AMVETS National Americanism

Essay Contest Rules

Who can participate?

All students in 6th, 7th, 8th, * 9th, *10th, 11th, and 12th grades who attend public, private, parochial schools, or homeschooled are eligible to enter. You may also enlist members of any youth organizations, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, and others to participate.

Annual Themes (based on school year):

2024-2025 "What does Flag protection mean to me?"
2025-2026 "What does it mean to be an American?"
2026-2027 "How do we honor the American flag?"
2027-2028 "Why is the Bald Eagle special to America?"

Contest rules:

- All students' entries must address the theme.
- All essays must be written in blue or black ink or typed and double spaced.
- Place your name, state, and grade on the back of the entry.
- 6th Grade essays: 200 words or less.
- 7th and 8th Grade: essays 300 words or less.
- 9th and 10th Grade: essays 400 words or less.
- 11th and 12th Grade essays 500 words or less.
- All entries must be sent to the National Programs Department and postmarked no later than July 1st. (Post and Department deadlines may vary.)

Criteria for judging Posters:

* Originality * Literary Composition * Creativity * Adherence to Theme *

First Place Winners will receive a plaque and gift card
Second Place Winners will receive a certificate and gift card

Amounts will be predetermined during National Convention Annual for the following year.

*** The AMVETS National Service Foundation will sponsor the First-Place 9th or 10th Grade Department winner** for an all-expense-paid trip to Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania (www.ffvf.org). The four-day weekend will have lots of fun, educational, youth-oriented activities with dynamic speakers and sightseeing are the highlights of a trip that is sure to be long remembered. Departments are welcome to sponsor other deserving 9th or 10th grade students to join in this adventure. Students must meet the requirements for airline travel, and Freedoms Foundation in order to participate. Please contact National Programs regarding additional students.

****Department Commanders:** Indicate on the nomination form if the 9th or 10th grader is nominated to go to Freedoms Foundation. **AMVETS sponsors only one student per Department**. Registration packets from AMVETS and Freedoms Foundation will be available online in August.

Revised 8.2024

AMVETS National Americanism
Essay Contest Entry Form
Co-Sponsored by AMVETS and AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary

Please print legibly or type.

Completed Entry Form and essay **must be** returned to your local AMVETS Post or State Department.

STUDENT SECTION
(Name and grade printed on the back of project for fair judging)

INDICATE THE GRADE: _____

Student Name: _____ **Birth Date:** ____/____/____

Student Address: _____

Student City, State, Zip: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian*: _____

Parent Email: _____ **Phone number *(_____)_____-_____**

Name of School/Organization: _____

School Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Teacher's Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Teacher's School Phone number: _____

FOR AMVETS DEPARTMENT USE ONLY
Complete this section and submit to AMVETS National Programs Department by JULY 1st!

NOTE: This section **must be** completed and signed by the Department Americanism Officer, Commander, or Executive Director/Adjutant. Flag Coloring entries must be submitted to the designated Department official. **Only 1st place** Department entries can be submitted to National Programs Department.

The attached 1st Place Essay entry is submitted by ☐ AMVETS ☐ Ladies Auxiliary

Department &Post # _____ **Date** _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

_____ _____

Print Officer Name and Title Signature of AMVETS/Auxiliary Representative

All awards will be sent to the Department, otherwise contact National Programs Department.

☐ ****Yes,** this student is nominated to go to the Freedoms Foundation Conference to be sponsored by NSF.

** The Department must contact the National Programs Department for nomination forms for additional student(s).

Approved by Department Commander: _____ Date: _____

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