

**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).

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

**Sectional Vice Chairmen:**

**East:** *Aaron Campbell*, 60 Hawthorne Lane  
Willingboro, NJ 08046 (609) 871-5618

**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  
Lehighton, 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*, 121 Race 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)*



**“SHOULD THE AMERICAN  
FLAG BE PROTECTED  
FROM DESECRATION?  
EXPLAIN YOUR  
RATIONALE.”**

**2017**

**PENNSYLVANIA  
AMERICAN LEGION**

**82<sup>ND</sup> 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 topic/title is: **"SHOULD THE AMERICAN FLAG BE PROTECTED FROM DESECRATION? EXPLAIN YOUR RATIONALE."**
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 topic/title
  - Name, address, telephone, & email address (if applicable) of contestant.
  - Sponsoring American Legion Post number, name & location.
  - Parent or guardian name.
4. The topic/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** certify that essays are prepared without assistance. Certification not provided will result in disqualification.
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 17, 2017.**
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 January 31, 2017.**
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 **February 14, 2017.**
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 **March 14, 2017.**
16. The "**Sectional**" winning essay shall be selected and forwarded to the Pennsylvania Department Essay Chairperson, Tom Shumaker, no later than **April 4, 2017.**

The Department Essay Chairperson shall arrange for qualified judges who will select this year's Department of Pennsylvania Essay program finalist no later than **April 18, 2017.**

### **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.