

The American Legion Department of New Hampshire College

The college is a two-day course (Basic and Intermediate) into the Legion's programs and structure, and issues facing the largest veterans' organization in the country. In addition, Post Adjutants are invited to attend an Adjutants Course (Day 1) developed by Adjutant Dan Yoder and continue on with the intermediate course (Day 2). The course will be held at Department Headquarters. The curriculum covers an array of topics, such as leadership and communication; Americanism, children and youth; legislation; constitution and bylaws; resolutions; parliamentary procedure; duties of post officers.

Teaching our members how to effectively execute the programs and functions of The American Legion is critical to our success. We must mentor new members! They must know how and why the nation's largest wartime veterans' organization operates, and be able to lead us into the future.

Training should be one of the top priorities at all levels of the organization. From the top down and inside out, even the smallest pebbles of knowledge can create a ripple effect of energy and excitement throughout our ranks. There are countless Legionnaires ready to carry on our mission, waiting only to be taught how.

It is everyone's responsibility to carry on this vital mission, not just the top leadership. Every Legion family member with the skills and knowledge to share should do so at every opportunity.

WHY TRAIN?

A significant amount of the time we spent in the military involved training. From basic training, where we learned how to march, shoot, wear the uniform properly and work as a team, to advanced training where we honed our specialty skills, learning was integral to professional development.

Training, in a nutshell, made us better at what we did. It will also make Legionnaires better at what we do today. Training ensures that The American Legion will be able to better serve our communities. It is the

lifeblood of mentoring new members to develop their expertise that will enable them to become the future leaders of The American Legion.

BENEFITS

Establishing and implementing a well-organized training program in your department will reap dividends that go far beyond the immediate satisfaction of quenching the thirst for knowledge. A well planned curriculum will likely:

- Enhance the quality of programs and post operations
- Offer incentives for new members to learn and increase their skills
- Provide new skill sets for long-time members
- Increase social activities at the post centered on training events
- Establish an effective mentoring mechanism
- Standardize execution of post programs
- Motivate members to increase their Legion knowledge