

Americanism December 24 -25



Americanism Program Promotion

Department of California

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Program Goals

- **Flag Education, and Respect for our Flag**, teaching the youth and members in our community, mainly by example. - Flag disposals, etc. **Respect and what it stands for by demonstrating the Flag Code , proper salute, how to fold it, proper way to fly from flag pole and so much more.
- **Promoting Patriotism by recognizing our Patriotic Holidays and Patriotic traditions**, with the public
- **POW/MIA Recognition**
- **Star Family Recognition**



Mini Patriotic Christmas Tree Project

- Dollar store has small desk size Christmas trees, decorate them in a Patriotic theme using red, white and Blue and placing American Flags in the branches; give them to Veterans staying in nursing homes, memory care facilities even Food Banks for the kids.



Celebrating Patriotic Holidays-

December 1st - Civil Air Patrol Birthday

December 7th - **Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**

This date now known as Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is to honor and remember. It is up to us as US Patriots to educate our families and communities of this Patriotic Day in history!! On the direction of the President, all US Flags should be displayed at half-staff.

Plan to hold a ceremony to honor & remember at your meeting, at your post or in Your community!!

December 13th - US National Guard Birthday

December 14 - Wreaths Across America

December 20th-Space Force Birthday

December 25th-Christmas Day / Hanukkah

Ways to Recognize our Gold Star Families During the Holiday Season-

1. Remember the families. Families want to know they are seen and remembered. Offer part of your heart in a card, a letter, a phone call or a visit in person. No words can take away the pain. But it will mean so much to know you care.
2. Take them out for a meal. Take a Gold Star Family to their loved one's favorite restaurant or find a restaurant that serves their loved one's favorite meal or dessert. Share a meal, a smile and maybe a tear or two.
3. Plant a plant or tree in their honor. Maybe a tree can be planted in a special place the family has set aside to go where they remember their loved one. If the family member is unable to plant it him or herself, offer to plant it for them while you're visiting.
4. Work on an art/craft project together. It could be a special ornament for a Christmas tree. It could be a picture frame. Maybe you can spend time breaking glass together to turn into something new – a symbol of how there is beauty in the brokenness. Working with your hands and being creative can often provide very real healing.
5. Light a candle. There is light in the darkest parts of our lives. Remind Gold Star Families their loved one's life will always be remembered.

6. Look at pictures of their loved one, ask about their favorite hobbies, sports teams or talents. Make space to hear stories about the loved one who died. Looking through pictures can bring up so many happy memories and can remind the family to celebrate the life that was lived instead of the death.

Reach out to Gold Star Mothers and Families throughout the year. Holidays, birthdays and anniversaries of the death can be difficult. And a note or call from someone in the community can be so comforting. But don't neglect saying something on other days too. You'd be surprised when you show care on a random weekday how many surviving military families will likely say, "Thank you. I really needed to hear that today."



National Symbol

The Bald Eagle

In 1782, the Founding Fathers chose the bald eagle as our national emblem. Bald eagles live only in North America, and they represent strength and dignity.

- Bald eagles have made a comeback and are no longer considered endangered
- Wild Bald eagles can live up to 35 years, they have a wingspan of up to 7 ft. and can fly up to 35 miles per hour
- Fish is a main food source, they also eat small mammals or even snakes
- Bald eagles mate for life, both parents incubate the eggs and take care of their young

Wishing you and yours a Red, White, and Blue Christmas! Diana

