



Up To Now!

www.sdlegion.org - 605-886-3604 - adjutant@sdlegion.org

Issued Monthly from State Headquarters in Watertown, SD

C.P. Van Delist – Department Adjutant

No. 33701

April 3, 2026

- Apr 3-6 EASTER HOLIDAY Office Closed
- Apr 6 DIST 4, YTA Interview, SDHP Office, Aberdeen, 3pm
- Apr 7th DIST 1 YTA Interview, Sturgis Police Department, 5:30pm
- Apr 8 MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE- CHILDREN AND YOUTH 95%
- Apr 9 DIST 2 YTA Interview, Rapid City Post 22, 6pm
- Apr 11 DIST 1 Meeting- Spearfish Post 164, 3102 E Fairgrounds Loop, Spearfish, Lunch 12pm Meeting at 1pm
- Apr 11 DIST 5 YTA Interview, Duel County Sheriff's Office, Aberdeen, 3pm
- Apr 11 DIST 6 YTA Interview, Davidson Co Sherriff Office, Mitchell, 2pm
- Apr 11 DIST 7 YTA Interview, Post 15 Sioux Falls, 10am
- Apr 11 DIST 8 YTA Interview, Springfield Community Ctr, 10am
- Apr 12 DIST 2 Meeting-RC Post22, 11social, 12meal, 1pm meeting
- Apr 13 DIST 3 YTA Interview, Post 38, Miller, 6pm Apr 14 Commander's Town Hall 7pm, MS Teams
- Apr 15 Tax Day ☺
- Apr 15 Post Data Reports due to Department Headquarters
- Apr 18-19 SD American Legion College
- Apr 20 Finance Commission Budget Running Estimate deadline
- Apr 23 Monthly DEC Meeting, MS Teams 7pm
- May 1 DIST CDRs submit Good Samaritan of the Year to HQ
- May 1 DIST CDRs submit Educator of the Year to HQ
- May 1 Post submit Americanism Reports to HQ
- May 2 DIST 8 Boys State Orientation, via MS Teams, 12pm
- May 2 DIST 5 Boys State Orientation, Watertown Post 17, 12pm
- May 2 DIST 1 & 2 Boys State Orientation, Rapid City Post 22, 1pm
- May 3 DIST 7, Boys State Orientation, Alliance Annex, 1pm
- May 4-7 National Spring Meetings
- May 8 Resolutions to be considered at Convention due to HQ
- May 9 DIST 6 Boys State Orientation, Huron Post 7, 1pm
- May 10 Mother's Day
- May 11 Internal Affairs Commission Meeting, MS Team, 11am
- May 13 MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE- ARMED FORCES DAY 100%
- May 14 DEC Meeting 7pm via MS Teams
- May 15 Peace Officer's Memorial Day
- May 15-17 National Oratorical Contest, Hillsdale College, MI
- May 16 Armed Forces Day
- May 25 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed
- May 25-29 Boys State, Northern State University
- June 1 Committees & Commissions budget projections due to HQ
- June 1 Department Convention Go Getter certification due to HQ
- June 1 SDALPA Newspaper Awards due.
- June 1 Consolidated Post Reports due
- June 2 Americanism Commission Meeting, 12pm Pierre Post 8
- June 4 Convention Delegate and Alternate Delegate Credentials due
- June 5-8 Ride 605
- June 11 Finance Commission Meeting to draft FY 27 Budget
- June 11-14 Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall, Brookings
- June 14 Athletic Commission Meeting, Pierre Post 8, 11am
- June 18-22 Department Convention, Aberdeen
- June 18-23 National Commander & Vice Commander Visit to SD
- June 19 JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY, Office Closed
- June 20 Post History Awards due to HQ Registration desk by 1 pm
- June 21 Father's Day
- June 21-22 District Commander Seminar
- June 22-26 Youth Trooper Academy, Pierre

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Legion Family,

Spring officially started about 10 days ago. However, if you can believe the weatherman, the Watertown area is supposed to get up to 18" of snow over the next 5 days. Can't believe two days ago I was walking around in shirt sleeves. Guess this is South Dakota.

The department has held 6 of 8 district spring meetings to date. All have been well attended. Thanks to the Posts that have hosted and those that attended.

