

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
AMERICANISM PROGRAM
ACTION PLAN 2025-2026

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Americanism program is to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship.

KEY PROGRAM STATEMENTS:

- 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.
- Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest.
- Participate in the promotion of The American Legion Americanism programs.

SOME PROGRAMS FALLING WITHIN THE KEY PROGRAM STATEMENTS:

- Star Spangled Kids – Educate youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution.
- American Legion Auxiliary Girls State - Female high school students who have completed their junior year are competitively selected and sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary units for this program, where they learn about the political process by electing officials for all levels of state government and actively running a mock government. The girls are assigned to mock cities and either the “Federalist Party” or “Nationalist Party.”
- Americanism Essay Contest - 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 6 classes for the National Contest and 7 classes for the Texas Contest. • One award will be presented in each of the 6 classes at the National level in each National Division. One award will be presented in each of the 7 classes at the Texas

level state-wide. • Essay Title: ***“Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for Our Freedom.”***

LOOKING FOR IDEAS IN WORKING THIS MULTI-FACETED PROGRAM?

ALA Committee Facebook Groups are spaces on the social media network for ALA members to discuss or share about broad or narrow topics related to each committee. Groups provide an arena discussion about your local programs or services and present the opportunity to cultivate brand awareness.

The fundamental value of the American Legion Auxiliary is showing respect for our country and our nation’s flag. This is a place to share activities and events, ask questions, obtain information, and promote the love of our country.

Some Facebook Groups are: National:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/818779828161560>

ALA Americanism in Texas: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/131263340067579>

And don’t forget the National American Legion Auxiliary’s National and Texas websites. Go to the tab “Programs”, then “Americanism”, and there you will find several tabs and links to various programs and organizations that will work well in the implementation of this program, i.e., Star Spangled Kids, ALA Girls Nation/TAL Boys Nation, Flag Education 100, etc.

<https://www.legion-aux.org> or <https://www.alatexas.org> National and Department of Texas

Americanism Program Awards and Deadlines:

National and Department of Texas Americanism Program Awards and Deadlines:

- ALL Units submitting **Americanism Essays** must be submitted to the Department of Texas

Americanism Chairman by **March 15, 2026**, so that the Department level winner can be

submitted by the Department Chairman to National by 5 p.m. April 15.

Year-End Narrative

- Units submitting a Year-End Narrative to the Department of Texas Americanism Chairman

will receive a Certificate of Recognition.

- Make sure to report your activities on your Unit

End-of-Year Narratives and send to the Department of Texas Americanism Chairman, your Americanism Division Chairman, and your District President. Make sure to include your Unit's volunteer hours, those impacted, mileage, funds raised if doing so, description of activities/events. Include a few photos as well.

- If you are submitting for National award consideration, please make sure to follow National's prescribed guidelines.

Department of Texas Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program

- A Department of Texas Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program will be awarded.
- The award will be announced during the Americanism Report at the Department Convention in July 2026.
- The submission application cover sheet can be found on <https://member.legion-aux.org>
- Deadline for **submission** to the Department Chairman will be **May 15, 2026**, so that The Department of Texas winner can be submitted for consideration to National by 5 p.m. June 1, 2026.

Americanism Essay Contest:

- 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 6 classes for the National Contest, or 7 classes for the Texas Contest. One award in each of the 6 classes in the National Contest will be awarded in each of the National Divisions.
- For the Texas Contest, 7 classes will be presented an award state-wide.
- National 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.
- Texas Winners in Grade Level Classes up through Grade 10 will receive a \$50 award. The

Grade 11 winner will receive a \$100 award, and the Grade 12 winner will receive a \$250 award.

- Essay Title: ***“Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for Our Freedom.”***
- 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 the student's grade level.
- The Essay Contest Cover Sheet will be the same for both the National and Texas Contests.

****** The Americanism Engagement Plan Americanism Essay Contest Guidelines/Cover Sheet may be located on either the ALA National website: <https://legion-aux.org>; or at <https://alateexas.org>.**

Your Department of Texas Americanism Team Members Are:

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Division 1 - Janey Arista	(214) 926-4701	jgkbar@gmail.com
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Division 4 - Open

Your Americanism Team is here to assist, and we look forward to working with you. Promoting Americanism holds a special place in our hearts, and we realize the importance of instilling these beliefs in our Nation’s youth. Take a few minutes to review new ideas and your opportunities to execute the program in your communities and report your worthwhile deeds for possible awards and recognition.

Marie Brock-Toohey
Americanism Chairman

*Note – Snail mail reports/essay submissions are welcomed to be received via the U.S. Postal Service by sending to: Marie Brock-Toohy
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Lone Oak, TX 75453