

Citizenship Education Program for School and Youth Groups Curriculum Guide

Supporting citizenship education in our schools is an important goal of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and our Ladies Auxiliary.



State of New Mexico VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members conduct a flag education activity in a local school.

The following pages describe examples of citizenship education activities. The descriptions include the educational value of what is being proposed, time required, and resources needed. VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members should contact their local school/youth group representatives and share these resources with them.

REMEMBER TO PROVIDE THE TEACHERS INFORMATION ABOUT THE VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM.

Content

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2. Flag Education Appropriate for grades 3 -5. pages 5-7
3. Veterans in the Classroom Appropriate for grades 6 - College. . . pages 8-10
4. Citizenship Education Material (available from the VFW). (back cover)

Permission is granted to reproduce the information contained in this Guide

Visit the VFW Website - www.vfw.org

Program Topic: **Learning the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

Audience: Students in kindergarten to grade 2. A group of no more than thirty students at a time is preferred.

Time: Approximately 30 minutes.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. To be able to remember and say the "Pledge of Allegiance."

Presentation Format:

NOTE -

Give the representative a copy of the new "Our Flag," poster - brochure.

1. The classroom teacher should hand out the student sheet entitled "Pledge to the Flag" (see page 4) prior to the visit by the VFW and/or Ladies Auxiliary member. (Photocopies or duplicate copies will need to be made.) The students should memorize the pledge. The "Pledge to the Flag" sheet also can be used for a coloring art project.

The sign language version of the Pledge is also provided for classroom use. (see page 5.)

2. On the day of the presentation, the teacher will introduce the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members.

Prior to starting, the member should briefly explain what the VFW is, and relate what the Post/Ladies Auxiliary does in the community.

Ask the teacher to select a student to lead the pledge and be your assistant. Prior to reciting the pledge, describe the proper way of saying it (i.e. standing erect, hand over heart or the proper way while wearing a hat or in uniform).

3. Present every student with a Young American Award. (see below). Order from the VFW Emblem and Supply Department. **Product No. 4389 - per 100.....\$5.00**





Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary Student Sheet



www.vfw.org

Pledge to the Flag

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii

Mondays
assignment

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Pledge to the Flag

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



Try your hands at learning the pledge to our Flag in sign language.



Distributed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary

Program Topic: Flag Education

Audience : Students in grades three, four or five (the grade level where the study of the U.S. government/history is started). A group of no more than thirty students at a time is preferred.

Time: Approximately 30 minutes

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. To become knowledgeable about the basic history of the U.S. Flag.
2. To become knowledgeable about some basic rules of the Federal Flag Code.
3. To develop increased respect for the U.S. Flag.

Presentation Format:

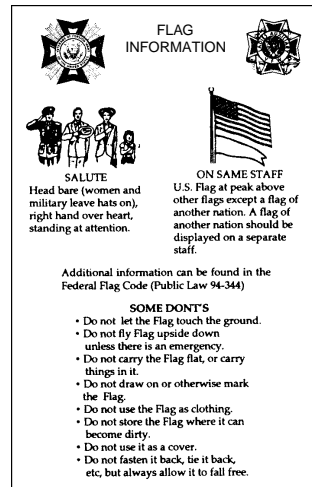
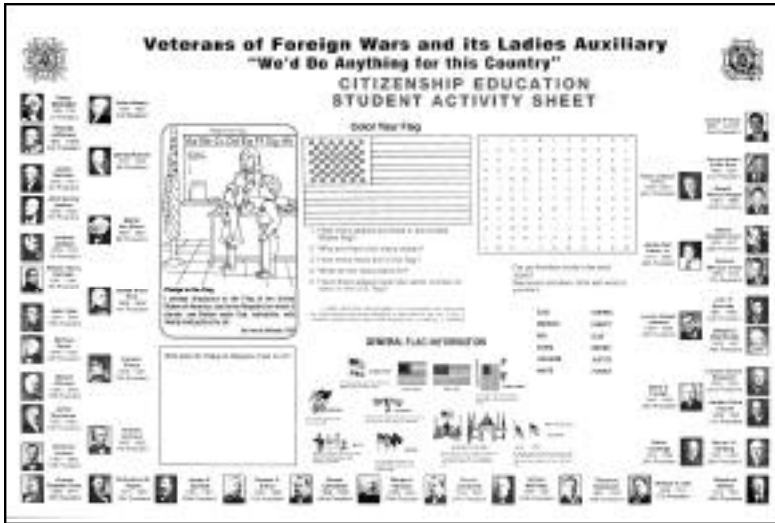
NOTE -

Give the representative a copy of the new "Our Flag," poster - brochure.

