BASIC PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1) A committee appointed by a post commander should establish contact and build rapport with local schools.

2) Establish a series of talks with students and faculty to highlight the six qualities. Legionnaires should deliver these talks at the students level of understanding.

3) Selection criteria and method should be decided well in advance of actual elections. Voting should be by secret ballot of the students and faculty with the post committee making the final selection.

4) The entire school community should be aware of and understand the program. Suitable, local publicity should be arranged to accommodate this. The sole purpose of the program is to promote wholesome ideas in active citizenship among youth. No trace of politics, sectarianism or favoritism should be attached to the program.

5) The medal presentation ceremony should take place in conjunction with a school's award or commencement ceremonies. A school-approved speaker from within The American Legion should speak on behalf of the award and lead that portion of the ceremony. Local veterans involved with the program should be enlisted to present the award.

OBJECTIVES

I. Places emphasis on the development of the six core qualities of active citizenship.

II. Encourages the development of those ideals in young Americans in order to promote engaged citizenship.

III. Offers recognition for those youth deemed most dedicated to the high qualities of citizenship and true Americanism.

The American Legion National Headquarters offers extended guidance about forming and operating an American Legion School Award Medal program by contacting **legioned@legion.org**.

To order School Award Medal supplies:

emblem.legion.org (or) **888.453.4466**

THE AMERICAN LEGION
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
317-630-1203
www.legion.org

Artwork# 237ACV0615
Stock# 23-007

THE AMERICAN LEGION

SCHOOL AWARD MEDAL PROGRAM

COURAGE • HONOR • SCHOLARSHIP
LEADERSHIP • SERVICE • PATRIOTISM

THE AMERICAN LEGION

SCHOOL AWARD MEDAL PROGRAM

QUALITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

COURAGE
Bravery in the face of opposition and danger; determination and force to do right without public applause regardless of personal advantage. A quality of the intellect.

PATRIOTISM
An ideal of loyal Americanism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom and the willingness to defend the U.S. Constitution against all enemies—foreign and domestic. Perhaps best defined in the American's Creed.

HONOR
Highly-developed moral character; moral excellence; strength and stability of character; high standards of conduct; devotion to duty; adherence to truth; keens sense of what is right; practice of healthy speech and thoughts.

SCHOLARSHIP
Attainments in school studies, quality of school work reflecting the fine traits of industry, perseverance, efficiency and intelligence.

LEADERSHIP
Ability to lead and to accomplish through group action; ability to work in harmony and in unison with other leaders in accomplishing group results; desire and ability to fill the voids in the lives of others caused by timidity, illness or other handicaps.

SERVICE
Kindness; unselfishness; fellowship; protection of the weak; promotion of the interests and the welfare of associates; and constructive aid for the promotion of education and community.

WHY?

- Vested interest in America's youth
- Multi-faceted engagement
- Decline of civics, history and humanities
- Make active citizens of local students
- Student's school = natural social environment
- Engaged Legionnaires = topic experts
- Ongoing presence in community schools

SOURCES FOR CIVIC INFORMATION

CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION
Civiced.org

AMERICAN HERITAGE EDUCATION FOUNDATION
Americanheritage.org

U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES
USCIS.gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Ed.gov/civic-learning

AMERICAN'S CREED

"I believe in the United States of America, as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon these principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."

-William Tyler Page, 1918