Revised 1 September 2026

AMERICANISM

Contest Instructions and Forms for 2026/2027

Co-sponsored by the membership of
AMVETS,
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, and Sons of AMVETS

Flag Coloring

(grades K & 1)

Poster

(grades 2, 3, 4, 5)

Essay

(grades 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12)

Revised 1 September 2026

Department Prize Structure for Americanism Contests
2026-2027

Kdg. - 3rd Grades	**1st Place - $50**	**2nd Place - $25**	**3rd Place - $15.00**
4th – 5th Grades	**1st Place - $75**	**2nd Place - $50**	**3rd Place - $25.00**
6th – 8th Grades	**1st Place - $100**	**2nd Place - $50**	**3rd Place - $25.00**
9th – 10th Grades	**1st Place - $150**	**2nd Place - $75**	**3rd Place - $30.00**
11th – 12th Grades	**1st Place - $200**	**2nd Place - $100**	**3rd Place - $50.00**

All prizes noted above are Money Orders, rather than cash, check or Gift Cards.

****SAMPLE SHEET TO BE PRESENTED TO THE SCHOOLS****
AMVETS, AMVETS LADIES' AUXILIARY, and Sons of AMVETS, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
AMERICANISM FLAG COLORING CONTEST 2026-2027

We, the members of the AMVETS, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, & Sons of AMVETS firmly believe that the children of the United States of America should be encouraged to express their patriotism and loyalty to the wonderful land of the free. To further express this belief, we are sponsoring a statewide Flag Coloring Contest. We ask your permission to hold such a contest among the students under your jurisdiction. Listed below are the rules of the contest as outlined by our State Department:

1. The contest is open to all students in Kindergarten and 1st grade who attend public, private or parochial schools, are home schooled or are involved with Scouting or faith-based groups.

2. The Theme is: **Color the American Flag Templat**e. Using the template (or copy of template) provided, students in this age group must color the flag and answer the 4 questions that are included on the template.

3. Local entries must be presented to an AMVET or Ladies Auxiliary representative on or before _____.

4. **Department entries must be either hand-delivered with a return receipt from the Ladies Auxiliary Americanism Chairperson by April 1, 2027 or mailed to same and postmarked by April 1, 2027. Entries must have the completed, signed official Department Entry form attached.**

5. Entries must be on the template provided and may be colored using markers or crayons.

6. Entries will be judged on each of the following categories:
   A. Use of template, or copy, provided B. Neatness C. Answers to questions

7. **Each entry <u>must</u> include the full name, birth date, address (including zip code), phone number, and grade of the student. The name, address and phone number of the parent or guardian must also be included. Please remember to indicate the name of the child's teacher and school affiliation.**

8. Locals and Districts may award prizes with the value to be determined by members.

9. The Department shall award the following prizes for Kindergarten and First Grade winning entries:

   1st Place - $50 2nd Place - $25 3rd Place - $15

10. Judging will be done by lay people, not necessarily professionals, with the exception of one being a professional. Judges may include AMVETS or members of one of their subsidiary organizations.

11. District or Local Posts/Auxiliaries shall submit their 1st place winners (one from each grade level) to the Department Chairperson on the official Department Entry form. If a local entry wins on the District level, the local may submit their 2nd place entry.

12. The Department shall notify the sponsoring AMVET/Ladies Auxiliary Post and District of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

13. The original 2nd and 3rd place entries shall be returned at the close of the Department Convention. Copies of 1st place Department winners are given to the students so that their original entry can be submitted to National for judging at that level.

****SAMPLE SHEET TO BE PRESENTED TO THE SCHOOLS****
AMVETS, AMVETS LADIES' AUXILIARY, and Sons of AMVETS, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
AMERICANISM POSTER CONTEST 2026-2027

We, the members of the AMVETS, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, & Sons of AMVETS firmly believe that the children of the United States of America should be encouraged to express their patriotism and loyalty to the wonderful land of the free. To further express this belief, we are sponsoring a statewide Poster Contest. We ask your permission to hold such a contest among the students under your jurisdiction. Listed below are the rules of the contest as outlined by our State Department:

1. The contest is open to all students in the 2nd through 5th grades who attend public, private or parochial schools, are home schooled or are involved with Scouting or faith-based groups.

