

Post Americanism Report (explained)

Purpose of this addendum to the report: In each category there are many “self-explanatory” areas. This document will attempt to explain/clarify those areas where there is room for interpretation.

Community Service and Safety

1. **Get out the vote:** “The American Legion encourages all Americans to register and to vote in all elections, Legionnaires have traditionally responded to the call and are among the groups of individuals most likely to case their ballots on Election Day.” Quote from the Guide to promoting the “Get out The Vote” Program. Can be found at the following link: legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/165ACY0220-Vote-America-Booklet.pdf
2. **Veteran of the Month:** Many cities/counties take the time during their meetings to honor veterans in their communities. Did your post submit a candidate to the city/county? Did your members (how many?) attend the meeting in a show of support? Did your nominated candidate win? Take pictures of the event. Attach a copy of your submission. Attach a copy of the newspaper article/video of the event.
3. **Gun Safety:** Does your post host an event/seminar teaching gun safety to area youth/adults? Do you host a Junior Shooting Sports club (safety is a big part of this program)? Document the number of Post Members who put on the event and the hours it took to complete the mission. How many attendees? Pictures of the event? Was there an article/pictures in your hometown paper?
4. **Bicycle Safety:** Does your post teach Bicycle safety to the youth of your community? Many of the safety programs on this report are covered in The Guide to Safe Scouting. If you host a scout troop and your members take part (how many), you should include that information. How many individuals were trained?
5. **Home Safety:** Same as above.
6. **Defensive Driving:** Same as above.
7. **Other:** Blood Drive – more information online at: legion.org/publications/230233/blood-program-booklet
8. **Other:** Did your post host any other community service programs/events that do not fall into the categories above?

Education Activities

1. **American Education Week:** Celebrates public education and honors individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. What is your post doing to take part? Are you in the schools recognizing (Certificates of Appreciation) the educators, substitute teachers, support professionals, etc.?
2. **Need a lift?** (Does this category need to be removed/renamed?) Was a comprehensive financial aid reference guide to veterans, veterans’ dependents and members of the Legion Family is no longer available. All scholarship information can be found online at: legion.org/scholarships. What is your post doing to get the word out on the types of financial aid/scholarships/etc., offered by The American Legion?
3. **American Legion School Award:** The medal is awarded to the top boy or girl in the graduating classes of elementary schools, junior and senior high schools, and colleges. Is your post taking part in this program? How many medals were presented? Did the Americanism Officer present

them at the schools? You can find more information online at:

legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/School-Award-Program.pdf

4. **Citizenship Day:** Each year on September 17, Americans celebrate Constitution and Citizenship Day. During this time, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) encourages Americans to reflect on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and what it means to be a U.S. citizen. Does your post recognize and/or host any special events on this day? Be specific on what you did as well as the numbers of members who helped. Include pictures if you have them. An excellent source of information can be found online at:
uscis.gov/citizenship/educators/constitution-day-and-citizenship-day
5. **Veterans in the Classroom:** Did your post sponsor any programs within your schools that aren't covered elsewhere on this report? Maybe one or more of your members are also teachers/administrators/etc.
6. **Patriotic Observances in the School:** Self explanatory
7. **Educator of the Year:** This program serves to recognize dedicated and devoted individuals who, on a constant basis, give so much of themselves on behalf of the children of South Dakota.....Teachers. Did your post submit a nominee? Did your nominee win at the District level? Did your nominee win at the Department level? Was there coverage of your nominee in the local paper/tv station? Include your submission with this report. You can find much more information on this award online at: **sdlegion.org/educator-of-the-year/**
8. **Other:** Any area/event that you feel should be included, but is not already discussed/submitted in the topics above.

Youth Activities – mostly self explanatory

1. **American Legion Baseball:** Did your post sponsor a team(s)? Did any of your members manage or coach the team? Did your post work with the team to promote special observances/events that may fall under any other category of this report? Did your post sponsor an American Legion Girls Softball team/league? What level of financial support did your post provide to the teams? More information available online at: **legion.org/baseball**
2. **Junior Shooting Sports:** The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program teaches youth rifle safety and procedure and lets children participate in an Olympic skill sport while fostering healthy competition. Did your post sponsor a team? Did they compete at any level? You can find more information online at:
legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/Start%20Junoir%20Shooting%20Sports.pdf
3. **American Legion Boys State:** Boys State is a nationwide program meant to help youth understand and appreciate the American system of government and way of life, including the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Did your post visit High Schools and other organizations (Scout troops/PTA/4-H) to promote Boys State? **Participants:** How many Boys did your post send to Boys State? How many of your post members volunteered as members of the Boys State staff? How many of your members attended "Legion Day" at Boys State? You can find more information at: **sdlegion.org/boys-state/ and southdakotaboysstate.com**
4. **High School Oratorical:** "A Constitutional Speech Contest". Did your post conduct a contest? Was your contest (any level) reported on in the local paper/tv station? Did you send your

winner to the district contest? **Participation:** How many of your members took part in the local/district/department contests. Does your post offer a financial award to the winner?

5. **Boy Scouts of America:** Does your post sponsor a scout troop(s)? **Participation:** How many of your members participate in the program? Are they Troop leaders? Did your post produce any Eagle Scouts this year? Were they submitted for "Eagle Scout of the Year"? Did your post support Scouting in any other way (donations/facilities/etc.)? For more information online, go to: sdlegion.org/scouting/
6. **Other: SD Youth Trooper Academy** – a cooperative effort between the South Dakota Highway Patrol and The American Legion of South Dakota to increase youth understanding of the job of a state trooper. **Participation:** How many members took part in recruiting for this program? How many members volunteered to be on staff? How many boys/girls did your post submit/send? How many members attended "Legion Day" at SDYTA?

Patriotic Holiday Programs – Did your post hold any special events/programs during these holidays? How many attended? Did the local paper/news media cover the event? Consult the Officer's Guide and Manual Of Ceremonies.

1. **Arbor Day:**
2. **Flag Day:** (June 14th): What event(s) did your post hold to recognize this holiday?
3. **Independence Day:** Did your Members/Honor Guard march in the parade or in any other method celebrate the anniversary of our country's independence (fireworks/Legion Baseball tournament/etc.)?
4. **Memorial Day:** Did your post host events that honored those who paid the ultimate sacrifice? Did your Honor Guard take part in services at local cemeteries?
5. **Veterans Day:** Same as the examples above.
6. **Patriots Day:** Same as the examples above.

Flag Education - The American Legion's Flag Education Program increases awareness of proper flag display, dignified disposal and instills patriotism and honor in all Americans. Go to legion.org/flag for brochures/pictures/videos, etc.

1. **Flags for First Graders:** Did your members go to schools to pass out flags/explain the meaning of our flag?
2. **Flag Etiquette:** Did your post visit schools or other organizations during the year to explain flag etiquette? How many members assisted? How many hours were spent?
3. **Other:** Did your members hold a Flag Folding ceremony during a holiday (Memorial Day/Veterans Day/Flag Day) or other event?
4. **Other:** Did your post hold a "Dignified disposal of unserviceable flags" ceremony? Did you invite the public?

Service to God and Country: Primarily self-explanatory. Make sure to be specific if you have special programs to support any of these areas. Remember to include numbers of participants, etc.

Counter Subversive Activities:

1. **Counter-terrorism Education:** Did your post sponsor training session(s) on counter terrorism? Who was the audience? How many attended? How many of your members helped plan and

present the program? Where to look online: **dhs.gov** and **legion.org/publications#national_security**

2. **Other:**