

## **Purpose**

This proposal would issue awards to American Legion posts that show excellence in membership participation, youth activities, community service and support to veterans or troops.

This award will promote membership growth, demonstrate Legion values to youth and increase the Legion family's visibility through community service projects.

Many posts may already qualify for a Post Excellence Award because of their programs and activities.

## **Criteria**

The standard to be achieved in each area:

- **Membership** – Post membership must be at least one member greater than the previous year. Post officer must attend district meetings.
- **Youth Activities** – Post must sponsor and actively participate in at least one of the primary youth programs: Boys State, Legion Baseball, Oratorical Contest, Boy Scouts or Junior Shooting Sports.
- **Community Service** – Post must organize a community-service project that involves Legion family members. A large range of potential projects exists; a post could focus on a Children & Youth service or fulfill a strictly local need. A monetary donation may be part of the project, but it does not constitute an entire project.
- **Service to troops or veterans** – Post must organize a project supporting troops or veterans, which involves Legion family members outside the post. Projects could include Legion programs like the Family Support Network or Heroes to Hometowns. Or they could simply help a local veteran with needed improvements to a home. A monetary donation may be part of the project, but it does not constitute an entire project.

## **Certification**

District commanders must certify posts as having fulfilled the four specified criteria. District commanders will submit a list of posts meeting the criteria to department headquarters. That list should include the post name, post number, address and commander's name. Ideally, the last two criteria are accompanied with copies of press releases submitted to local media, raising awareness for the projects. This ensures that the projects were not only accomplished but that an attempt was made to enhance The American Legion's image. The copy submitted should include a date-time stamp showing receipt by the media outlet. The department adjutant will transmit information as posts qualify:

## **National Headquarters, Internal Affairs**

### **Attn: Membership**

Each qualifying post receives a certificate of recognition, mailed to the department and awarded to the post at the proper time. District commanders whose districts have 50 percent or more posts reaching certification receive a framed certificate recognizing the achievement. District commanders whose district achieves the highest percentage of recognized posts will receive an additional award. In the event of a tie within a department, all district commanders with the same percentage will receive recognition.