

The American Legion has long recognized the family as the foundation of this nation. A guiding principle of The American Legion's Children & Youth programs continues to be maintaining the integrity of the family. To demonstrate our resolute belief in the importance of strong families, The American Legion's Committee on Children & Youth, by mandate, advocates the passage of federal legislation that would establish the Thanksgiving holiday week as National Family Week. All members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to initiate and engage in local activities during National Family Week that promote, encourage and celebrate healthy families and communities.



NATIONAL *Family* WEEK

As the world's largest veterans' service organization, the Legion embodies strong middle-class American values and forms a grassroots force dedicated to love of country, and committed to veterans, their families, their communities and the young people of this nation.

*For additional information
and family resources:*

*Administration for
Children and Families*
202-401-9200
www.acf.hhs.gov

Alliance for Children & Families
800-221-3726
www.alliance1.org

Focus on the Family
800-232-6459
www.family.org



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THE AMERICAN LEGION

NATIONAL *Family* WEEK



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NATIONAL *Family* WEEK

Societal pressures on the American family threaten its integrity. These threats come in many forms:

- Divorced and separated families are commonplace and continue to grow in number.
- Families can find themselves isolated from other family members due to the high mobility of our society.
- Military families are more likely to experience separations due to increased deployments and activations.

Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.

– Jane Howard

GET INVOLVED and make a difference

In an effort to promote National Family Week, posts, units and squadrons are encouraged to initiate and participate in activities that promote family strength and integrity. The possibilities are endless.

ORGANIZE community-wide efforts

In partnership with local government and other groups, present a family festival that includes activities and entertainment.

Or, get involved in established local National Family Week activities.

PLAN a connection-building event

Encourage open dialogue about important community issues during a family summit or community meeting.

Hold a military family appreciation event to encourage and offer support for military families.

ADVOCATE for a family-strengthening initiative

Work with officials at all levels of government to advance a position beneficial to all children and families.

Urge local and state governments to proclaim National Family Week.

COORDINATE volunteer projects

Work with other groups to improve local conditions through family projects.

Invite families to volunteer with community projects.

Sample proclamation

Whereas, the family is the foundation upon which our society is structured, and the family is one of our society's most important units; and

Whereas, life in our communities begins within our families' homes; and

Whereas, within the family unit, each individual's character, happiness, and future success are largely determined by the environment within the home; and

Whereas, since family life is the strength of our society and Thanksgiving week is a time when families gather together to share their love and abundance, it is fitting the we recognize families at this time:

Now, therefore, I, [full name and title], do hereby proclaim [date: month, days, year] as Family Week in [location], and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.