2. The Theme is: 2026-2027 "How do we honor the American flag?"

3. Local entries must be presented to an AMVET or Ladies Auxiliary representative on or before _____.

4. **Department entries must be either hand-delivered with a return receipt from the Ladies Auxiliary Americanism Chairperson by April 1, 2027 or mailed to same and postmarked by April 1, 2027. Entries must have the completed, signed official Department Entry form attached.**

5. All entries must address the theme and be free-hand drawings using pen, pencil, crayon, paint or any combination of these media. A straight-edge may be used as an aid to draw a straight line.

6. Gluing pictures or other materials to the surface of the drawing is not allowed.

7. Entries must be 9" x 12" using construction paper or poster board.

8. A written description of the entry, **in 50 words or less**, must be written on the back of the drawing. Descriptions that are firmly attached to the back of the poster will also be accepted.

9. Entries will be judged on each of the following categories:
   a. Artistic Ability b. Adherence to Theme c. Neatness

10. **Each entry must include the full name, birth date, address (including zip code), phone number, and grade of the student. The name, address and phone number of the parent or guardian must also be included. Please remember to indicate the name of the child's teacher and school affiliation.**

11. Locals and Districts may award prizes with the value to be determined by members. Local Awards:

	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
1st Place	_____	_____	_____	_____
2nd Place	_____	_____	_____	_____

12. The Department shall award the following prizes:

	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
1st Place	$50	$50	$75	$75
2nd Place	$25	$25	$50	$50
3rd Place	$15	$15	$25	$25

13. Judging will be done by lay people, not necessarily professionals, with the exception of one being a professional. Judges may include AMVETS or members of one of their subsidiary organizations.

14. District or Local Posts/Auxiliaries shall submit their 1st place winners (one from each grade level) to the Department Chairperson on the official Department Entry form. If a local entry wins on the District level, the local may submit their 2nd place entry.

15. The Department shall notify the sponsoring AMVET/Ladies Auxiliary Post and District of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

16. The original 2nd and 3rd place entries shall be returned at the close of the Department Convention. Copies of 1st place Department winners are given to the students so that their original entry can be submitted to National for judging at that level.

Revised 1 September 2026

****SAMPLE SHEET TO BE PRESENTED TO THE SCHOOLS****
AMVETS, AMVETS LADIES" AUXILIARY, and Sons of AMVETS, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST 2026-2027

We, the members of the AMVETS, AMVETS Ladies' Auxiliary, & Sons of AMVETS firmly believe that the children of the United States of America should be encouraged to express their patriotism and loyalty to the wonderful land of the free. To further express this belief, we are sponsoring a statewide Essay Contest. We ask your permission to hold such a contest among the students under your jurisdiction. Listed below are the rules of the contest as outlined by our State Department:

1. The contest is open to all students in the 6th through 12th grades who attend public, private or parochial schools, are home schooled or are involved with Scouting or faith-based groups.

2. The Theme is: 2026-2027 "How do we honor the American flag?"

3. Local entries must be presented to an AMVET or Ladies Auxiliary representative on or before_____.

4. **Department entries must be either hand-delivered with a return receipt from the Ladies Auxiliary Americanism Chairperson by April 1, 2027 or mailed to same and postmarked by April 1, 2027. Entries must have the completed, signed official Department Entry form attached.**

5. All students must address the theme and it may be written in ink, typed or produced on a computer.

6. 6th Grade students should submit essays of **200 words or less**; 7th and 8th Grade students should submit essays of **300 words or less**; 9th and 10th Grade students should submit essays of **400 words or less**; and 11th and 12th Grade students should submit essays of **500 words or less**.

7. Criteria for judging of Essays: A. Originality B. Adherence to theme C. Literary composition

8. **Each entry must include the full name, birth date, address (including zip code), phone number, and grade of the student. The name, address and phone number of the parent or guardian must also be included. Please remember to indicate the name of the child's teacher and school affiliation.**

9. Locals and Districts may award prizes with the value to be determined by members.

10. The Local shall award the following prizes:

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
1st Place	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2nd Place	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

11 The Department shall award the following prizes:

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
1st Place	$100	$100	$100	$150	$150	$200	$200
2nd Place	$50	$50	$50	$75	$75	$100	$100
3rd Place	$25	$25	$25	$30	$30	$50	$50

12. Judging will be done by lay people, not necessarily professionals, with the exception of one being a professional. Judges may include AMVETS or members of one of their subsidiary organizations.

13. District or Local Posts/Auxiliaries shall submit their 1st place winners (one from each grade level) to the Department Chairperson on the official Department Entry form. If a local entry wins on the District level, the local may submit their 2nd place entry.

