

Hello Arizona,

As members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, one of our most heartfelt responsibilities is to promote patriotism and love of country in our communities. Americanism isn't just a program — it's a living expression of our pride, our gratitude, and our shared values as Americans.

This month let's take time to reflect on what it means to be an American, and how we can demonstrate that pride every day — in our schools, neighborhoods, and events.

Here are a few creative ways to incorporate Americanism into your Auxiliary programs this month:

### **1. Host a “Stars & Stripes” Community Event**

- Set up a flag etiquette demonstration — invite a local Scout troop or JROTC unit.
- Provide small American flags and distribute them with handouts on proper flag care.
- Include a brief patriotic ceremony and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **2. Engage Youth with Patriotic Projects**

- Organize an essay or art contest around the theme “*What America Means to Me*”.
- Partner with local schools to teach flag folding or host “Red, White, and Blue” days.
- Encourage young people to research local veterans and their contributions.

### **3. Recognize Patriotic Citizens**

- Present Certificates of Appreciation to community members or businesses that proudly display the flag.
- Highlight local heroes, teachers, or volunteers in your newsletter or social media.

### **4. Add Americanism to Every Meeting**

- Start meetings with a short patriotic reading, quote, or poem.
- Display red, white, and blue decorations throughout the meeting space.
- Encourage members to share stories about their family's service or immigration journey.

This month let's each challenge ourselves to find one new way to demonstrate Americanism. Fly your flag proudly, share your love of country openly, and inspire others to do the same. Together, we keep the spirit of America strong — one act of patriotism at a time.

Heather Lyn

Americanism Chairman