

Fall Activities

Fall is a great time to get involved with children and youth programs, either by assisting The American Legion with their programs and functions or starting up some of your own. Fall also marks the time of year when The American Legion Americanism Commission gears up for a new year with the Children and Youth Conference and Americanism Conference. Every year, usually in September, American Legion Family members from across the country gather in Indianapolis to learn more about the many programs under the charge of the Americanism Commission. Although these events have come and gone, you may want to start planning for next year.

Shortly thereafter, usually in October or early November local Oratorical contests will be in full swing creating opportunities to serve, as volunteers are needed to conduct these events. Not long after the local contests Districts and Areas will conduct their contests to determine which students qualify for the state finals. Assisting with the Oratorical contest is a great way to get involved with American Legion programs. Fall is also a great time to start the planning for American Legion Boy's State, American Legion Baseball, Shooting Sports and the Law Cadet program. Although these are all long standing programs of The American Legion, it never hurts to review procedures, update your plan, and start collecting donations to fund these programs. Squadrons should ask Post leadership how they can help, volunteer to assist with events and/ or the sponsoring of individuals and contests. I don't believe anyone would say "no" and deny Squadron involvement in any of The American Legion programs. When attending these events be prepared to enlighten participants and parents about our American Legion Family of organizations, the many youth programs of The American Legion are a great venue to recruit new members.

Fall is also a great time to start your member development, education and training with the Five Point and Ten Ideals programs. These educational programs are a fantastic way to cultivate the youth in your Squadron and enhance the knowledge of those "seasoned" members. Utilize a portion of your meeting time each month for the next five months to cover one point of the 5 Point Program of Service. Culminate the program with the presentation of the 5-Star medal and certificate of completion during the birthday celebration of The American Legion in March. Younger members interested in the Ten Ideals program could be assigned "Ideals" to complete between meetings over the course of the ensuing year with awards presented at the Squadron annual meeting or during the Detachment Convention.

Some other activities to consider would be conducting a "safe" Halloween event or costume party for the youth of your community at your sponsoring American Legion Post, the list is seemingly endless, get out, get involved and be seen.

Wear the Emblem with pride as we are " Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage". We are the Sons of The American Legion!

Respectfully,
Danny Smith
National Commander
Sons of The American Legion