



The top three Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest winners attended the Department Convention and read their essays and received their awards. Congratulations to them all.

1<sup>st</sup> Place (\$500) – Bently Ernst, Bellevue Elem Legion Post #273, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

2<sup>nd</sup> Place (\$300) – Athan Denton, Boyer Valley Elem Legion Post #444, 8<sup>th</sup> District

3<sup>rd</sup> Place (\$200) – Hailey Geraghty, AHSTW Legion Post #227, 7<sup>th</sup> District

Statewide we had 100 posts submitted essays, out of them, there were 4,033 entries. We commend all the youth and posts for participating.

The Department C & Y 2024 awards were presented at the Department Convention. The Most Outstanding Overall winner was the Marion Post 298, and the Overall runner-up was the Stuart Post 146. Category 1 (Membership 15-99) Overall winner: Slater Post 260, Category 2 (membership 100-299) Overall winner Blue Grass Post 711, Category 3 (Membership 300 -499) Overall winner Urbandale Post 663 and Category 4 (Membership 500 plus) Overall winner Marion Post 298.

Cindy Yslas, Chair

C&Y Dept. of Iowa

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:**

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 essays at the Department Convention. First, Second, and Third Place winners will receive \$500, \$300, and \$200, respectively, from The American Legion of Iowa and the Iowa Foundation.

**Contests:**

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

1. Individual Legion Posts will forward one winning entry (please retain a copy) to their District Children and Youth Chairperson, with a signed Participation Application, postmarked by January 5th of the current program year. If the 5th falls on a weekend, then postmarked by the next business day.
2. District entries will be judged by the respective District Children and Youth Chairperson, and sent to Department Headquarters, postmarked by January 22nd of the current program year. If the 22nd falls on a weekend, then postmarked by the next business day.
3. Department Children and Youth Committee will judge the nine District entries at Mid-Winter Conference, immediately following the Americanism meeting.

**Essay:**

The format for the essay is limited to the following: A one (1) page document containing 300 words or less, double-spaced, 12-point font, and the student's own words and effort. The essay is to reflect the student's perspective of what the United States Flag represents to them using facts from the United States Flag Code.

**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.

For more information go to: [www.ialegion.org/flag-essay](http://www.ialegion.org/flag-essay).

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