Everyone should know by now this is our country's 250 birthday. I am hoping each person and post/unit/SAL has a plan to help celebrate this accomplishment. Personally, I have committed to walking 250 miles before our Department Convention in June. I am about 3/5th of the way. I am also planning on a 250-mile motorcycle ride in one day once the weather cooperates. There are endless things a person or post/unit/SAL can do to honor our 250th. Larger posts can conduct 250 buddy checks. Maybe a food drive for 250 cans of food to be delivered to the local food pantry. Just take lots of photos and give the background and we will post it on the Department Facebook page. I had the opportunity to go to Springfield where the Post and the elementary school had a South Dakota 250 celebration by raising a 20' X 30' South Dakota 250 flag at the Veterans Park. Dr Ben Jones, the South Dakota Historian, was present and he encourages all the communities around South Dakota to have a ceremony. The flag can tour the state. I encourage each post to explore holding one. For more information, contact, Carol Howitz, the Department Americanism Officer.

I know this gets old, but I would be remiss if I did not mention membership. This is the time of the year when membership starts to really slow down. Please continue to contact those individuals that have not renewed for this this year and ask them to continue supporting the American Legion and our great programs.

Stay safe,

Kevin Hempel
Department Commander



*Legion family working together,
Involved in our communities,
Serving our veterans, children, and communities
Telling our stories.*

COMMANDER'S TOWNHALL

Commander Hempel will be holding a virtual townhall on April 14th. You can log in over your computer, or smart device or even call in. This is your chance to discuss what is going on Legion and find out from the top the answers to your questions. It is open to everyone. Log in information is: [Click here to Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 225 775 090 784 Passcode: N2jZoD

By phone [1-872-239-6022](tel:1-872-239-6022), ID: 532 867 600#

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
Finishing Strong – Together
 Another month has passed, and we are now entering the **final quarter of the Legion year.** Let that sink in.

👉 The final quarter. 👉 The stretch run. 👉 The moment that defines how we finish. And here's where we stand... **South Dakota is currently #2 in the nation in membership.** That is something every Legionnaire across this Department should be proud of. But it gets even better.

👉 **We also hold the #1 renewal rate in the country.** Think about what that means. That tells a powerful story. It tells us that our members believe in what we do. It tells us that our Posts are working. It tells us that the mission of the American Legion is alive and strong across South Dakota.

A Message of Appreciation- If you are reading this newsletter, it means one important thing...

👉 **You are a member of the American Legion.** And for that, I want to personally say: **Thank you.**

Now, I understand something. Not everyone can give the same amount of time. Not everyone can be at every meeting. Not everyone can be as involved as they might like. But here's what matters most—

👉 **You chose to stand with us.**

Whether you're active every week or supporting in your own way... whether your time is limited or your schedule is full...

You are part of this team. And that matters.

Why It Matters- Everything we do ties back to the **Four Pillars of the American Legion:** Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth Because of your membership:

- ✓ Veterans receive support
 - ✓ Families get assistance in times of need
 - ✓ Young people learn patriotism and leadership
 - ✓ Communities stay connected to those who served
- That is the impact of your membership.

🔥 **The Final Push-** Now here's where we shift gears. We are not done. **Not even close.** This final quarter is where championships are won. This is where separation happens. This is where South Dakota decides how the 2026 Legion year will be remembered. So here's the ask—simple, clear, and powerful:

1 Renew your membership

If you haven't renewed yet—now is the time.

2 Reach out to one member

You know someone who hasn't renewed.

👉 Call them 👉 Text them 👉 Stop and visit
 One conversation can make the difference.

3 Bring in one new member

Every community has veterans who believe in what we stand for.

👉 Invite them 👉 Share the mission 👉 Ask them to join

This Is Who We Are- We are not just holding strong...

👉 **We are competing.** 👉 **We are leading.** 👉 **We are being chased.** And right now...

👉 **South Dakota is still in position to finish at the top.**

🔥 **Closing Rally-** As we head into this final stretch, remember

this: 👉 Every renewal matters 👉 Every member counts 👉 Every Post makes the difference.
 Bill Peters, Membership Chairman, 605-360-6547

AMERICANISM IN ACTION: YOUTH PROGRAMS, PATRIOTISM, AND THE USA 250 CHALLENGE

YTA interviews will be starting soon, and I want to thank everyone who has been working to round up eligible candidates. Nice work. Those conversations and connections really do matter.

