

Stacy Bear, ALA Department of MT Americanism Chair

September 27, 2024

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Hello,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are now ready to get "back in the saddle" to "whoop up" some great memories with the American Legion Auxiliary!!! One of those programs is the Americanism Essay Contest. Please note a few things:

1. If emailing, use the above email address.
2. If mailing, use the MT address above and NOT the WY address.
3. NOTE THE NEW DEADLINE DATE for the essays – MARCH 15 2025; I had to do this as there was too much of a time crunch by the time mailed essays came in, getting them to judges, getting them back and to NW Division by April 15.
4. REMEMBER: Make the Essay Cover Sheet is signed by all required people including your Unit chair and is completely filled out. Some of these essays are only a point apart on scoring; don't let it be due to lack of adult signatures!!!
5. The flow chart for the Essay Contest is simple: Unit – Department – NW Division. We have had several National winners from MT! Let's keep rolling them out!!! We have great submissions!!!
6. If schools will not let you in, go to local clubs or homeschool groups. It was suggested to talk to the Education chair, Principals, English or History teachers in person. A phone call is easy and a quick email to get them the materials. One MT Unit gave the school a certificate for participating in the Essay Contest; maybe add a basket of fruit or goodies with it!
7. To make judging easier, maybe have a team of 2 for each CLASS or I have broken it up into 3 CLASSES per set of judges at Department level (lower grades/upper grades); that seems to work really well. Another idea is to have a luncheon then judge before or after you eat. It can be fun!!
8. Why do we do this? ALA helps to promote patriotism in the schools; helps the youth to remember and understand the sacrifices of those who went before and to establish a life long appreciation for our country, flag, and veterans. Be excited about what we do!

In closing, feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

For God and Country,

Stacy Bear



**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.

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.

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 Chairman: _____

Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2025

2024 AE WINNERS

CLASS I

1. Rosalyn Freeman - Lewis & Clark Unit 2- Dist 6
2. Isley Welsh - Big Flat Unit 109 - Dist 2
3. Dessie Stoffer - Eureka Unit 74 - Dist 4

CLASS II

1. Gracie Zellmer - Big Flat Unit 109 - Dist 2
2. Emma Hamm - Meagher Unit 25 - Dist 7
3. Hayden Fitzgerald - Augusta Unit 51 - Dist 8

CLASS III

1. Cylee Morrison - Wheatland Unit 15 - Dist 9
2. Walter Heimbigner - Big Sandy Unit 50 - Dist 2
3. Annie Diekhans - Mills Paulus Unit 103 - Dist 8

CLASS IV

1. Vince Taylor - Border Unit 73 Dist 3 ** National winner*
2. Kinlie Newman - Mills Paulus Unit 103 - Dist 8
3. Saqqara Lapp - Judith Gap Unit 70 - Dist 9

CLASS V

1. Violet Rehn - Mills Paulus Unit 103 - Dist 8
2. Austin Habets - Border Unit 73 Dist 3
3. Sami Malsam - Blaine Unit 48 - Dist 2

SPED - NO PARTICIPANTS THIS YEAR!

National Winner NW Division, Vince Taylor, CLASS IV
Presented by Unit 73 Americanism Chair, Nancy Simmes





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>