



# 2016 – 2017

## Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest

### **General Information:**

The purpose of The American Legion of Iowa Essay contest is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the United States Flag on the part of elementary-level students. Other objectives of the contest include the ability to gain knowledge of flag etiquette and respect for the flag.

### **Awards:**

Local and District Contest awards, if any, will be the responsibility of the individual Posts and Districts. The contest must be completed in time to be forwarded to Department of Iowa American Legion, 720 Lyon St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

Each of the three Department finalists will be recognized in the same manner as other youth champions and the top three winners will be invited to read their winning essay at the Department Convention. First, Second, and Third Place winners will receive \$300, \$200, and \$100, respectively, from The American Legion of Iowa and Iowa Foundation.

### **Contests:**

Local contests will be conducted and judged by the local sponsoring Legion Post, and the winning essay, along with certification form completed, will be forwarded as follows:

- 1. Individual Legion Posts will forward one winning entry to their District Children and Youth Chairman, with signed Participation Application, postmarked by January 1, 2017.**
- 2. District entries will be judged by the respective District Children and Youth Chairman, and sent to Department Headquarters, postmarked by February 1, 2017.**
- 3. Department Children and Youth Committee will judge the nine District entries at Mid-Winter Conference, immediately following the Americanism meeting.**

### **Essay:**

The written essay will be no more than 300 words and will be limited to one full page, double-spaced, typewritten, 12-pitch, and must be the original effort of the contestant. The subject will pertain to personal interpretation of what the United States flag represents to the individual, based on facts from the United States Flag Code.

As a resource for teachers who want to invite the veterans into the classroom prior to participation or as an introduction of the contest, Posts may also offer the classroom teacher:

1. A copy of the 20- minute video, “For Which It Stands” and it is available through Emblem Sales (Item #755.400) at a cost of \$9.95.
2. An American Legion Centennial tribute to our nation's colors, exploring the flag's meaning, the price paid for all it symbolizes, and the special place it occupies in our culture and conscience. Tells the story of the U.S. flag from the American Revolution to the global war on terrorism. Includes unique facts, historical anecdotes, and more. Available through Emblem Sales (Item #755.915), at a cost of \$9.95.
3. Additional resources for local Posts are available through Emblem Sales, as well.

### **Eligibility:**

Participants shall be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States. All contestants must be students enrolled in the fifth grade in a public, parochial, military, private or state accredited home-school.

# The American Legion of Iowa Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest Participation Application

## Section I – **This MUST be attached to EACH ESSAY SUBMITTED!** To be completed by Elementary School Principal and Parents

This is to certify that Mr./Miss \_\_\_\_\_ is a student enrolled at

\_\_\_\_\_ Elementary School, located in \_\_\_\_\_, Iowa, and is not deficient in any school work, and is enrolled for the 2016-2017 school year in the fifth grade.

The above named student is a U.S. Citizen or lawful resident? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No Total # of school contestants: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parents' Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent **E-Mail** Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

I hereby authorize the publication of my child's essay "What the Flag Means to Me" in any American Legion publication or by the news and social media for public relations purposes for The American Legion of Iowa.

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Legal Guardian's Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

.....  
**Section II**

**To be completed by The American Legion Post Commander and mailed to:  
District Children and Youth Chairman by **January 1, 2017****

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Commander of American Legion Post \_\_\_\_\_, in the Department of Iowa American Legion, do hereby certify that the above named student is an official contestant in The American Legion of Iowa Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest.

Signatures: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total # of Post Contestants

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Commander or Post Officer

\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address

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

.....  
**Section III**

**To be completed by the District Children and Youth Chairman and District Commander and forwarded to:  
The American Legion of Iowa, 720 Lyon St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309, by **February 1, 2017****

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Commander of \_\_\_\_\_ District in The American Legion of Iowa, do hereby certify that the above named contestant was declared by District Children and Youth Chairman as the winner of this Contest, and is eligible to represent the \_\_\_\_\_ District in the Department (state) Contest.

\_\_\_\_\_ Total # of District Contestants

\_\_\_\_\_ District Chairman, Americanism or CY Committee  
\_\_\_\_\_ District, Department of Iowa

\_\_\_\_\_ District Commander  
\_\_\_\_\_ District, Department of Iowa