

**The American Legion
Essay Committee**

As American Legionnaires, we fully believe that education is the cornerstone upon which the future of America is built. Education becomes the first requisite of good citizenship and the relationship of The American Legion to Pennsylvania citizens is of prime importance as a means of keeping us a free civilization.

Our approach to supporting solid educational principles is direct and positive. We agree with the current PA Department of Education initiative of “writing across the curriculum” and reward the efforts of involved students through our annual essay scholarship program.

Since the inception of the Department of Pennsylvania state Essay Contest in 1935, The American Legion has awarded well over \$500,000 in scholarships, while local American Legion Posts, counties, Districts and Sections have also offered suitable awards and prizes for their respective best essay winners as well.

Through the annual Department of Pennsylvania American Legion Essay scholarship contest, students are provided an opportunity to showcase their talents and abilities in English by using originality, accuracy and research as evidence, while learning that the responsibilities and duties of good citizenship can be both rewarding and fun.

For more information on participating in the Department of Pennsylvania American Legion Essay Contest, please call (717) 730-9100 or visit www.pa-legion.com.

Chairman: **Tom Shumaker**
PO Box 176
Clarksville, PA 15322
724-377-0632

Sectional Vice Chairmen:

East: **Harry Wynn, III**, 59 Thomas Jefferson Rd
Lehighon, PA. 18235 (570) 386-2188

West: **Herb Herman**, PO Box 632
Fredericktown, PA 15333 (724) 377-2169

Central: **Linda Klutas**, 500 Stoney Creek Road
Dauphin, PA 17018 (717)921-8660

Inter-District Coordinators:

1-5: **Aaron Campbell, Jr.**, 60 Hawthorne Lane
Willingboro, NJ 08046 (609) 871-5618

8-9-10: **Robert Wilson**, PO Box 262
Sadsburyville, PA 19369 (484) 889-6331

11-12-15: **Mike Welch**, 65 VanVleck Street
Great Bend, PA 18821 (607) 427-8986

13-14-30: **Harry Wynn III**, 59 Thomas Jefferson Rd
Lehighon, PA 18235 (570) 386-2188

16-17-18: **Albert Hess**, 1009 Buffalo Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837 (570) 524-4367

19-22: **Norlynn John**, 7430 Nyesville Road
Chambersburg, PA 17202 (717) 860-9203

20-21: **Stephen Foor**, 1056 Black Bear Lane
Bedford, PA 15522 (814) 847-2077

23-28-29: **Victor Straub**, 607 Vine Street
St. Mary's, PA 15857 (814) 781-1375

24-25-31: **Herb Hermann**, P O Box 632
Fredericktown, PA 15333 (724)-377-2169

26-27: **Theodore Minich**, P. O. Box 265
Hawthorn, PA 16230 (814) 365-5521

32-33-36: **James Page**, 209 Jasper Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15211 (412) 427-5917

*(Questions on Essay Contest rules or procedures can
be directed to any committee member)*



**“What Does Being a Patriot
Mean To Me?”**

2018

**PENNSYLVANIA
AMERICAN LEGION**

**83rd ANNUAL
ESSAY CONTEST
FOR GRADES 9-12**

**The American Legion
Department of Pennsylvania
PO Box 2324
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2324
(717) 730-9100
www.pa-legion.com**

ESSAY CONTEST RULES & REGULATIONS

1. This year's Essay Contest title is: ***“What Does Being a Patriot Mean to Me?”***
2. Any student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 in a public, private or parochial school or who is home schooled in Pennsylvania is eligible to participate.
3. All essays **MUST** have a cover page containing the following information:
 - Essay title
 - Name, address, telephone, & email address (if applicable) of contestant.
 - Sponsoring American Legion Post number, name & location.
 - Parent or guardian name.
4. The title **MUST** appear on page one (1) of the essay, as well as the cover page.
5. ALL essays **MUST** be no less than 500 words and no more than 1,000 words.
6. Typewritten essays are preferred but not required.
7. Essays shall be judged on the following:
 - Proper English structure.
 - Accuracy.
 - Extent of information
 - Originality - *Any material not original must be cited in a bibliography for the information of the judges, stating publication, volume, page, date, publisher and author.*
8. Students **MUST** prepare essays without assistance.
9. The PA Essay Program, as any program conducted by The American Legion, is designed to provide balanced judging. It is suggested that at least three (3) qualified judges be used at each level.
10. No reference shall be made, for or against, any political candidate or political party affiliation.
11. To locate a post near you, go to www.legion.org & click on *find a post* and enter your zip code.
12. The **“local school”** shall determine its own winner and **submit the winning essay(s) to the sponsoring or local American Legion Post(s)** no later than **January 19, 2018. Each school may select 1 winner for each American Legion Post in their school district.**
13. The **local American Legion Post's** winning essay shall be selected and forwarded to the local District American Legion Essay Chairperson (as listed in the current American Legion Directory) **no later than February 2, 2018.**
14. The **“District”** winning essay shall be forwarded to the appropriate Inter-District Essay Coordinator (as listed in the current American Legion Directory) no later than **March 9, 2018.**
15. The **“Inter-District”** winning essay shall be forwarded to the Department of PA Essay Contest Sectional Vice Chairperson (as listed in the current American Legion Directory) no later than **April 6, 2018.**
16. The **“Sectional”** winning essay shall be selected and forwarded to the Pennsylvania Department Essay Chairperson, Tom Shumaker, no later than **April 27, 2018.**

The Department Essay Chairperson shall arrange for qualified judges who will select this year's Department of Pennsylvania Essay program finalist no later than **May 11, 2018.**

PRIZES TO BE AWARDED

1. The Department of Pennsylvania State Essay **First Place Winner** will be awarded a \$3,500 scholarship, a plaque and a trip to the PA American Legion Convention in July to read the winning essay to the assembled delegates.
2. The **Second Place Winner** will receive a \$3,000 scholarship and a plaque.
3. The **Third Place Winner** will receive a \$2,500 scholarship and a plaque.