



AMERICANISM  
SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION  
2025-2026

As we hear so often, "Americanism is an unfailing love of country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the Flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity".

From the time we were small, we learned Patriotism begins at home, and we now teach our children and grandchildren the value of Patriotism. The beauty of this Flag is what we should be proud of, respect it, remain loyal to it, and motivate others to do the same.

This year, I encourage you to promote even more patriotism than ever before. Share its importance with others and display the American Flag. Take advantage of the information I've included in your packets about organizing and observing holidays.

Educate and involve our older students in appropriate flag etiquette. Introduce them to the 13 folds and explain what each fold means. Help spread awareness and significance of the American Flag by working with schools. Kindergartners can take part in a "Pledge of Allegiance" ceremony, which can be rewarded with an American flag and award certificate. In the eyes of our future leaders, this gesture will mean a lot.

Honor our Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action (say their names). The bravery they showed while serving our country deserves to be recognized. Did you know there are more than 81,000 servicemen and women still unaccounted for? A ceremony should be held on the third Friday of September in their honor with the Missing Man Table.

It is your responsibility as Patriotic Instructor to educate members and ensure proper etiquette within your organization. Explore the Malta/Member resources to learn about the Auxiliary traditions.

Participate in community events. Recognize an outstanding member of the community or a business for taking the time to display the flag of our nation. Families and Auxiliary members should be encouraged to attend and to continue supporting patriotism. Include government officials, law enforcement, and firefighters in the celebration, and recognize their patriotism and dedication.

Take part in the Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher program. Find out which teacher(s) in your area deserve special recognition for their commitment to teaching Americanism and instilling patriotism in their students with the help of your post members.

Please use the hashtag Promote#AuxiliaryPatriotism along with #vfwaux on all social media posts. Diana Russell-Milton, our National Ambassador, will have a chance to see what you are doing with your program. I would like to share the wonderful things the Department of Washington is doing to support our Americanism and Patriotism program.

Let's kick-start this year with positives within ourselves and our Auxiliaries. Be proud to be an American and display your patriotism whenever you can, and "Let's Keep the Home Fires Burning"

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