

AMERICANISM PROGRAM - AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Lois Staley, Americanism Chair

1751 18th RD, Clay Center, KS 67432

jlstaley@twinvalley.net

785-632-1751

THE PURPOSE OF THE AMERICANISM PROGRAM IS TO PROMOTE PATRIOTISM AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP.

GET INVOLVED

- Be knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette, and proper disposal methods
- Promote the observation of patriotic holidays
- Work with The American Legion to increase respect the flag in your community
- Teach proper handling, displaying and respect for the American flag, National Anthem, and Pledge of Allegiance
- Organize patriotic holiday events and/or participate in patriotic events in Auxiliary attire to meet prospective members
- Encourage members to participate in and utilize Wreaths Across America patriotic curriculum
- Support, sponsor, or donate to the American Legion Baseball
- Encourage Junior members, family members and all youth to participate in the essay contest to encourage participants to learn about the fundamental rights and freedoms we enjoy today in America.
- Support the Oratorical Contest
- Support the Junior Shooting Sports, which promotes gun safety and marksmanship training for youth
- Encourage all eligible voters to vote

DEADLINES

- **April 15, 2026** - Winning essays are due to National Division Chairperson
- **April 1, 2026** – Deadline for Essay to be to Department of KS Chairperson,
Lois Staley, jlstaley@twinvalley.net 1751 18th Rd, Clay Center, KS 67432
- **Districts** will need to have deadline date set before Dept. date.
- **Unit End of Year Report** – Due January 31, 2026, to District Chairperson
- **District End of Year Report** – Due February 28, 2026, to Department Chairperson

District Program Report Form

Find your Department Chairperson at: www.kansasala.org, under the ALA Committee, Committee chairperson list. Each district needs to complete a form for all ALA programs, if you did not work the program. We should have 100% reporting each year.

Summary of Activities _____

USE BACK OF FORM IF YOU NEED MORE SPACE.



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST 2026 Cover Sheet

The American Legion Auxiliary's Americanism Essay Contest is for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs, divided into six classes. One award in each class will be presented in each division. Winners will receive a \$50 check and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Spirit of Youth Scholarship fund.

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 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 and parent/guardian:

* Please write legibly in ink.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): _____

Student or Parent/Guardian E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name and Signature: _____

School Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

School City/State: _____

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, 2026

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Kansas
Unit Program Report Form

The report form is due to your District Chair by January 31st.

Find your District Chairperson at: www.kansasala.org under the ALA Committee. Committee Chairperson list. Each unit needs to complete a form for all ALA programs, if you did not work the program, fill out the information and mark did not participate and send it to your District Chair. We would have 100% reporting each year.

Program Name: _____

Unit Name and Number: _____

Unit Program Chair Name: _____

Unit Program Chair E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

WE DID NOT PARTICIPATE in this program: _____

Hours Worked	Dollars Spent\$	Mileage
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Veterans Helped	Active Duty Helped	Military Kids
100,000	100,000	100,000

Number of non-military Children Helped

Summary of Activities

[illegible]

(use back of form if you need more space)