14. The Department shall notify the sponsoring AMVET/Ladies Auxiliary Post and District of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

15. The original 2nd and 3rd place entries shall be returned at the close of the Department Convention. Copies of 1st place Department winners are given to the students so that their original entry can be submitted to National for judging at that level.

Revised 1 September 2026

AMVETS
Department Americanism Flag Coloring Contest

Submit Department Entries by 4/1/2027 to:

Marie Kurzer
Dept of MI, Ladies Auxiliary Americanism Officer
300 S. Linn St. Bay City, MI 48706

Co-sponsored by AMVETS, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary & Sons of AMVETS

Entry Form

Please print legibly or type

Completed Entry Form with Colored Flags should be returned to your local AMVETS Post or State Dept.

Student Information:

Department Americanism Flag Coloring Contest in the _____ grade category.

Name: _____ Birth Date ___/___/_____

Address: _____Email:_____

City, State, Zip: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____Email:_____

Telephone #: (___)____-_____

Name of School _____

School Address: _____Email:_____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone #: (_____)_____-_____

Teacher's Name _____

This section must be completed and signed by the Local or District Americanism Officer. Flag coloring entries must be submitted to the designated Department official. Only 1st place entries can be submitted to Department, unless a Local entry won 1st place on District, then the Local's 2nd place winner can be submitted.

AMVETS/Ladies Auxiliary – Local/District: _____ Date:_____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone #: (____)_____-_____

E-Mail Address:_____

_____ _____

Name of Chairman (Please Print)

Signature of AMVETS/Auxiliary Local/District Americanism Chairman

Revised 1 September 2026

AMVETS Department Americanism Flag Coloring Contest Rules

Who can participate?
All students in kindergarten and 1st grade who attend public, private, parochial schools, are home schooled or are members of a youth group or faith-based organization are eligible to enter.

Theme:
Color the American Flag Template

Contest rules:

- Entries must be colored using markers or crayons.
- Entries must on the template (or copy) provided
- Local entries must be presented to an AMVETS or AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary representative by _____
  - All **Department entries** must be postmarked **by April 1. Local and District** deadlines **may vary**.
- All **National entries** must be postmarked **by July 1.**

Criteria for judging of entries:

* Use of template, or copy, provided *Neatness * Answers to questions

Local Awards:

Kindergarten: 1st _____ 2nd _____

1st Grade: 1st _____ 2nd _____



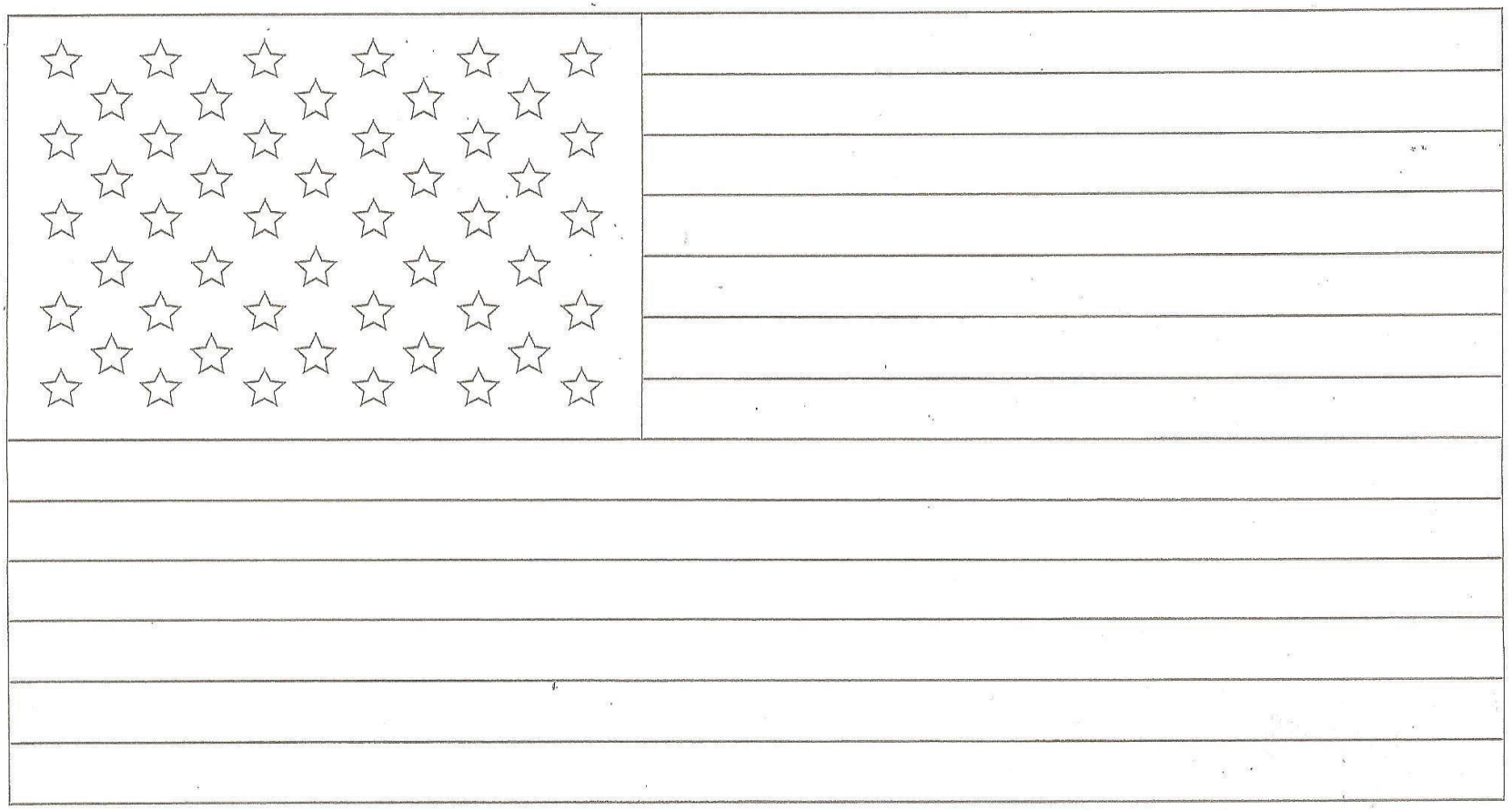
Department Awards – Money Orders

Kindergarten:	1st - $50	2nd - $25	3rd - $15
1st Grade:	1st - $50	2nd - $25	3rd - $15

National Awards – VISA Gift Cards

First Place Winners will receive a plaque and gift card.

Second Place Winners will receive a certificate and gift card.



United States of America

How many stars are on the flag? ____
How many Red stripes are on the flag? ____
How many White stripes are on the flag? ____
What did the thirteen stripes represent? _____

www.ColoringCastle.com

Revised 1 September 2026

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AMVETS
Department Americanism Poster Contest

Submit Department Entries by 4/1/2027 to:

Marie Kurzer
Dept of MI, Ladies Auxiliary Americanism Officer
300 S. Linn St. Bay City, MI 48706

Co-sponsored by AMVETS, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary & Sons of AMVETS

Entry Form

Please print legibly or type
Completed Entry Form & poster should be returned to your local AMVETS Post or State Department.

Student Information:

Department Americanism Poster Contest in the _____ grade category.

Name: _____ Birth Date ___/___/_____

Address: _____Email:_____

City, State, Zip: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____Email:_____

Telephone #: (___)_____-_____

Name of School/Organization_____

School Address: _____Email:_____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone #: (_____)_____-_____

Teacher's Name _____

This section must be completed and signed by the Local or District Americanism Officer. Poster entries must be submitted to the designated Department official. Only 1st place entries can be submitted to Department, unless a Local entry won 1st place on District, then the Local's 2nd place winner can be submitted.

AMVETS/Ladies Auxiliary – Local/District _____ Date:_____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone #: (____)_____-_____ E-Mail Address _____

_____ _____

Name of Chairman (Please Print)

Signature of AMVETS/Auxiliary Local/District Americanism Chairman

AMVETS Department Americanism Poster Contest Rules

Who can participate?
All students in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grades who attend public, private, parochial schools, are home schooled or are members of a youth group or faith-based organization are eligible to enter.

Annual Theme:
2026-2027 "How do we honor the American flag?"