Now it is full steam ahead on Boys State applications. Let's get out to our schools and homeschool networks, put up those flyers, and spread the word. Please also ask your school principals to email parents directly. That can be one of the best ways to reach families. If you would like a sample email, just contact me, and I will be happy to send one.

Our Junior Shooting Sports competitions have wrapped up for now, but this is the perfect time to connect with your local shooting clubs to explore partnering and getting Legion Junior Shooting Sports started in your town before the next season begins.

Have you started planning your July 8 nationwide simultaneous reading of the Declaration of Independence at 5:00 p.m. CST / 4:00 p.m. MST? Your event can be small and simple or community-wide. You might also consider partnering with local schools, homeschool groups, Scouts, and other youth organizations so students can be part of this special event. As we celebrate 250 years of American independence, we owe it to the next generation to share our proud history and help them honor it.

I also have sample proposals available for anyone interested in a Liberty Tree planting in your town. Nurseries may be willing to donate a tree, sponsors can help with a plaque, and your city or Parks and Recreation department may be able to assist with planting. It is a wonderful way to create something lasting in honor of this 250-year celebration.

And how are you doing on the AL Family USA 250 Challenge? Whether your focus is wellness, physical activity, or community service, our posts are already doing plenty of community service that deserves credit. If you have completed 250 hours of yoga or stretching, I would first like to congratulate you, and then ask if you are available to help the rest of us get out of our chairs.

Carol Howitz, Department Americanism Officer

BOYS STATE AND YOUTH TROOPER ACADEMY

Applications Now Open!

It's that time of year again—when we help launch the next generation of South Dakota's leaders! Applications are officially open for **Boys State** and the **Youth Trooper Academy**, two of the most dynamic, confidence-building youth programs in the state. These aren't just summer programs, they are lifechanging experiences where students discover their strengths, build lifelong friendships, and learn to lead with purpose.

Boys State- A week of hands-on government, leadership, and teamwork. Delegates run for office, pass legislation, debate issues, and experience the responsibilities of citizenship in a fast-paced, immersive environment. **Currently there are 100 applicants!**

Youth Trooper Academy (YTA)- For students ready for a challenge, YTA offers an inside look at law enforcement, teamwork, and personal discipline. Cadets train alongside Highway Patrol troopers, learn real-world skills, and push themselves in ways they never expected. **Currently there are 26 applicants!**

Recruit NOW these programs fill quickly, and the impact lasts a lifetime. Now is the time to talk with schools, parents, counselors, and community partners. Encourage motivated young people to step forward and take advantage of these incredible opportunities.

Applications are at: <https://sdlegion.org/programs>

Let's help shape the leaders of tomorrow, get the word out today.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S INCENTIVE PROGRAM

National Commander Dan Wiley will award his national commander **Be the One membership incentive pin** to any Legionnaire who obtains two new Legion members. A new member is for the 2026 membership year who was not a member of during the 2025 year. Transfers do not count. [Download the form](#)

103% Membership Award- Commander Wiley will award his Be the One membership incentive pin to any post, county, district, or department or membership chair who achieves 103% of their assigned membership goal for 2026. [Download Award Form](#)

To qualify for the **Post Excellence Award** a post must achieve in four areas: membership, Consolidated Post Report, 90% renewal rate, and community activity. Standard to be achieved is:

1. **Membership:** 103% of Post goal. At least one post officer attends district meetings.
2. **Consolidated Post Report:** CPRs must be submitted by July 1.
3. **90% Renewal:** Of their members that were on the 2024 roster.
4. **Community Activity:** The post must conduct an event that connects the local community with The American Legion post.

Certification for the award: The district commander responsible for the post will certify a post and submit it to Dept HQ.

100% American Legion Family Ribbon

Commander Wiley will award his 100% American Legion Family Ribbon to any American Legion Family that achieves 100% membership by the 2026 100% membership target date.

2026 SOUTH DAKOTA EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Nominations Now Open! It's time to shine a spotlight on the incredible teachers who are shaping South Dakota's future! The Dept Education Committee is calling on all local Posts to partner with their area schools and find that educator worthy of the title **South Dakota Educator of the Year** for the 2025–2026 school year.

Every community has that one teacher who goes above and beyond—who inspires, motivates, and makes a lasting impact. *This is your chance to help them get the recognition they deserve.*

How It Works...

