

November 2024

Hello!

Each year the American Legion Auxiliary sponsors an Americanism Essay contest. This year's theme is:

“What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?”

This contest is open to any student in grades 3-12. This opportunity is for classes, students or children who may be interested in participating. In total there are 6 different classes in which students can compete based on the various grade levels.

I have included the cover sheet for the contest. On the sheet are the guidelines that must be followed for the essay to qualify for the contest. The cover sheet must also be completed, signed and turned in with the final essay.

At the local (unit) level, there will be monetary prizes for the first (\$35), second (\$20), and third (\$10) place winners in each class. Each of the first place essays will be sent in for further competition at the state (department) level. Students who place at the local level may be invited to share their essays with the local Auxiliary Unit at the May meeting.

The essays are due March 1, 2025. You may send completed hardcopy essays to the address below or through interschool mail to Wilson Middle School if you are in the Appleton Area School District. Electronic versions of the essays may be sent to jklemp31@gmail.com or klempjennifer@aasd.k12.wi.us. If you send the essay electronically, do not forget to send the completed cover sheet as well!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at the emails above.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Klemp
Americanism Chair
American Legion Auxiliary, Appleton Unit 38

Please send hard copy entries to:
Jennifer Klemp
225 N. Badger Ave.
Appleton, WI 54914



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST 2025 SUBMISSION FORM

Essay Title: What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?”

Department: 1st place winning entry in each class will receive \$50 from Department and will be forwarded to Central Division for further competition. 2nd place winning entry in each class will receive \$25 from Department and 3rd thru 5th place winning entries in each class will receive \$10.

National: 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. National winners will be posted at www.ALAforVeterans.org after Convention.

Materials and Guidelines: The contest shall include six classes.

Word Requirement: All words on the essay page/pages count. If students are required to include a title or other class information, please put this on a separate title page

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	Defined as student’s reading level being 2 or more years below grade level

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 _____

***Note: Checks are sent directly to awarded students. Please print student’s name and mailing address clearly.**

To be completed by the Parent/Teacher:

*Student name: _____ Grade level: _____

*Address: _____

*City/State/Zip: _____

Parent’s Email Address: _____

Parent’s Phone #: _____ Word Count: _____

School Name: _____

School city/state: _____

Teacher’s name: _____

Teacher’s signature: _____

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered):
Sponsoring Unit City location & number: _____
Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit Winner due to Department Chairman on March 15, 2025

Department: WI Signature of Department Chairman: _____

Send to: Diane Burkhalter, 409 Briarwood Lane, Port Washington WI 53074

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