

American Legion Auxiliary

29th Annual

Americanism Youth Conference

The Americanism Youth Conference offers a rare and unique opportunity for high school students to participate in a four-day residential program. It focuses on the discussion of current issues facing the United States from a historical and global perspective on constitutional law and government. Participation is by invitation only and based on application and essay.

Student participants from around the country will be challenged to articulate their views and perceptions about their constitutional rights and responsibilities as citizens while interacting and working collaboratively with their peers on various projects.

An experienced and expert faculty will conduct seminars and lead students in discussions and on field trips to Philadelphia and Valley Forge. Students will also participate in their own Freedom Summit -- working on simulations of democracy dealing with current issues facing our country and they will participate in a moot court in Philadelphia.

- Applicant Requirements:
 - Submit your application and your typed essay by December 1, 2008.
 - Secure sponsorship from your Operation: Military Kids (OMK) - State Project Director for Pennsylvania is **Susan Smith**. OMK State Project Director contact information can be found on the [OMK Website](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org) (www.operationmilitarykids.org).
 - Be a student in good standing, in grades 10, 11, 12.
 - Show demonstrated leadership potential through extra-curricular activities and community service.
 - Attach your application as the cover sheet to your essay.
- Essay Details:
 - Topic: "**Standing on the Shoulders of Giants - How American Veterans Have shaped the World.**"
 - Word Limit: 500 words.
 - Format: Must be typed and not hand written.
- Submission Instructions:
 - Submit your application and typed essay to your OMK State Team Director postmarked by December 1, 2008 to:
Susan Smith
007 Ferguson Bldg.
University Park, PA 16802
 - Youth living overseas should submit application and essay as follows: Europe to the Maryland OMK State POC; Korea and Japan to the Hawaii OMK State POC.
- Judging and Announcements of Winners:
 - Judging is done on a state or OCONUS Region Basis. Essays will be evaluated on message and content. Applications will be reviewed for extra-curricular activities including community service. Students chosen to represent their state or OCONUS Region at the conference will be notified on or before January 14, 2009.
- Expenses Paid for All Winners:
 - Students selected to participate in the Americanism Youth Conference will have their program fee and travel paid to Philadelphia paid by the 4-H /Army Youth Development Project. These fees cover program cost, room and board, and transportation to and from the Philadelphia Airport.

Resources viewed and or printed for mail submission:

1. [Operation: Military Kids Website www.operationmilitarykids.org](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org)
2. [Brochure is available. http://www.operationmilitarykids.org/resources/Americanism_Yth_Conf_20092.pdf](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org/resources/Americanism_Yth_Conf_20092.pdf)
3. [Official Application http://www.legion-aux.org/uploads/docs/Americanism%20scholarship%20form.pdf](http://www.legion-aux.org/uploads/docs/Americanism%20scholarship%20form.pdf)
4. [Essay Cover Sheet http://www.legion-aux.org/uploads/docs/Americanism_Essay_Cover_Sheet0809.pdf](http://www.legion-aux.org/uploads/docs/Americanism_Essay_Cover_Sheet0809.pdf)