1. The classroom teacher will introduce the VFW and/or Ladies Auxiliary member . Distribute flag information sheet (see page 7) to the students. (Photocopies or duplicate copies will need to be made prior to presentation.) The VFW and/or Ladies Auxiliary member or educator will use the outline on page 8 to ensure that the basic information is covered. The outline is not meant to be read word for word. Please use your own words AND encourage students to ask questions.
2. Present every student with a Flag Education Program - Student Participation wallet size award. (See below). Order from the VFW Emblem and Supply Department. **Product No. 4430 -per 100 - \$5.00**
3. Follow-up activity. Pass out the Citizenship Students Education Worksheet. (See below). Order from the VFW Emblem and Supply Department. **Product No. 4126 - per 100 - \$10.00**

11"x17" Citizenship Education Student Worksheet

Back



Front

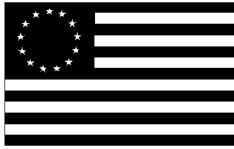
Flag Education Program Student Participation Award





Veterans of Foreign Wars and it Ladies Auxiliary

FLAG INFORMATION SHEET



Our First Flag



Today's Flag



ON SAME STAFF

U.S. Flag at peak, above any other flag except a flag of another nation.



GROUPED

U.S. Flag goes to its own right. Flags of other nations are flown at same height.



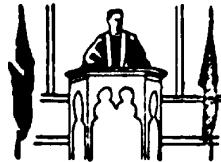
MARCHING

U.S. Flag to marchers right (observer's left).



ONE SPEAKER'S PLATFORM

When displayed with a speaker's platform, it must be above and behind the speaker. If mounted on a staff it is on the speaker's right.



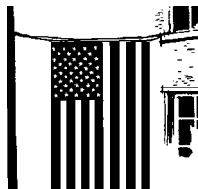
DECORATION

Never use the Flag for decoration. Use bunting with the blue on top, then white, then red.



SALUTE

Head bare (women and military leave hats on), right hand over heart, standing at attention.



OVER A STREET

Union (stars) face north or east depending on the direction of the street.



HALF STAFF

On special days, the Flag may be flown at half staff. On Memorial Day it is flown at half staff until noon, then raised to the top of the Flag pole.

SOME DON'TS

- * 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 draw on, or otherwise mark the Flag.
- * Do not use an actual Flag as clothing
- * Do not store the Flag where it can get dirty.
- * Do not use it as a cover.
- * Do not fasten it back, tie it back, etc., but always allow it to fall free.

Fun Facts About the U.S. Flag

Some U.S. Flag History

It is the fourth oldest national flag in the world. Order of oldest flags: Denmark (1219), Sweden (1495), Netherlands (1643) and United States (1777).

It is older than the flags of other major countries like the Tricolor of France and the Union Jack of Great Britain.

It was first authorized in 1777 on June 14. That is now Flag Day.

Congress first stated there should be a star and stripe for every state. Our first flag had thirteen stars in a circle with red and white stripes.

In 1794, two new states were added, and we had a flag with 15 stars and 15 stripes. By 1818 there were 20 states but our country was still using the flag with 15 stars and stripes. Congress thought about having 20 stripes and agreed that it might become a problem due to its size so they passed a law that said there would be 13 stripes for the original 13 states, and they would add a star for each new state that joined the union. And that is the way it is today.

The U.S. flag is 13 stripes, seven red, and six white, with red on the top and bottom. A blue field with 50 stars is located next to the staff in the upper left corner of the flag. It extends from the top to the lower edge of the fourth red stripe. The stars are arranged in alternating rows of six and five representing the 50 states of the United States. The stars do not represent any given state.

You may not know it now, but flags, decorations and insignia of all kinds use colors to give special meaning to the flag or decoration. Red for valor and zeal; white for hope and cleanliness of life; and blue, the color of heaven, for reverence and loyalty. And the stars are an ancient symbol of the heavens. Our flag's 50 stars represent each state as part of the nation, but also a separate level of government. Our federal government was not given the power to control, so that each state would be able to govern themselves in those things they could do better. When you look at that flag, you are looking at the magnificent history of all Americans who have lived before us, your own ancestors, the most enduring nation of free people that has ever existed.