- Local Posts should work directly with their schools to find exceptional candidates.
- Submit your nominee to your **District Commander** before your Spring District Meeting.
- District Commanders forward district selections to Dept HQ **no later than May 1, 2026.**

Learn More- Full program details and nomination materials are available at: <https://sdlegion.org/educator-of-the-year>

Let's celebrate the educators who pour their hearts into our youth every day. Start the conversation in your community and help us honor South Dakota's best!

THE RACE IS ON FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS...

Post 15 endorses Bill Peters for Dept Commander.
 Post 164 endorses Fred Nelson for National Executive Committee
 Post 3 endorses Doug Feltman for Alt National Executive Committee
 Post 154 endorses Shane Lamer for Eastern Dept Vice Commander
 Post 315 endorses Marv Tisdall for Western Dept Vice Commander
 Post 11 endorses Greg Geiman for State Sergeant-At-Arms.

2026 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION LUNCH AND BANQUET TICKETS

A deli buffet will be served on Saturday the 20st. Ticket cost will be \$20 per person.
 Friday night Joint Banquet buffet will be roast beef with side. Ticket cost will be \$35 per plate.
 Tickets requests **must be received by May 29th, 2026.** No tickets will be sold at the event. Tickets can be picked up at the convention

registration table. One check can be made for the total lunch and banquet ticket costs.

Please make checks payable to American Legion Post 24. Ticket request should be mailed to:

Sidney L. Smith Post 24
 PO Box 2052
 Aberdeen, SD 57402

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Event	Price	Number of Tickets	Cost
Saturday Lunch	\$ 20.00	x	\$
Friday Banquet	\$ 35.00	x	\$
		Total	

FUN AUCTION AT THE STATE CONVENTION

The Fun Auction will be Sat evening at the Dept Convention in June. Net proceeds from the Auction will go to your SD American Legion Foundation, with earnings to come back to help fund the many programs of the SD American Legion and continue forever.

To have a great Auction, we will again need good items to sell. Past sales have seen craft projects, paintings, heirloom items, veteran and service-related items, food items, gift cards and many other things donated to the cause. If you build things, craft things, grow things, etc. or have other items to contribute, we ask for your donations. Your generosity is very much appreciated!

The Auction will again feature an original oil painting by the artist John Green. This year's theme commemorates our Country's 250th Anniversary, and should be a crowd pleaser. Arrangements are being made to have some guns at the Auction.

Another key to having a great Auction is to have a room full of bidders. You have supported the event very well in the past. We ask for your support again!

Jim Kurtz
 President, SD American Legion Foundation

FUTURE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AND MIDWINTER DATES AND LOCATIONS

2026 Convention, Best Western, Aberdeen, June 18-21
 2027 MidWinter, Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, Feb 19-21
 2027 Convention, Ramkota, Sioux Falls June 17-20
 2028 MidWinter, Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, Feb 18-20
 2028 Convention, Huron Events Center, June 15-18
 2029 MidWinter, The Lodge at Deadwood, Feb 9-11
 2029 Convention Huron Events Center, June 14-17
 2030 MidWinter, Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, Feb 8-10
 2030 Convention to be determined...

2028 & 2029 DEPT CONVENTION & MIDWINTER

Posts and Convention Centers who desire to submit bids to host the 2030 & 2031 Convention and the 2031 MidWinter should send that information to the Dept Adjutant.

CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM

Just an update regarding the backpack distribution project for our South Dakota national Guard members. Information is still being

gathered regarding the proposed backpack distribution event that I spoke about at Mid-Winter. Please watch out for more information on this project in May's UTN new article. If all goes well, I hope to set up events to collect donations for the program. Also I will be looking for volunteers to help with the stuffing of backpacks and other volunteers to help distribute. I appreciate your understanding while we wait for more information on this project.
Best Regards, Harry Boner C&Y Chair 605-691-4571

2026 CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS ****CHANGES****

Consolidated Post Reports have transitioned from the traditional three-page carbon copy format to a streamlined single-page version. Posts that wish to retain a copy for their records will now need to make their own photocopy or digital scan. As always you can also submit directly from your MyLegion account. **CPRs are due no later than June 1st!**

POST DATA REPORT

PDR are enclosed in this mailing. The minimum member dues should be \$43.50, or the Post will have to make up the difference. **Please return them to Dept HQ no later than April 15, 2026.**

CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTIONS

Any resolutions proposing changes to the SD Legion Constitution and By Laws to be considered at the Department Convention must be at headquarters by **May 8th.** Please send electronically to adjutant@sdlegion.org.

NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE (NALC)

The application is available and is structured for ease of navigation. Questions were added to emphasize the role of servant leadership, asking applicants reflect on their commitment to leading with integrity, purpose, and impact. Application is at <https://www.legion.org/information-center/training/legion-college>
If you have any questions or need assistance, reach out to the Dept Adjutant. DO NOT send your applications to National they need to be routed through Dept HQ. Send to hq@sdlegion.org no later than July 15th.

THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDE 605

Thurs, June 4 – 6:00 PM 6th Annual ALR Meeting – Pierre Pizza Ranch. A memorial ride to Onida for Steve Stier is tentatively planned after dinner and meeting.

Ride 605 – Celebrating America's 250th Birthday. Ride 605 is one of the largest fundraisers for the South Dakota American Legion Foundation. Donors are entered to win an original Vietnam painting by John C. Green, donated by Hugh Holmes. Donations of \$250+ earn an extra entry. Donations may be made at any ride stop, at the Dept Joint Banquet, or mailed to Dept HQ by June 12. Make checks payable to SDAL Foundation with "Ride 605" in the memo. The drawing will take place at the Joint Banquet during the Dept Convention. **Thank you!**

The Ride 605 starts and ends in Pierre: about 1,000 miles.

Contacts: Fred Nelson at fred.nelson@live.com or 605-641-7959
Micheline Nelson at Micheline.nelson@live.com or 605-645-1346

Day 1: Fri, June 5 (±275 miles) Pierre - Groton

9:30 am: **Pierre Capitol Lake:** Benediction of Bikes & Donations
10:30 am: Pierre to Gettysburg (60 miles) – **arrive at 11:30 am in Gettysburg** for Program
12:00 pm: Fuel and KSU Gettysburg to Herreid (65 miles) – **arrive at 1:15 pm in Herreid** for Lunch and Program
2:45 pm: Fuel & KSU Herreid to Hosmer (50 miles) – **arrive at 3:45 pm in Hosmer** for Program
4:30 pm: Hosmer to Aberdeen Willie Park (60 miles) – 250 Flag and 50 States arrive at 5:20 pm for photo opportunity

5:40 pm Fuel in Aberdeen; ride to Warner (12 miles) – arrive at 6:20 pm in Warner for Dinner & Program

Lodging: 7:30 pm: Ride to Groton (20 miles) Hunting Lodge (12 beds) plus accommodations for 5 couples. 605-645-1346 **Day 2: Sat, June 6 (±200 miles) Groton - Madison**

8:30 am: Breakfast provided by Groton

9:30 am: **Groton** Post for the Program

10:00 am: Groton to Raymond (45 miles) – **arrive at 11:00 am in Raymond** for Lunch & Program

12:30 pm: Raymond to Huron (45 miles) – **arrive at 1:30 pm in Huron** for Program

2:00 pm: Fuel and KSU Huron to DeSmet (45 miles) – **arrive at 3:00 pm in DeSmet** for Refreshments & Program

3:45 pm: DeSmet to Arlington (35 miles) – **arrive at 4:30 pm in Arlington** for Program

5:00 pm: Arlington to Madison (30 miles) – **arrive at 5:45 pm in Madison** for Dinner & Program

Hotel: AmericInn Madison, 504 SE 10th St. Call: 605 646-2689

Day 3: Sun, June 7 (±275 miles) Madison to Burke

8:30 am: Fuel

9:00 am: Madison to Egan (60 miles) – **arrive in Garretson at 10:00 am** for Post Monthly Breakfast (Omelets) & Program

10:50 am: Garretson to Sioux Falls (30 miles) – **arrive at 11:20 am in Sioux Falls** for Monthly Pancake Fundraiser and Program

12:10 pm: Fuel & KSU Sioux Falls to Ethan (55 miles) – **arrive at 1:20 pm in Ethan** for Program

2:30 pm: Fuel and KSU Ethan to Wagner (50 miles) - **arrive at 3:30 pm in Wagner** for Program

