Young Voices, Bright Futures

2026–2027 Youth Contest Parent & Scout Information Packet

American Legion Post 15 + American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 | Dade City, Florida

Welcome, families! We invite eligible students from Scouting groups, public and private schools, and homeschool families to participate. You do not need to belong to a Scout troop or the American Legion Family. Each contest has its own eligibility rules.

Local dates at a glance

Contest	Who	Local deadline
Oratorical (Post 15)	Eligible high-school-level students, under 20	December 23, 2026 — sign up
Americanism Essay (Auxiliary)	Grades 3–12; special-needs class	February 1, 2027 — submit essay
Poppy Poster (Auxiliary)	Grades 2–12; special-needs class	April 1, 2027 — submit poster

These are local dates set by Post 15 / Unit 15, not Department or National deadlines. Contact the organizers for the submission location and contest-specific arrangements.

How to use this packet

- Choose a contest, then read the complete requirements and official rules linked in that section.
- Contact the local organizer before delivering an entry; local drop-off details are still to be supplied.
- Keep a photograph or copy of your student's work. Complete any required official contest forms.

Questions or ready to submit? Visit flpost15.org and select "Contact Us".

🌺 Poppy Poster Contest

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 | Local deadline: APRIL 1, 2027

Create an original remembrance-poppy poster honoring veterans. Other youth groups may participate under direct Unit supervision when schools do not conduct the activity.

Classes

Class	Eligible grades
I	2–3
II	4–5
III	6–7
IV	8–9
V	10–11
VI	12
VII	Students with special needs as defined by the official rules

Poster rules — parent checklist

- Use 11 × 14-inch poster BOARD, not drawing paper.
- Include a RED poppy and the exact words “American Legion Auxiliary” in the poster design.
- Add a fitting slogan of no more than 10 words. “a,” “and,” “an,” and “the” do not count; “buddy” and “buy” are prohibited.
- Only ONE student may create the poster. Do not use the veteran-made poppy label “In Memoriam.”
- Permitted media: watercolor, crayon, powder/oil paint, handmade paper cutouts, ink or textures, acrylic, pencil, marker.
- A U.S. flag is permitted if depicted consistently with the Flag Code.
- Write in ink on the BACK of the poster: contest class, student name, address, age, grade, and Department of Florida. Do not attach a separate label.

Judging and ownership

50% poster appeal (layout, message, originality) • 40% artistic ability (design/color) • 10% neatness.

Entries become American Legion Auxiliary property and may not be returned. Submission grants nonexclusive publication/reproduction rights, including use of the student’s name and artwork, as described in the official rules. Photograph your poster before submitting.

Official rules:
https://member.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Programs/Poppy_Poster_Contest_Rules.pdf

🇺🇸 Americanism Essay Contest

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 | Local deadline: FEBRUARY 1, 2027

2026–2027 official essay title

“How can you be a beacon of light for our veterans?”

Students in public, private, and homeschool settings are invited, subject to the official grade divisions.

Class	Grades	Essay length
I	3–4	150–250 words
II	5–6	250–300 words
III	7–8	350–400 words
IV	9–10	450–500 words
V	11–12	450–500 words
VI	Students with special needs	Corresponds to student’s grade

Essay rules — parent checklist

- Write an original essay answering the exact annual title.
- Type the essay in 12-point Arial or Times New Roman with 1-inch margins on all sides.
- Student must print or sign their name on the last page, even with a cover sheet.
- Include the OFFICIAL essay cover sheet as the first page, completed with parent information and the teacher’s signature.
- Include the student’s mailing address for possible national awards.
- Do not use AI to create the essay: AI-generated essays are disqualified.
- Essays are judged on grammar, spelling, content, and following directions.

Awards and next steps

Unit awards vary. Department awards are offered by class; the official 2026–2027 sheet lists $50 for each national divisional class winner and a $50 scholarship-fund honorarium in the student’s name.

Official Florida instructions: https://alafl.org/wp-content/uploads/Americanism_Essay_Contest_Info_2026-20271-Adobe-cloud-storage.pdf

Forms and rubric: https://alafl.org/americanism/

Ask Unit 15 for the official cover sheet and how to submit your finished essay.

🎤 American Legion Oratorical Contest

American Legion Post 15 | Local sign-up deadline: DECEMBER 23, 2026

This is an American Legion contest coordinated through Post 15, not an Auxiliary essay contest. Students speak about the U.S. Constitution and the responsibilities of citizenship.

Who is eligible?

- High-school-level curriculum, generally grades 9–12, including eligible public, private, parochial, military, and homeschool students.
- Under age 20 on the date of the national contest.
- Florida resident and U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.
- Students must meet all current Florida eligibility rules, including enrollment rules; certain early graduates may qualify.

What students prepare

- An original, memorized 8–10 minute prepared speech on the U.S. Constitution, emphasizing duties and obligations of citizenship.
- A 3–5 minute speech on an assigned constitutional topic; consult the current student manual for preparation procedures and the four assigned topics.
- Wear appropriate business attire. Uniforms are not permitted.

Florida competition timeline

Level	2026–2027 timing
Post	December 1, 2026–January 17, 2027
District	January 18–February 7, 2027
Area	February 8–21, 2027
State	March 13, 2027, Orlando

Post 15's actual local contest date and location will be provided by its contest chairman. Signing up by December 23 is not the same as submitting a finished speech.

Official resources for families

- Overview: https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/oratorical-competition/about/
- Eligibility and regulations: https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/oratorical-competition/regulations/
- 2026–2027 student manual, assigned topics, forms: https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/oratorical-competition/resources/
- Florida contest dates: https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/oratorical-competition/contest-dates/

Parent / Student Interest Form

Complete one per student and return to the local organizer. This is a contact/interest form, not a substitute for any required official entry form.

Student full name: _____

Grade: _____ Age: _____ School / homeschool / Scout group: _____

Parent/guardian: _____

Parent email: _____

Parent phone: _____

I am interested in:

☐ Poppy Poster (April 1) ☐ Americanism Essay (February 1) ☐ Oratorical (sign up December 23)

Before submitting

☐ We have read the official rules and confirmed eligibility.

☐ We have checked the applicable local deadline and drop-off instructions.

☐ We have obtained any official cover sheet or registration information.

☐ We understand the Poppy Poster publication and ownership conditions if entering that contest.

Parent/guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Local contact / return instructions: _____

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Questions? Contact American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 (Poppy and Americanism) or American Legion Post 15 (Oratorical), Dade City, Florida.

Service, Not Self.