Federal Flag Code

Notice it says code, not law. The way our flag should be treated and honored is not law, but a code that has been developed over the years. It is the standard, it is what is right, it is what each of us should want to know and follow. Let's go through some of these items by categories and see if we can put some of these in our mind. The ones that slip away can be looked at again on the sheet you have received. The sheet is straight from the code, but only the basic customs are mentioned.



Basic Customs

- Display from sunrise to sunset, except when illuminated.
- Hoist briskly/lower ceremoniously.
- Do not fly in inclement weather except when using all-weather flags.
- Display every day at public institutions such as schools or fire departments.
- Display near every polling place on election days.
- If a group of flags is arranged in a straight line or a semi-circle, no flag should be above, to the right of or on the same level as the U.S. flag. In peacetime, one national flag is not flown higher than another, so the U.S. flag should be on its own right of any grouping at same height.
- If horizontal or vertical against a wall, the union will be uppermost and to the flag's own right, your left when viewing it.
- If suspended over a street, it shall be vertical with the union to the north or east, depending on which way the street runs. So you'll have to learn your geography and map reading to do it right. (Give example for local main street.)
- If on a speakers platform, it should be above and behind the speaker. Which way did I say if mounted on a wall?
- On special occasions the flag may be flown at half-staff. That is done by raising the flag all the way to the top and then bringing it half-way down. The President of the United States and the governor of any state are the only individuals who can say when the flag is at half-staff and for whom, but it is always at half-staff on Memorial Day until noon, then raised to the top of the flag pole. It is also flown half-staff from sunrise to sunset on Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15; National Korean War Armistice Day, July 27; Patriot Day, September 11; National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7.

What must you do when the flag is lowered or raised or passes by as in a parade or when you are saying the Pledge of Allegiance?

- Stand as straight, as tall and as proud as you can.
- Face the flag and place your right hand over your heart.
- If you are wearing a cap or hat, take it off with your right hand and hold it over your left shoulder, so that your hand is over your heart.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS of the United States

PROMOTE "VFW VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM"



Greg Gomez, New Mexico VFW Post 10124 member, and Pearl Harbor and Omaha Beach WWII veteran speaks to students.



Kiyo Sato-Viacrucis of Post 8985 in Sacramento, Calif., speaks about patriotism at a school. She was a captain in the Air Force Nurse Corps during the Korean War



VFW Post 2331 member, Richard Gregorio, describes his experiences as an Army Ranger in the Korean and Vietnam Wars to a student at Fuller Middle School in Framingham, Massachusetts.

"Veterans in the Classroom Activity"

All the negative news about the state of education has placed an important meaning to why VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members need to volunteer in our schools and share information with our young people on topics ranging from flag education to their military experiences.

VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members (please share your feelings about homefront experiences) are invited to participate in "Veterans in the Classroom" month in November. (This activity can be completed anytime during the year, but is highlighted in November).

Note: The week of Veterans Day is annually proclaimed by the President as "National Veterans Awareness Week" in schools.

Speaker's guidelines are included on the next pages.

A new activity to implement with students is the Library of Congress Veterans History project, visit www.loc.gov/folklife/vets for information.

Please Note!

While setting up a program at the middle school or high school level, please make sure you ask if the Vietnam War teaching curriculum, developed by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and supported by the VFW, is being implemented. The curriculum was mailed to every high school social studies department and middle school library. For further inquires, have the teacher visit www.teachvietnam.org Also, promote the Korean War Commemoration Program, www.korea50.mil

VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAM - LIFE IN THE MILITARY SPEAKER'S GUIDELINES

I. Arrangement

The initial contact you make with your local school(s), grades 6-12, is very important. Explain how you are interested in assisting the teacher by providing a "living history" presentation about your military service during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Somalia or any other campaign period.

Select a date and time for your presentation. The teacher may wish to audio or videotape your presentation. Decide on which format makes you feel most comfortable.

II. Preparation

- A. Prepare a short biography of yourself and your military service (**send a copy to the teacher at least two weeks prior to your presentation**). By beginning your presentation with biographical information, you introduce yourself to the students and provide them with information which might create further questions.

Include in your biographical introduction:

date and place of birth
 occupation before joining the military
 reasons for joining (did you enlist or get drafted?)
 site and length of basic training
 geographical location of where you served overseas
 length of service
 occupation after leaving the service

- B. Check to see what materials you have from your military service that you could use in your presentation (i.e. military uniform, equipment, photographs, etc.). Food and clothing hold a special fascination for audiences of all ages. Descriptions of C and K rations, what you missed most from home, the importance of certain clothing items, are a few examples about what you address.

