

WHY is it important?

Now more than ever, our youth need to understand the importance of service to others, not just for the extrinsic rewards-badges, ribbons, or community service hours for college, etc., but for the intrinsic rewards, which leads to:

- more effective learning.
- higher rates of persistence when attempting to learn or achieve something new.
- greater problem-solving skills.
- improved decision-making skills.
- forming a connection between local concerns and global problems.
- a sense of accomplishment while contributing to their community.

All of these skills are necessary for students to develop to their maximum potential academically, but they are also skills that will help to instill positive character traits that will stay with them for a lifetime. With that in mind, Wreaths Across America is excited to launch its **2023 WAA Youth Service Project!**

WHO can participate?

Young people of all ages and grade levels! Teachers, parents, and family members are encouraged to participate-the younger the child, the more guidance they will need from the adults in their lives who can model what service and success looks like.

WHAT does the student need to do?

This project encourages young people to develop, organize, and execute a community service project to improve the lives of Veterans or others in their local community or the global community.

WHEN does the project need to start and when should it be completed?

The project can take place anytime between March 30, 2023, and November 11, 2023. The project can be a one day only project or may take several months to complete, but it must be completed no later than Veterans Day 2023.

WHERE does the project need to take place?

The community service project can take place anywhere. The students may choose a project in their community or one that encompasses a larger scale.

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HOW do I get started?

1. First, for younger participants, define ‘Community Service’ as unpaid work performed by a person or group of people for the benefit and betterment of their community. Ask participants why it is important to help people who are in need.
2. Explain that community service can take many different forms. For example, conducting a canned food drive for your local food bank, or raising money to help a local charity that provides food and other necessities for a local animal shelter, or providing school supplies (for students whose families may have fallen on hard times).
3. Evaluate the needs in your local community. Discuss some of the opportunities available for participants* to perform a community service project to “serve” Veterans or others in your local community.
4. Brainstorm ideas for a Community Service Project participants can perform successfully!
5. Pick a project. Discuss the various ideas from the brainstorming activity, allow the participants to select a project they can complete. Choose a name for the project. Tell participants to write the name of their project on the Service-learning Form. **Once students have decided on a project, complete the [WAA 2023 Youth Service Project Submission Form](#).**
6. Discuss the next steps for their project. Participants should list the steps on the Service-learning Form. This could include making posters, or flyers to advertise their project.
7. Examine ways parents, family members and friends can help the participants with their Service-learning Project. Tell the students to write this on their Service-learning Form.
8. Decide a start and end date for your project. Tell the participants to write the dates on the Service-learning Form. This will help the participants to establish goals for their project, for example, if the project is to provide 20 blankets to a homeless shelter, the participants should establish a timeline for accomplishing each part of the project. Celebrate the milestones and adjust their goals as necessary.
9. Send an email/note home to parents, letting them know about the project! **Make sure to include the form [Parental Permission Slip](#).** The type of project and the age of the participants will determine how much help they may need from parents and family members. For example, if they decide to write thank you cards, they may only need parents to help with postage, if they conduct a sock campaign, or a ‘Bring Your Change for Change’ Fundraiser, they will need a few more resources.
10. Conduct a debriefing when the project is complete. Ask students to write a short paragraph about their project, or video their response to questions about what they learned.
11. A follow-up assessment will be emailed to all individuals who register their project online with Wreaths Across America.

**Participants-refers to students, troop members, groups, clubs or any young people who actively participate in the project.*

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2023 WAA YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT - WORKSHEET*

| | |
|---|--|
|  | Write the name of your project here: |
|  | Write the steps for your project here: |
|  | How can my family & friends help? |
|  | Date your project will START: _____ Date your project will END: _____ |

**Do not submit this form. Please use the submission link above to send your completed project. This page is designed to be used for brainstorming purposes.*

Questions?

Email: teach@wreathscrossamerica.org

Or mail: Wreaths Across America
Serve & Succeed Project-Our Vets Do & So Can You!
PO Box 249
Columbia Falls, ME 04623