

## Americanism

My name is Sylvia Carlson and I am your Americanism Department Chair for 2023-2024. I belong to Post 9076 in Hays, Kansas. I have been a member of the VFW Auxiliary for 52 years. This is my first time to be a department chairman and I will do the best I can. I love crafts, knitting, crocheting and cooking and baking. I am a retired Adjudicator for Unemployment and also a retired Personal Chef and cake decorator.

My goals this year are to learn more about all of our flags and to continue to teach others the meaning of the flags and instruct them. We need to get information out to our youth so that they can continue to view the American Flag as more than a symbol. Let them know how you feel about your flags. This would include the American Flag and the POW and MIA flags as well.

There are many resources available on the website that you can view and use. Go to the website, [vfwauxks.org](http://vfwauxks.org) and click on programs and go to Americanism. Here are a few of the things to look up.

The Americanism Program:

- Promotes Patriotism by celebrating [America's Patriotic Days](#).
- Teaches respect and proper care for the U.S. Flag.
  - [Flag Education for Kids](#)
- Brings attention to Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action by hosting POW/MIA ceremonies to both educate the public and honor these special veterans.
  - [Missing Man Table Ceremony](#)

Flag Education

- [Flag Education for Kids](#)
- [Flag Etiquette at Parades](#)
- [Flag Exchange Card-Fillable](#)

POW/MIA Recognition

- [Missing-Man-Ceremony](#)

Promote Patriotism

- [America's Patriotic Days](#)
- [Respect for the Flag letter to Schools](#)

We should promote our Patriotism through American's Patriotic Days.

Everyone should know how to display the flag, when it should be at half-staff, how to salute the flag, and disposing of a tattered or worn out flag.

Here is an example of things to use on the website for training our youth.

## **Flag Education for Kids!**

### **Don't do this!!!**

Do not let the flag touch the ground.

Do not fly flag upside down unless there is an emergency.

Do not carry the flag flat, or carry things in it.

Do not use the flag as clothing.

Do not store the flag where it can get dirty.

Do not use it as a cover.

Do not fasten it or tie it back. Always allow it to fall free.

Do not draw on or otherwise mark the flag.

This just covers a few of the things about the flag and there is more information about Patriotism also.

Remember our Patriotic Days. There are many things you can do to promote Patriotism.

Placed prominently in the front of our "Bylaws and Rituals" book is this definition: "Americanism is an unflinching

love of country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided

allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity.”

Please work with me to promote our flag education this year and patriotism. If you have any questions, please let me know. If I don't know the answer, I will get it for you.

Sylvia Carlson  
PO Box 780  
Hays, KS. 67601  
[sylviacarlson@att.net](mailto:sylviacarlson@att.net)