**OLD GLORY**

A flag with a red and white flag

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**STAR SPANGLED KIDS PROGRAM**

The ALA Star Spangled Kids project promotes Americanism and patriotism by teaching students the U.S. Constitution and respect for our nation’s flag.

Through schools and youth organizations, members guide and assist our youth in understanding the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights and their history and creation.

Units can sponsor U.S. Constitution handouts, flag etiquette training, coloring contest, history fact presentations, the ALA Americanism Essay Contest.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest, and Constitution Day events are ways to expand students’ knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and patriotism. Our junior members are destined to be Star Spangled Kids as they participate in Legion Family events surrounding the Constitution and historical events. Acknowledging the students as ALA Star Spangled Kis through school and community award presentation encourages further youth and community engagement in our Star-Spangled Kids project.

The Star-spangled Kids project instils in our youth patriotism (loyalty and commitment) in our country, which will create a nation of citizens inspired to protect our liberties and respect for the flag for future generations.

Sallie Rossman

**American Essay Contest**

**Essay Title*: “What does Freedom mean to me?”***

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.

The link below will take you to the Department of North Carolina American Essay Contest Forms:

[15fcf7\_585d1bc3a40f4bb3890eb1c449a4e0fa.pdf (alanorthcarolina.com)](https://www.alanorthcarolina.com/_files/ugd/15fcf7_585d1bc3a40f4bb3890eb1c449a4e0fa.pdf)

**DID YOU KNOW:**

**Old Glory** is a nickname for the [flag of the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_the_United_States). The original "Old Glory" was a flag owned by the 19th-century American [sea captain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_captain) **William Driver** (March 17, 1803 – March 3, 1886), who flew the flag during his career at sea and later brought it to [Nashville, Tennessee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nashville,_Tennessee), where he settled. Driver greatly prized the flag and ensured its safety from the [Confederates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confederate_States_of_America), who attempted to seize the flag during the [American Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_War). In 1922, Driver's daughter and niece claimed to own the original "Old Glory", which became part of the collection of the [Smithsonian Institution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smithsonian_Institution), where it remains at the [National Museum of American History](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum_of_American_History). 

A candle in a jar with rice and red white and blue colors

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**PATROITIC MASON JARS**

Patriotic luminaires are fun to make and the look pretty good also.

* Pint Mason Jars
* White, long-grain rice (not instant)
* Blue and Red food coloring
* Rubbing alcohol
* Ziploc baggies
* Votive, tealight, or tapered candle
* Paper plates of wax paper

Pour rice into three different Ziplock bags, add a few drops of rubbing alcohol inside with the rice. Squeeze several drops of food coloring into the baggies. Add more food coloring if you want your rice to be darker. Seal the baggies closed and mix the food coloring and rice around. Once the rice is fully glazed, pour it onto a paper plate or wax paper and spread out to dry. Let rice dry. Once the rice is ready, scoop the red rice into your mason jars first, followed by plain white rice and then blue rice. Use about ½ to 2/3 cups of rice for each layer. Top with votive or tealight candle.

Can be made with Quart Jars also!

**SUPPORT YOUR LEGIONNAIRES**

A close-up of a badge

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**American Legion Baseball**

**Junior Shooting Sports Program**

**Oratorical Contest**

**Scouting Programs**

**Youth Cadet Law Enforcement**