Contest rules:

- All students must address the theme.
- All entries must be free-hand drawings, using pens, pencils, crayons, paint or any combination of these materials. A straight edge may be used as an aid to draw a straight line.
- Gluing pictures or other materials to the surface of the drawing is not permitted.
- The student's description of the poster must be written on the back of the poster in 50 words or less. Descriptions that are firmly attached to the back of the poster will also be accepted.
- Entries **must be 9" x 12"** using construction paper or poster board.
- Local entries must be presented to an AMVETS or AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary representative by _____
- All **Department entries** must be postmarked **by April 1. Local and District** deadlines **may vary**.
- All **National entries** must be postmarked **by July 1.**

Criteria for judging of Posters:

* Artistic Ability * Adherence to Theme * Neatness

Local Awards:

2nd Grade: 1st _____ 2nd _____
3rd Grade: 1st _____ 2nd _____
4th Grade: 1st _____ 2nd _____
5th Grade: 1st _____ 2nd _____

Department Awards – Money Orders

2nd Grade:	1st - $50	2nd - $25	3rd - $15
3rd Grade:	1st - $50	2nd - $25	3rd - $15
4th Grade:	1st - $75	2nd - $50	3rd - $25
5th Grade:	1st - $75	2nd - $50	3rd - $25

National Awards – VISA Gift Cards

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



Revised 1 September 2026

AMVETS
Department Americanism
Essay Contest

Submit Department Entries by 4/1/2027 to:

Marie Kurzer
Dept of MI, Ladies Auxiliary Americanism Officer
300 S. Linn St. Bay City,MI 48706

Co-sponsored by AMVETS, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary & Sons of AMVETS

Entry Form

Please print legibly or type
Completed Entry Form and essay should be returned to your local AMVETS Post or State Department.

Student Information:

Department Americanism Essay Contest in the _____ grade category.
(For essays please use the Review, Word Count feature in Microsoft Word if it is available to you: _____ total words)

Name: _____ Birth Date ___/___/_____

Address: _____Email:_____

City, State, Zip: _____ Telephone #:_____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____Email:_____

Telephone #: (___)_____-_____

Name of School _____

School Address: _____Email:_____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone #: (_____)_____-_____

Teacher's Name _____

This section must be completed and signed by the Local or District Americanism Officer. Essay entries must be submitted to the designated Department official. Only 1st place Department entries can be submitted to the Department, unless a Local entry won 1st place on the District, then the Local's 2nd place winner can be submitted.

AMVETS/Ladies Auxiliary – Local/District: _____ Date:_____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone #: (____)_____-_____ E-Mail Address: _____

_____ _____

Name of Chairman (Please Print) **Signature of AMVETS/Auxiliary Local/District Americanism Chairman**

Revised 1 September 2026

AMVETS Department Americanism Essay Contest Rules

Who can participate?
All students in the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10, 11th or 12th grades that attend public, private, parochial schools, are home schooled or are members of a youth group or faith-based organization are eligible to enter.

Annual Theme:
2026-2027 "How do we honor the American flag?"

Contest rules:

- All students must address the theme.
- All essays may be written in ink, typed or produced on a computer.
- 6th Grade students should submit essays of 200 words or less.
- 7th and 8th Grade students should submit essays of 300 words or less.
- 9th and 10th Grade students should submit essays of 400 words or less.
- 11th and 12th Grade students should submit essays of 500 words or less.
- Local entries must be presented to an AMVETS or AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary representative by _____
- All **Department entries** must be postmarked **by April 1. Local and District** deadlines **may vary**.
- All **National entries** must be postmarked **by July 1.**

Criteria for judging of essays:

* Originality * Adherence to theme * Literary composition *Creativity

Local Awards:

6th Grade: 1st - _____ 2nd - _____
7th Grade: 1st - _____ 2nd - _____
8th Grade: 1st - _____ 2nd - _____
9th Grade: 1st - _____ 2nd - _____
10th Grade: 1st - _____ 2nd - _____
11 th Grade: 1 st - _____ 2 nd - _____
12th Grade: 1st - _____ 2nd - _____



Department Awards – Money Orders

6th Grade:	1st - $100	2nd - $50	3rd - $25
7th Grade:	1st - $100	2nd - $50	3rd - $25
8th Grade:	1st - $100	2nd - $50	3rd - $25
9th Grade:	1st - $150	2nd - $75	3rd - $30
10th Grade:	1st - $150	2nd - $75	3rd - $30
11th Grade:	1st - $200	2nd - $100	3rd - $50
12th Grade:	1st - $200	2nd - $100	3rd - $50

National Awards – VISA Gift Cards

First Place Winners will receive a plaque and gift card.

Second Place Winners will receive a certificate and gift card.

All 9th Grade Department 1st place winners receive an all-expense paid trip (from National) to the Founding Forward at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania for a long weekend of youth-oriented activities. Dynamic speakers and sightseeing are highlights of a trip that is sure to be long remembered. (https://www.foundingforward.com/ for more information)