



“to foster and perpetuate a 100% Americanism”

AMERICANISM PROGRAM FACT SHEET

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF OHIO





Americanism & Government Test Program:

61st year of operation. Created in Ohio in 1963 as an expansion of the American Legion Essay Contest, which began in Department in 1936.

Average student participation over 60,000 students per year. Average school participation: 500 High Schools.

Joint program of American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. Americanism and Government Test Program has been awarded six Gold Medals from the Freedoms Foundations in Valley Forge.

Each year, 18 Department winners, with chaperones representing the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary are taken on a five (5) day trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

Students tour historical sites such as the Gettysburg Battlefield, Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean Veterans Memorial, World War II Memorial, U.S. Holocaust Memorial, Kennedy Center, the State Department, the White House and Quantico Marine Corps Base.

A culmination of the tour is laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery, an honor conducted by the Ohio Department annually since 1936.

Two other Legion Departments; Indiana and Wisconsin, have adopted the Americanism and Government Test program from the Department of Ohio.

District winners scoring 100% on test receive a financial award from the estate of Mikeal and Francis Golato.

Dates for 2023 - 2024 Americanism and Government Test to be given: October 30 - November 3, 2023.

Dates for 2023 - 2024 Americanism and Government Trip: February 26 - March 1, 2024.



American Legion Baseball:

98th season of competition. 46 Senior teams and 16 Junior teams entered in the Department season. Nearly 1,100 young men playing American Legion Baseball.

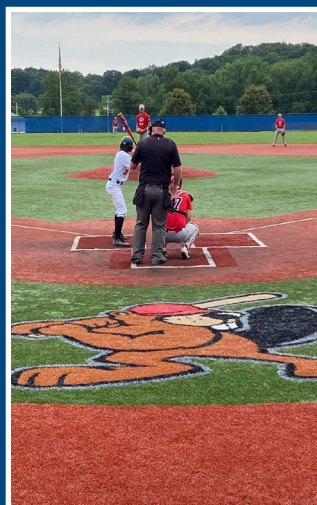
14 Junior teams play in the American Legion State Junior Tournament held in Lancaster, Ohio. Tournament is a 4-day, 13 game, single elimination tournament.

8 Region Senior winners play in the American Legion State Senior Tournament held in Lancaster, Ohio. Tournament is a 5-day, 15 game, double elimination tournament.

Winner of the State Senior Tournament advances into National competition and participates in Great Lakes Regional Tournament, one of eight (8) Regional Tournaments.

Those Eight Regional winners advance to the 2023 American Legion World Series held in Shelby, North Carolina.

Department of Ohio has had 7 American Legion Baseball World Series Champions. Last National Champion: George W. Budde Post 507, Cincinnati, Ohio - 1988.



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

I will:

- Keep the rules
- Keep faith with my teammates
- Keep my temper
- Keep myself fit
- Keep a stout heart in defeat
- Keep my pride under in victory
- Keep a sound soul, a clean mind, and a healthy body





American Legion Buckeye Boys State:

88th year of operation. Held annually on the campus of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

Largest Boys State program in the nation, with an annual attendance of over 1,200. Longest running Boys State program in the nation at eight days.

Annually, two Boys State delegates selected to represent Ohio at American Legion Boys Nation in Washington, D.C.

Ohio Department had the 1989 President of American Legion Boys Nation: Thomas Christian, Workman

Dates of 2024 Buckeye Boys State program:
June 9 - 16, 2024.



Citizens Flag Alliance:

Department Americanism Office serves as administrative liaison to American Legion National Headquarters Citizens Flag Alliance effort to secure a proposed constitutional amendment to protect the United States Flag from physical desecration.

Americanism Office provides support to Department Citizens Flag Alliance Chairman with mailings, xerox services, and other administrative services.



Dayton National Cemetery Graves Decorating Program:

51st year of operation. On Saturday prior to Memorial Day, Department of Ohio conducts program that involves Dayton area Venture Scouts, Boys Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girls Scouts, Brownie Units, American Heritage Scouts, Trailblazers, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and Legionnaires.

Scout representatives place American Legion flags at headstones of over 40,000 graves.

American Legion sponsor of "Avenue of Flags": 425 flag poles bearing the casket flags of deceased veterans, which are flown on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Date: May 25, 2024

Western Reserve National Cemetery Graves Decorating Program:

20th year of operation. Only 2nd National Cemetery in State. On Saturday prior to Memorial Day, Department of Ohio conducts a program that involves local Scouting units, Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion.

Date: May 25, 2024



Junior Cadet Week:

54th year of operation. Joint program of Department of Ohio, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary, and American Legion Auxiliary conducted at Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy in Columbus.

15 selected Buckeye Boys State delegates, 15 selected Buckeye Girls State delegates, and 20 family members of Highway Patrol officers attend a mini-course in Law Enforcement, taught by Patrol officers, which culminates in a Graduation Ceremony attended by Patrol, Legion, and Auxiliary officials.

Special Olympics:

Ohio Department active supporter of Ohio Special Olympics for over 28 years.

Department provides sponsorship monies to Special Olympics State Winter Games, State Summer Games and State Aquatic event.

Department hosts a breakfast for over 400 Special Olympic Athletes and coaches at Special Olympics State Winter Games.

Scouting Programs:

Department is active supporter and promoter of all Scouting programs, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Explorers.

There are 135 American Legion Chartered Scouting Units in the Department of Ohio with over 2600 total participants.

Department presents "Department Eagle Scout of the Year" award annually. Department winner advances into National American Legion competition.



Educator of the Year:

Department recognizes outstanding Ohio Educator at Mid-Winter State Conference annually for contributions made to the field of education and Ohio Students.

Department "Educator of the Year" award is selected from 14 District educator nominees.

American Legion High School Oratorical Contest:

39th year of operation in Department. 85th year of program nationally. Department presents \$6,500 in financial awards to finalists in state competition.

14 District winners participate in 2 semi-final sessions in morning, with 2 semi-finalists competing in State Finals contest in afternoon.

Ohio Department hosted two National Level Oratorical contests: April 1992 and April 1996.



Miscellaneous Programs:

Department Americanism Office promotes the Department "Red, White and Blue" Award program to recognize people and organizations in local communities for flying the flag.

Department Americanism Office promotes School Awards program to recognize the achievements of elementary, middle school, Junior High School, and high school students.



2023 EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR
Chris Lyons





"True Americanism is an ideology that is continually nurtured within one's soul through individual daily actions, thoughts and beliefs in what their responsibilities are to be, blessed to live in one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all."

-Rich Anderson

Please contact the Department Americanism Office for Americanism materials, information, and other assistance:

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www.ohiolegion.com
American Legion Buckeye Boys State:
www.ohiobuckeyeboysstate.com

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