For example: An army helmet and liner are two separate items. You may want to ask the class why a helmet needs a liner (a demonstration wearing a helmet without the liner would immediately demonstrate why a liner was required). Then you might describe the different ways you used a helmet: carrying water, cooking and washing. As you prepare, allow time for questions and answers either during or at the end of your presentation.

Here is a suggested breakdown of the class time:

Introduction (using your biography)	5-10 minutes
Main Presentation (using your personal materials)	10-15 minutes
Questions and Answers	5-10 minutes
Wrap up	2-5 minutes

III. Presentation

- A. Contact the teacher, two-three days prior to the presentation, to confirm the date and time of your presentation and where you should meet the teacher when you arrive at the school.
- B. Prior to your presentation, display your personal items. With the teacher's understanding, try to create an informal atmosphere by having the students sit closer to you.
- C. After your presentation, ask the teacher to fill out the evaluation form and mail it to you (make multiple copies for use with other teachers).

Donate a copy of "Combat" a 60 page chronology covering America's wars and campaigns from the Spanish-American War to the Persian Gulf War. VFW supply product #4162, \$5.00.

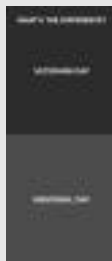
CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION MATERIALS



A.



B.



C.



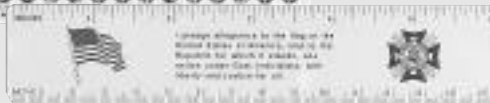
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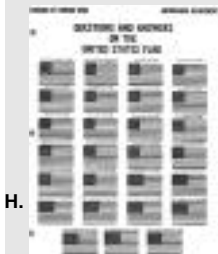
E.



G.



K.



H.



I.



J.



L.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE COLORING BOOK – An easy way for the kids to learn the Pledge of Allegiance when traveling or at home while they color. Interesting scenes tie in with phrases from the Pledge of Allegiance.

- A. 4425 – per 25\$7.00
- per 100.....25.00
- per 500.....100.00

YOUNG AMERICAN AWARD – I LEARNED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE CERTIFICATE – For Grades K – 3.

- B. 4389 – per 100\$5.00

MEMORIAL DAY/VETERANS DAY POSTER/BROCHURE– Colorful, dramatic, encourages young people and adults to remember these veterans related holidays through background information and suggested activities. Buy a supply large enough for classrooms and community locations.

- C. 4160 – per 25\$7.50

VFW COMBAT CHRONOLOGY–This 60-page combat chronology covers America's overseas wars and campaigns from the Spanish-American War to the Persian Gulf War. Perfect for use in classrooms and libraries.

- D. 4162 – single\$5.00
- package of 2575.00

"OUR FLAG" BROCHURE – Newly updated to include a brief history of the U.S. Flag, in poster form, and the Federal Flag Code. (Distribute to educators and community groups.)

- E. 4417 – per 25\$7.50

PENCILS – White pencils with Pledge of Allegiance, and U.S. Flag.

- F. 1470 – Pencils, per 100.....\$21.00
- per 50093.00
- per 1000172.00

U.S. PRESIDENTS 6" RULER – Features U.S. Presidents on back with both metric and U.S. measurements on front. Great idea for school activities.

- G. 4410 – per 25 (minimum order)\$6.00
- per 10019.75
- per 50095.00

FLAG QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – Provides information about American Flag with changes directed by Federal Flag Code.

- H. 4422 – Booklet, 10 (minimum order)\$6.00
- 25.....11.00
- 100.....33.00

CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION STUDENT WORKSHEET – 11" x 17" Red, White, and Blue activity sheet with the U.S. Flag and Presidents information. May be folded to place in student's binder. Appropriate for grades 3-5.

- I. 4126 – per 100\$10.00

HISTORY OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – A three page pamphlet of historical and informational material concerning the Pledge of Allegiance.

- J. 4429 – per 100\$12.00

TEN SHORT FLAG STORIES – A seven page pamphlet of historical and informational material concerning the U.S. flag.

- K. 4418 – per 100\$12.00

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT IT – You'll see the entire text of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence and much more. You'll find interesting insights into the men who wrote the Constitution, how it was created and how the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution in the two centuries since its creation plus much more.

- L. 4150each \$2.00
- 25 or moreeach \$1.75

(Sold elsewhere for \$2.95 each)

Suggestion
Share this information with
teachers and youth group leaders.

Call (816) 756-3390, or visit www.vfw.org
VFW Emblem & Supply to Order