

## EDUCATION

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In 1986, the President of the United States signed a proclamation declaring the "Rose" as the national floral emblem – a symbol of life, love, faith, devotion, beauty and eternity, for the love of mankind and God, and for the love of country. Life has not always been a bed of roses for our Veterans, who have defended and preserved our fundamental rights with every step through history. It is with gratitude and responsibility that we promote educational activities to both children and adults. This can be accomplished through participation in public library programs, classroom activities, literacy programs and merit award promotions. The result will be competent citizens, leaders and future educators of our form of government, our American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.

- **National Education Week** – take the opportunity to say "thank you" to the teachers in your community who have kept the "faith" and continue to serve our youth.
- **Adult Literacy Programs** - volunteers are needed in many communities.
- **Veterans in the Classroom** – a first hand history lesson, one-on-one, can have a tremendous impact – encourage your Post to become involved.
- **Read Across America** – plan activities around Dr. Seuss' birthday March 2, 2008. Volunteer at your local schools or public library. Read to a child – read to an adult.

Special resource tools are available to help you work through the educational garden.

### **National Emblem Sales – P.O. Box 1050 – Indianapolis, IN 46206-1050**

For information or a catalog call 1-888-453-4466

1. Comic Books: Veterans, Our Country's Flag, Pledge of Allegiance, and Light of Liberty Comic Books. World Geography Coloring & Activity Book.
2. "America's Veteran's" DVD designed for students and educators – it will help to answer the question "What does Veteran's Day mean to you?", "Knowledge in a Nutshell on America", Flag Education DVD designed for grades 5-9.
3. "Need a Lift?" booklet – scholarship and financial aid handbook for students.
4. Guide for Parents and Students – brochure to help parents and students to plan for future education.
5. Flag Code booklets – illustrates and describes the correct way to display the American Flag. Also Declaration of Independence and the Constitution brochure.
6. "Know Your America", a 90-page study course in Americanism.
7. Certificates of Appreciation and Participation are also available.

Contests and Awards will be announced in a fall or spring mailing, the ALA Communiqué or announced at the Mid-Winter Conference. Keep a calendar record of your activities for your annual report.

President's Award for Excellence – An award will be given to the Unit submitting the best overall program for the year 2007-2008. Reports must be type written, in narrative form, and not exceed 1,000 words. Entries must include the name of the Department, Unit, name and address of the Unit Chairman. No newspaper clippings, folders, or scrapbooks are to be included. Please send this report along with the Annual Report to the Department Office, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, IA 50309.



## Department of Iowa Merit Awards for 2007-2008



**Iowa Merit Awards** (formerly Iowa Scholarship Awards). By unanimous approval by resolution at the Iowa Department Convention July 14, 2007, all reference to Scholarship Awards will now be referred to as "Merit Awards". These awards are to assist Iowa youth in obtaining a college, university, professional, nursing, trade school, commercial or vocational education in an accredited school operated within the State of Iowa. All winners shall be chosen by the Department of Education Chairman and Merit Award Judges from the applications received by the given date, based on the required qualifications listed herewith. The merit award money is sent to the recipient school for the second semester of the freshman year. It is the student's responsibility to notify the American Legion Auxiliary office of the date of the start of the second semester. If the student is an upper classman, the merit award money can be awarded for the next school semester. The Iowa American Legion Auxiliary offers the following Merit Awards:

- **Mary Virginia Macrae Memorial Merit Award:** a \$400 nurses training merit award shall be given annually by the Iowa Department of American Legion Auxiliary in memory of the late Mary Virginia Macrae, who served as the first Department President of this organization. A sketch of Mrs. Macrae's life and interest in the Auxiliary activities shall accompany the \$400 payment.
- **Harriet Hoffman Memorial Merit Award:** A \$400 teacher training merit award shall be given annually by the Iowa Department of the American Legion Auxiliary in memory of the late Harriet Hoffman, who established the education and merit award program. A sketch of Mrs. Hoffman's life and interest in the Auxiliary activities shall accompany the \$400 payment.
- **Department Merit Awards:** There are 10 merit awards for \$300 each. No applicant shall receive this award more than twice. Upon the death of a Past Department President, a merit award will be given in her honor, and shall be for a period of one year, only.
- **Past President's Merit Award:** The number of \$300 Past President's Merit Awards will be determined by the contributions received each year by the Past Presidents' Merit Award Fund.

