



# AMVETS National Americanism Essay Contest Rules



## Who can participate?

All students in the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th\*, 10th\*, 11th, and 12th grades who attend public, private, parochial schools, or homeschooled are eligible to enter. You may also enlist members of any youth organizations, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, and others to participate.

## Theme:

“What does it mean to be an American?”

## Contest rules:

- All students’ entries must address the current theme.
- Essays must be typed in 12 Font, Times New Roman, and doubled spaced
- Place your name, state, and grade on the back of the entry.
- **6th Grade essays: 200 words or less.**
- **7th and 8th Grade: essays 300 words or less.**
- **9th and 10th Grade: essays 400 words or less.**
- **11th and 12th Grade essays 500 words or less.**
- All entries must be sent to the AMVETS Department of Washington and postmarked no later than **April 15, 2026**.
- Entries without a complete contest form, to include the proper signatures and a legible address for the Department will not be considered for judging.

## Criteria for judging Posters:

- Originality
- Literary Composition
- Creativity
- Adherence to Theme

### AMVETS National Winners

**First** place winners will receive a plaque and gift card  
**Second** place winners will receive a certificate and a gift card

**\*9th & 10th Grade:** The AMVETS Department of Washington will send the 1st place winners to the AMVETS National Service Foundation who will sponsor the First-Place 9th or 10th Grade Department winner for an all-expense-paid trip to Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania ([www.ffvf.org](http://www.ffvf.org)). The four-day weekend will have lots of fun, educational, youth-oriented activities with dynamic speakers and sightseeing are the highlights of a trip that is sure to be long remembered.

Departments are welcome to sponsor other deserving 9th or 10th grade students to join in this adventure.

Students must meet the requirements for airline travel, and Freedoms Foundation in order to participate. Please contact National Programs regarding additional students.

**\*\*Department Commanders:** Indicate on the nomination form if the 9th or 10th grader is nominated to go to Freedoms Foundation. **AMVETS sponsors only one student per Department.** Registration packets from AMVETS and Freedoms Foundation will be available online in August.



# AMVETS National Americanism

## Essay Contest

### Entry Form

Co-Sponsored by AMVETS and AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary

Please print legibly or type.

Completed Entry Form and Colored Flags **must be** returned to:

AMVETS Post 1,

ATTN: Danette Gundy, 2nd Vice Chair Commander, 5717 S Tyler St, Tacoma, WA 98409



#### Student Section

*Name and grade printed on the back of project for fair judging*

Student's Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Student

Student Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Parent or Guardian Information

Name of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#### School/Organization Information

Name of School/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Teachers Information

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's School Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### FOR AMVETS DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Complete this section and submit to AMVETS National Programs Department by July 1, 2026

NOTE: This section **must be** completed and signed by the Department Americanism Officer, Commander, or Executive Director/Adjutant. Flag Coloring entries must be submitted to the designated Department official. **Only 1st place** Department entries can be submitted to National Programs Department.

The attached 1st Place Flag Coloring entry is submitted by:  AMVETS or  Ladies Auxiliary

Department & Post #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name & Title

Signature of AMVETS/Auxiliary Americanism Chair

#### All awards will be sent to the Department

**\*\*Yes**, this student is nominated to go to the Freedoms Foundation Conference to be sponsored by NSF.

**\*\*** The Department must contact the National Programs Department for nomination forms for additional student(s).

Approved by Department Commander: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_