

**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](http://www.pa-legion.com).

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**Chairman:** **Tom Shumaker**  
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**Sectional Vice Chairmen:**

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

**West:** **Herb Herman**, PO Box 632  
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**Central:** **Linda Klutas**, 500 Stoney Creek Road  
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**Inter-District Coordinators:**

**1-5:** **Aaron Campbell, Jr.**, 60 Hawthorne Lane  
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**8-9-10:** **Robert Wilson**, PO Box 262  
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**11-12-15:** **Mike Welch**, 95 Green Valley Street  
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**13-14-30:** **Harry Wynn III**, 59 Thomas Jefferson Rd  
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**16-17-18:** **Albert Hess**, 1009 Buffalo Road  
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**19-22:** **Norlynn John**, 7430 Nyesville Road  
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**20-21:** **Stephen Foor**, 1056 Black Bear Lane  
Bedford, PA 15522 (814) 847-2077

**23-28-29:** **Victor Straub**, 607 Vine Street  
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**24-25-31:** **Herb Hermann**, P O Box 632  
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**26-27:** **Theodore Minich**, P. O. Box 265  
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**32-33-36:** **James Page**, 209 Jasper Street  
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*(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](http://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](http://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.