

AMERICANISM

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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.

As in every year, please stress the respect that should be shown to the American flag. Lead by example in showing proper flag etiquette, promote the observation of patriotic holidays, and promote the American Essay Contest.

Consider joining the National Americanism Facebook page. This is a place to share activities and events, ask questions, obtain information and promote the love of our country. FYI: the Facebook page is private so you will have to wait to be granted access so do it early in the year. The web address is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/818779828161560>

The Americanism Essay Contest theme this year is “**Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for Our Freedom.**” A good resource in planning your Americanism program this year can found on the National ALA website (alaforveterans.org) where you can find flag etiquette details, Americanism and flag etiquette materials to distribute, Americanism essay information and national awards information.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

- District 1** Americanism Plaque to the unit submitting the best Americanism report.
- District 2** Mary Perham Americanism Award to the unit submitting the best Americanism report.
- District 3** Fredrick J Manley Award to the unit submitting the best Americanism report.
- District 4** Janelle Award to the unit submitting the best Americanism report.
- District 5** Americanism Award to the unit submitting the best Americanism report.
- District 6** Marella Gleason Award to the unit submitting the best Americanism report.

District 7 Andrews Award to the unit submitting the best Americanism report.

District 2 Larty Award to the unit submitting the best Americanism report.

Department Award Anna Joy Award to the Unit in the Department submitting the best Americanism report.

NATIONAL AWARDS

Americanism Essay Contest Winning essays are due to the Department Chairman by March 15, 2026.

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

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