

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DISTRICT 29

AMERICANISM

JANUARY 2018



Hello and Happy New Year! This year the Department of California theme is 'Real Heroes wear Dog Tags Not Capes' and the Americanism mascot is the Captain America Turtle. The purpose of the Americanism Program is to teach others about the fundamentals of patriotism, our flag, the constitution, and patriotic holidays. We will promote youth programs, and the essay contests.

FLAG TRIVIA

Q1. What do the red, white, and blue of the flag represent?

A1. The Continental Congress left no record to show why it chose the colors. However, in 1782, the Congress of the Confederation chose these same colors for the Great Seal of the United States and listed their meaning as follows:

- Red: Valor and hardiness,
- White: Purity and innocence
- Blue: Vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

According to legend, George Washington interpreted the elements of the flag this way: the stars were taken from the sky, the red from the British colors, and the white stripes signified the secession from the home country. However, there is no official designation or meaning for the colors of the flag.

Q2. Is it ever appropriate to fly the flag upside down?

A2. Yes, but only in an emergency, or in distress. It means "Help Me! It's an emergency! Call the police! I am in dire trouble and need immediate help!"

Q3. What is done with worn or outdated flags?

A3. Flags are used until they are worn out and then they are destroyed, preferably by burning.

Q4. Is it okay to fly the flag at night?

A4. According to the US Flag Code, all American flags should be displayed from sunrise to sunset every day. Lowering the flag at night is an ultimate sign of respect for Old Glory. But like many rules, there is an exception. You can keep your flag flying 24-hours if it is properly illuminated during all hours of darkness.



OFFICIAL 2018 FLAG FLYING DAYS

Jan. 1	New Year's Day
Jan. 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Feb. 12	Lincoln's Birthday
Feb. 19	Washington's Bday (observed)
May 8	VE Day
May 13	Mother's Day
May 15	Peace Officers Memorial Day*
May 19	Armed Forces Day
May 28	Memorial Day*
June 14	Flag Day
June 17	Father's Day
July 4	Independence Day
Sep. 2	VJ Day
Sep. 3	Labor Day
Sep. 11	Patriot Day*
Oct. 7 ..	National Firefighters Memorial Day*
Oct. 8	Columbus Day
Nov. 6	Election Day
Nov. 11	Veterans Day
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 7	Pearl Harbor Day*
Dec. 25	Christmas Day

*Denotes half-staff from sunrise to sunset

2018 ESSAY CONTEST DATES

- 1st Fri in March: Unit pick up essays from schools.
- 4th Fri in March: Unit forwards winner from each group to Dist. Chairman (Kokoe) for judging.
- 3rd Fri in April: District Chair forwards winner from each group to Department for judging.

AMERICANISM CONTACT INFO



Chair: Kokoe Estrada
 Email: Kokoe.Estrada@gmail.com
 Cell: (619) 838-3699

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

2018 ANNUAL ALA AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

\$ WIN CASH PRIZES! \$

GROUP I TOPIC: [Grades 4 and 5]
Why we should Respect America
(in 200-300 words)

GROUP II TOPIC: [Grades 6 and 7]
What does community service mean to me?
(in 200-300 words)

GROUP III TOPIC: [Grades 8 and 9]
Why do we have the Constitution of the United States?
(in 250-400 words)

GROUP IV TOPIC: [Grades 10, 11, and 12]
What values should our leaders have?
(in 300-500 words)

GROUP V TOPIC: [Exceptional Needs]
Why is America a great country?
(in 200-300 words)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

This contest is divided into five categories and is open to all students: traditional classroom, home school, boy scouts, girl scouts, and family. Cash prize awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Winners from the Unit will be forwarded on to District 29 for judging. Those winners will be forwarded to Department for judging, and those winners up to National. See your Unit for more details! Good Luck!