Americanism Program Committee

Jane Hoppenworth (janehopp@gmail.com)
Beverly Allamon (ballamon2@gmail.com)

The purpose of Americanism is to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship. To encourage units to participate and report their activities, a ‘toolkit’ will be provided for the Americanism Program, including:

* List examples of Americanism activities, to give units an idea of what to count as an Americanism effort
* Timeline or flowchart for reporting, so that units may report in a timely basis to be eligible for National awards
* Resources and instructions from National for detailed development of activities for various components of Americanism program

Whenever possible, packets of materials will be emailed as PDF documents. Photocopies will be provided for units that do not use email.

Using the suggested unit-level and individual unit-member activities from the National Plan of Action, a “toolkit” packet of documents will be offered for each of the various components of Americanism Program. Breaking down the components and providing more instructions and resources for each one will allow units greater choices. Units may use the ‘toolkits’ to fully develop an Americanism program, or they may use one component of the Americanism program in conjunction with other Auxiliary programs. For example, a unit may not be active in Americanism but is active in Girls State. The unit could further enhance its Girls State program plus report Americanism activities by promoting the Americanism Essay Contest to their Girls State Citizens.

* Americanism Essay Contest Topic: “How can we address the health and well-being of our veterans, military, and their families?”
	+ Timeline/flowchart for essay submissions
	+ Description of Department and National Awards to essay winners
	+ Sample letters to send to local schools targeting ROTC instructors and English teachers
	+ Sample press release for School Briefs section of local newspaper
	+ Information about posting Essay Contest to local home-schoolers’ websites
	+ Increase participation in Essay Contest outside of local schools (e.g., military children, Girls State and Boys State Citizens, home-schooled children)
	+ On-line resources on writing style and basic essay development, to provide to students entering the essay contest
* Star-Spangled Kids (recently moved to Americanism Program)
	+ Timeline/flowchart for reporting
	+ Detailed examples of activities
	+ Resources and instructions from National about Star Spangled Kids program
	+ On-line resources for Kids Voting, learning about the Constitution, etc.
* Flag History and Etiquette targeting adults as well as children and youth
	+ Timeline/flowchart for reporting
	+ Detailed examples of activities
	+ On-line resources
	+ Promote Pocket Flag Project for units
	+ Sample letters to legislators supporting Flag Amendment
	+ On-line resources and instructions from National about flag history, symbolism, and protocol, etc.
* Promote participation in The American Legion Americanism youth programs. The National ALA has recommended that Auxiliary units support TAL programs in Legion Baseball, Oratorical Contests, and Junior Shooting Sports.
	+ Timeline/flowchart for reporting
	+ Detailed examples of activities
	+ On-line resources and instructions from TAL

Awards to encourage unit participation:

**National Contests and Awards**:

* *Americanism Essay Contest* ($50 each and national recognition for 6 different school-age groups in the Southern Division). Winning entries of Department essay contests will be forwarded to the National competition. Topic: “How can we address the health and well-being of our veterans, military, and their families?”
* *Dorothy Pearl Plaque* unit award for Most Outstanding Americanism Program targeted to children and youth
* *Junior Americanism Award* to the Junior group reporting the Most Outstanding Americanism Program

**Department of North Carolina Contests and Awards**

* Certificate award to the unit with the Most Outstanding Americanism Program, targeted to adults.
* Certificate award to the unit with the Most Outstanding Americanism Program targeted to children and youth. Their report will be submitted for the National award.
* *Special Auxiliary Anniversary Competition: 100 Flags for 100 Years*
	+ Certificate award to all Units that distribute a cumulative total of 100 or more small flags throughout the year (Memorial Day + July 4th + Veterans Day + troop deployments)
	+ Certificate of Appreciation to District Presidents with a *cumulative* total of 100 or more small flags distributed throughout the year by multiple units in their district. Certificates of Appreciation to contributing units.
* *Americanism Essay Contest* Topic:
“How can we address the health and well-being of our veterans, military, and their families?”
	+ Certificates for best essay in 6 different school-age groups, plus winning entries will be submitted to National essay contest
	+ Certificate award for best essay written by a *Junior* Auxiliary member.
	+ Chairman’s Award: Certificate and gift for best essay written by a *Senior* Auxiliary member.
* *Beautiful Flag Picture*. Send photographs of American flags or make a flag montage. Email .jpg file to *ballamon2@gmail.com*