4:45 pm: Fuel and KSU Wagner to Gregory (70 miles) – **arrive at 6:00 pm in Gregory** for Dinner & Program

Hotel Change: L Two Lodging, 743 W 7th St, Burke (8 miles)

Group for Ride 605 \$75 +tax - \$82.78 Phone: 605-775-2654

Day 4: Mon, June 8 (±225 miles)

8:30 am: Fuel & KSU Gregory to Winner (35 miles) – **arrive at 9:30 am in Winner** for Breakfast & Program

10:15 am: Winner to Oacoma (60 miles) – **arrive at 11:30 am in Oacoma**

11:30 am: **Al's Oasis** for Lunch

12:30 pm: Fuel & KSU Oacoma to Chamberlain Veterans Park (20 miles) – **arrive at 12:45 in Chamberlain** for Program

1:30 pm: Chamberlain to Pierre (Ft Thompson, Lower Brule, Route 1806 – scenic route (110 miles)

3:30 pm: Arrive in Pierre – Capitol Lake – end of the ride

WE'RE INSPIRED BY THE COMMUNITY OF
VETERANS STILL SERVING IN AMERICA

For over 50 years, the Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been delivering peace of mind and financial support for veterans, their families, and the Departments of The American Legion.

CLICK HERE to view
your member benefits!





The American Legion Ride 605 – “#Ride605forVets”

Contacts: Fred Nelson 605-641-7959 or Micheline Nelson 605-645-1346

Thursday, June 4 @ 6:00 pm, 6th annual ALR meeting, calling all Chapters, Ft. Pierre Pizza Ranch. Tentatively, planning a ride to Onida to remember Steve Stier, following the dinner & meeting. Lodging on your own.

Ride 605 - Day 1: Friday, June 5 (±270 miles) Pierre - Groton

9:30 am: **Pierre Capitol Lake** – “Benediction of the Bikes” & Donations

10:30 am: Pierre to Gettysburg (60 miles) – **arrive at 11:30 am in Gettysburg** for Program

12:00 pm: Fuel and KSU Gettysburg to Herreid (65 miles) – **arrive at 1:15 pm in Herreid** for Lunch and Program

2:45 pm: Fuel & KSU Herreid to Hosmer (50 miles) – **arrive at 3:45 pm in Hosmer** for Program

4:30 pm: Hosmer to **Aberdeen** Willie Park (60 miles) – 250 Flag and 50 States arrive at 5:20 pm for photo opportunity

5:40 pm Fuel in Aberdeen; ride to Warner (12 miles) – **arrive at 6:20 pm in Warner** for Dinner & Program

Lodging: 7:30 pm: Ride to **Groton** (20 miles) Hunting Lodge (12 beds) plus accommodations for 5 couples. 605-645-1346

Ride 605 - Day 2: Saturday, June 6 (±200 miles) Groton - Madison

8:30 am: Breakfast provided by Groton

9:30 am: **Groton** Post for the Program

10:00 am: Groton to Raymond (45 miles) – **arrive at 11:00 am in Raymond** for Lunch & Program

12:30 pm: Raymond to Huron (45 miles) – **arrive at 1:30 pm in Huron**

2:00 pm: Fuel and KSU Huron to DeSmet (45 miles) – **arrive at 3:00 pm in DeSmet** for Refreshments & Program

3:45 pm: DeSmet to Arlington (35 miles) – **arrive at 4:30 pm in Arlington** for Program

5:00 pm: Arlington to Madison (30 miles) – **arrive at 5:45 pm in Madison** for Dinner & Program

Hotel: AmericInn **Madison**, 504 SE 10th St. Call: 605 646-2689

Ride 605 - Day 3: Sunday, June 7 (±275 miles) Madison to Burke

8:30 am: Fuel

9:00 am: Madison to Garretson (60 miles) – **arrive at 10:00 am in Garretson** for Breakfast Fundraiser and Program

10:50 am: Garretson to Sioux Falls (30 miles) – **arrive at 11:20 am in Sioux Falls** for Monthly Pancake Fundraiser/Lunch and Program

12:15 pm: Fuel & KSU Sioux Falls to Ethan (55 miles) – **arrive at 1:30 pm in Ethan** for Program

2:30 pm: Fuel and KSU Ethan to Wagner (50 miles) - **arrive at 3:30 pm in Wagner** for Program

