

What Does Unit 218 of the American Legion Auxiliary Do?

Unit 218 is involved in several American Legion Auxiliary programs.

Americanism: We offer the American Legion Auxiliary's Americanism Essay Contest to area schools. Students explore the value of patriotism and what it means to be Americans through the contest. Once the essays have been judged at the unit level, they are sent to the district, where they could possibly move to the department (state) or higher levels.

Children and Youth: We hold an annual Christmas party for members' descendants. We participate in the Sons of the American Legion's annual Tank or Treat at Halloween.

Community Service: We emphasize community participation, including membership and volunteerism in other organizations, charities and churches. We provide Thanksgiving baskets to families needing holiday food. We also provide baskets to area veterans in need.

Education/Scholarships: Unit 218 provides scholarships to students from St. Francis Borgia and Washington high schools. It offers two scholarships for upcoming freshmen, the Unit 218 Scholarship, in which the applicant must be a descendant of a veteran in either active duty or the reserves, and the Unit 218 Nursing Scholarship for those who will major in a nursing program. Unit 218 offers other scholarship applications for advancement to the Department of Missouri

The unit donates funds to the Franklin County Back to School Fair which provides school supplies to families who find school supplies too expensive.

Girls State: Unit 218 selects applicants and alternates to attend the American Legion Auxiliary's Missouri Girls State program. The unit, area service clubs and banks, provide funds for application fees to students from St. Francis Borgia and Washington High Schools

Missouri Girls State is an intensive week of government study and Americanism training. It provides young women the opportunity to study and participate in a mythical city, county and state government designed to promote pride in America. It was established in 1940.

Legislative: The American Legion is the voice of U.S. military veterans and servicemembers selecting legislative priorities that represent the views of its nearly 1.6 million members. Members of Unit 218 are informed of these priorities in a monthly report at each meeting. Members are encouraged to contact their members of Congress to support legislation.

National Security: Members learn about problems facing active-duty service members and their families. Two members of Unit 218 volunteer with the James S. McDonnell USO at Lambert International Airport. We also financially support the USO through funds raised from our Poppy Days program.

Poppy Program: Poppy Days is the primary fundraising event for supporting veterans. The auxiliary administrates this program. Members of the American Legion Family 218 assist with distributing poppies and collecting donations at local businesses. Chapter 218 of the American Legion Riders collect funds at the intersection of Fifth and Jefferson streets in Washington. Donations go toward supporting veterans, active-duty military and families.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R): Poppy funds are used to support veterans at the St. James Veterans Home, Mexico Veterans Home, St. Louis Veterans Home, the St. Louis VA Medical Centers at John Cochran and Jefferson Barracks, Fisher House in St. Louis, the Veterans Community Project in St. Louis (tiny homes) and the Grandview Healthcare Center veterans activity fund.

In addition, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 218 members use funds to make lab robes, pillowcases, wheelchair caddies, catheter bag covers, dining vests and large blankets for veterans in homes.

Unit 218 visits veterans at Grandview Healthcare Center around Veterans Day, bringing gifts and snacks.

Other: The Washington American Legion Family also holds social events from time to time that include auxiliary members.

Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations during all wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

To participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.