**MERIT AWARD ELIGIBILITY RULES** – The applicant must be a veteran or the parent, spouse, widow, son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, great grandson, great-granddaughter of a veteran and a resident of Iowa. The American Legion Auxiliary Merit Award Application Form must be used to apply for all the merit awards administered by the Iowa American Legion Auxiliary. This form may be obtained from the Iowa American Legion Auxiliary and on the web site. Only one application shall be submitted on each form. Forms may be copied. The completed form must be postmarked by June 1, 2008 and sent to Diana Shadduck, Education Chairman, 1205 E Avenue East, Oskaloosa, IA 52577.

**Scholastic Records:** The applicant must be a high school graduate. Graduating seniors shall submit a transcript of high school grades, rank in class, and composite score on a standardized test. Applicants who are currently college students need to submit only applicable college records. Applicants who have been out of school for 4 or more years may submit any of the above materials or additional personal references.

**Essay:** The applicant must submit an original essay consisting of not more than **400** words which will give insight into one's personality and express the qualities one wants to be known and be remembered by in one's chosen field.

**Letters of Recommendation:** Applicant shall submit 3 letters of recommendation; one from a Unit or Post verifying the applicant's eligibility; one from his/her school; and one from a business or professional person, clergy, or community leader indicating the applicant's character, patriotism, leadership, etc.

**Personal Information:** Applicant shall submit a photograph of oneself and the name and location of the school in which the applicant is or is to be enrolled.

**National Merit (Scholarship) Awards Forms** will be available from the Department Office, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, IA 50309 after January 1, 2008. Deadline for those completed forms to be returned to the Department Office is April 1, 2008. Any changes and more information will be available at a later date.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
2008 IOWA DEPARTMENT MERIT AWARD APPLICATION**



1. Name \_\_\_\_\_
2. Birth date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_
3. Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Parent/Guardian Addresses \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are you a member of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion? Circle those that apply.
6. List the Veteran's name under who you qualify \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is your relationship to that Veteran? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Parent(s) or Guardian(s) occupation \_\_\_\_\_
9. How many persons in the family? \_\_\_\_\_ Number of dependent children? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What education do you have and where was it obtained?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. List up to 10 of your activities and awards.
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_
  - d) \_\_\_\_\_
  - e) \_\_\_\_\_
  - f) \_\_\_\_\_
  - g) \_\_\_\_\_
  - h) \_\_\_\_\_
  - i) \_\_\_\_\_
  - j) \_\_\_\_\_
12. Name and location of school in Iowa in which you wish to enroll: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Course of study you will pursue: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. Do you expect to work to assist yourself while in school? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

15. If you do plan to work, what type of work? \_\_\_\_\_

16. What other income resources do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

17. My letters (not a form) of recommendation are from the following people:

- American Legion Auxiliary Unit OR American Legion Post verifying the applicant's eligibility.
- School
- Business/Professional/Clergy/Community leader, indicating the applicant's character, patriotism, leadership, etc.

18. I have attached a transcript of my most recent scholastic record, including GPA, class rank and standardized test score, to this application.

19. I have attached my photograph to this application.

20. As an applicant for this merit award, you must submit an original essay consisting of not more than **400 words**, which will give insight into your personality and express the qualities you want to be known and be remembered by in your chosen field.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to answer all questions and submit ALL requested material. All must be included in proper grammatical form, with correct spelling and punctuation or they will not be considered. Please read and review both the rules and this form before submitting your application.

This merit award will be awarded to any student currently enrolled in college or will be a college student in the coming year.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Telephone Number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Application must be postmarked by June 1, 2008 and mailed to:

Diana Shadduck, Education Chairman  
1205 E Avenue East  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

I would like to be considered for Merit Awards as indicated below. This will be the only Merit Award application that you will need to fill out. Please check all that you wish to apply for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Mary Virginia Macrae Memorial Nursing Merit Award - \$400.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Harriet Hoffman Memorial Teaching Merit Award - \$300.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Iowa Department Merit Award - \$300.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Past Iowa Department President's Merit Award - \$300.00