



Ohio Unit Plan of Action



AMERICANISM

CITATION OF MERIT



REQUIREMENT

CHAIRMAN

Cyndi Underwood
2273 Alton Ave.
Stow, OH 44224-4101
(330) 524-3203
Email – cyn2273@gmail.com

VICE CHAIRMAN

Peggy Park
PO Box 32.
Chillicothe, OH 45601-0032
(740) 775-5751
Email – peggyprk@yahoo.com

REPORT DUE TO DISTRICT
CHAIRMAN BY:

APRIL 15, 2025

**DISTRICT CHAIRMAN SEND REPORT TO DEPARTMENT
CHAIRMAN BY MAY 1, 2025**

Your District Americanism Chairman is listed below.

District Americanism Chairmen

Dist	Uno	First Name	Last Name	Address	City	ST	Zip	Phone	Email
01	468	JANE ANN	BRENNEMAN	5702 ANGOLA RD LOT 317	TOLEDO	OH	43615	(419) 345-9091	jtapper470@gmail.com
02	355	NATALIE	DANIEL	10965 N PATTERSON RD	PIQUA	OH	45356	(937) 638-6213	natalie_m2010@hotmail.com
03	707	NATALIE	HOLLINGER	6034 CINNAMON TREE CT	ENGLEWOOD	OH	45322-3605	(937) 371-7011	nholling05@yahoo.com
04	615	KATIE	MACKOWAY	8353 LYTLE FERRY RD	WAYNESVILLE	OH	45068	(513) 255-7669	kmackoway@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	peggyprk@yahoo.com
08						OH			
09	214	MARYBETH	HANNON	287 E 235 TH ST	EUCLID	OH	44123	(216) 408-6284	scarfitup@att.net
10	499	LINDA	PORTER	1080 COUNTRY CLUB DR UNIT 18	WOOSTER	OH	44691	(330) 641-8570	llscrp@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) 825-5362	plombardo@coprorateone.coop
13	627	KIMM	BUNCH	10600 FAIRLAWN DR	PARMA	OH	44130	(216) 401-8842	kimmieb219@sbcglobal.net
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, 2025

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? _____

- How did your Unit increase the publicity of Buckeye Girls State into the Americanism Program? _____

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	Unit Form Line 19	
Line 20	Total dollars spent	Unit Form Line 20	\$

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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 2024-2025: "What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?"

- 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 the 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, 2025, 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 2025 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, 2025**. 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 Cyndi Underwood, 2273 Alton Ave., Stow, OH 44224-4101 and is due by **May 1, 2025**.

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, 2025**.

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, 2025**, 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 Cyndi Underwood, 2273 Alton Ave., Stow, OH 44224-4101, and is due by **April 1, 2025**.

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. **Let’s Embrace All Veterans Every Season!** Please send pictures of you wearing red, white and blue or how you are promoting the Americanism program by email or text to Cyndi Underwood. If you are going to have community event, I would love to attend! Please email or text Cyndi Underwood the information or an invite.

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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: Amerianism@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

2025 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 America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?"*

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: _____

Parent/Guardian 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, Peggy Park, PO Box 32, Chillicothe, OH 45601-0032.

Due by April 1, 2025.

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The 2024-2025 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:
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, 2025.**
Mail to: Department Americanism Chairman Cyndi Underwood, by **April 15, 2025.**

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THE 2024-2025 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?

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, 2025.**
Mail to: Department Americanism Chairman Cyndi Underwood, by **April 15, 2025.**

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THE 2024-2025 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, 2025.**
Mail to: Department Americanism Chairman Cyndi Underwood, by **April 15, 2025.**

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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