

**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: *Linda Klutas*
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Sectional Vice Chairmen:
East: *Harry Wynn, III*, 59 Thomas Jefferson Rd
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Inter-District Coordinators:
1-5: *Aaron Campbell, Jr.*, 60 Hawthorne Lane
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8-9-10: *James Heslop*, 3436 Green Leaf Dr
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11-12-15: *Mike Welch*, 95 Green Valley Street
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19-22: *Norlynn John*, 7430 Nyesville Road
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20-21: *Stephen Foor*, 1056 Black Bear Lane
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25-31: *Tom Shumaker*, P O Box 176
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26-27: *Theodore Minich*, P. O. Box 265
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**“DOES THE US MILITARY
RECEIVE THE RESPECT
THEY DESERVE?”**

2020

**PENNSYLVANIA
AMERICAN LEGION**

85TH 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

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

2020 ESSAY CONTEST RULES & REGULATIONS

This year's Essay Contest title is:

“DOES THE US MILITARY RECEIVE THE RESPECT THEY DESERVE?”

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.

Students **MUST** prepare essays without assistance and provide a statement to that effect on the last page.

All essays **MUST** have a **COVER PAGE** containing the following:

- **The Essay Title**
- **Student's Name, address, telephone, & email address (if applicable).**
- **Teacher's verification of Student's Grade Level.**
- **School Name and Address if applicable.**
- **Sponsoring American Legion Post Number, Name & Location.**
- **Parent or guardian's name, address and phone number.**
- **Student's signature.**

ALL essays (typewritten preferred but not required) **MUST be no less than 500** words and **no more than 1,000** words.

The title MUST appear on page one (1) of the essay, as well as the cover page.

No reference shall be made, for or against, any political candidate or political party affiliation.

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. Anything cited from the internet must include a verifiable internet address such as: <http://pa-legion.com/about/our-history/>*

DEADLINE DATES BY OR BEFORE:

1. **JANUARY 17, 2020** - Essays must be **submitted** to a sponsoring or **LOCAL American LEGION POST**. Each school may select 1 winner for each American Legion Post in their school district. To locate a post near you, go to www.legion.org & click on find a post and enter your zip code
2. **JANUARY 31, 2020** - 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).
3. **FEBRUARY 21, 2020**, - The "District's" winning essay shall be forwarded to the appropriate **INTER-DISTRICT ESSAY COORDINATOR** (as listed in the current American Legion Directory)

4. **MARCH 13, 2020** The "Inter-District's" winning essay shall be forwarded to the Department of PA Essay Contest **SECTIONAL VICE CHAIRPERSON** (as listed in the current American Legion Directory).
5. **APRIL 3, 2020** the "Sectional's" winning essay shall be selected and forwarded to the **PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT ESSAY CHAIRPERSON, Linda Klutas.**
6. **APRIL 24, 2020** - The Department Essay Chairperson shall have arranged for qualified judges who will select this year's Department of Pennsylvania's Essay Program.
 1. **PRIZES TO BE AWARDED**
The Department of Pennsylvania State Essay **First Place Winner will be awarded a \$3,500, 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 \$3,000 and a plaque.
 3. *The Third Place Winner will receive \$2,500 and a plaque.*