4:45 pm: Fuel and KSU Wagner to Gregory (70 miles) – **arrive at 6:00 pm in Gregory** for Dinner & Program

Hotel Change: L Two Lodging, 743 W 7th St, **Burke** (8 miles) Group for Ride 605 \$75 +tax - \$82.78 Phone: 605-775-2654

Ride 605 - Day 4: Monday, June 8 (±225 miles) Burke to Pierre

8:30 am: Fuel & KSU Burke to Winner (35 miles) – **arrive at 9:30 am in Winner** for Breakfast and Program

10:30 am: Winner to Oacoma (60 miles) – **arrive at 11:30 am in Oacoma**

11:30 am: **Al's Oasis** for Lunch

12:30 pm: Fuel & KSU Oacoma to Chamberlain Veterans Park (20 miles) – **arrive at 1:00 pm in Chamberlain** for Program

1:30 pm: Chamberlain to Pierre (Ft Thompson, Lower Brule, Route 1806 – scenic route (110 miles)

3:30 pm: Arrive in Pierre – Capitol Lake – end of the ride

The Ride 605 starts and ends in Pierre: about 1,000 miles.



The Ride 605 will celebrate America's 250th birthday. The ride is one of the largest fundraisers to benefit veterans and children & youth programs from the South Dakota American Legion Foundation. Each donor will receive a chance at this beautiful Vietnam original painting from John C. Green donated by Hugh Holmes. Donations of \$250 or more will receive an additional chance. Donations can be presented at any of the stops on the ride, at the department joint banquet, or sent to the department headquarters by June 12. Please address checks to the SDAL Foundation, include Ride 605 in the memo. Drawing will be during the Joint Banquet at the Department Convention. THANK YOU!



THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPT. OF SOUTH DAKOTA

P.O. BOX 67, WATERTOWN, SD 57201 – TELEPHONE (605) 886-3604



Children and Youth can use your help!

01 April 2026

Greetings to The American Legion Family members across the Department of South Dakota! Spring meetings have recently concluded and now it's time to look forward to the remaining projects that require all our assistance. It is this time of year when our Posts, Units, Squadrons, and Chapters are looking to disburse some of the funds that they have collected over the year. There are many great programs available to us to choose from. The following list is an example of worthy programs that can use your support;

- Temporary Financial Assistance (Child Well-Being Foundation)
- Children's Miracle Network
- Operation Military Kids
- Ronald McDonald House
- Child Safety Program
- Special Olympics
- Make donations to support local Children and Youth activities within your communities!

When making your donations, please make them out to your department and place a note in the memo in the notes section to describe where your donations are to be directed to.

April is Children and Youth month! Now is the time when we each plan an activity that we can share with our community to help remind them what we all can do as a family. The following are some activities to consider;

- Obtaining speakers to attend your Post meetings to talk about concerns or topics within your community.
- Asking local law enforcement to do a bike safety demonstration, finger printing or to talk about internet safety.
- Conducting community projects with and for children such as creating Victory Gardens.
- Forming a Community Committee on Children & Youth to discuss current problems, generate solutions and then take action.
- Sponsoring a carnival or talent show featuring young people to raise money for a community project.
- Featuring a youth panel at a local school where participants can discuss some of their concerns.
- Using videos, if applicable, enlisting the aid of an individual familiar with the subject matter to both present it and be available to answer questions following the viewing.

Use these suggestions, or develop your own projects, but get involved. Remember, the only limitation you have for youth programs and activities is your own imagination!

I would like to take the time to thank each Post that has participated in Children and Youth programs over the past year, however we're not done yet. The Children & Youth Program focuses on **Child Health, Child Safety and Family Support** and information about these programs can be found on the Department and National web site. We would like to hear about this. If you have observed others in your organizations or if you, yourself have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help our fellow Veteran and youth. Please use the following report to log your activities and submit those to the Department Adjutant no later than May 10th of 2026. I will set up a meeting with the C&Y committee members to help determine which Post and Squadrons will be selected to be recognized for their great efforts and support to the Children and Youth within the program

- **Children-and-Youth-Post Narrative Report Post Award**

Let's help our communities to make an impact for the Veterans and Children in our community. We can make the future brighter and safer for our children of the future. If I can answer any questions that you might have about C&Y, please feel free contact me.

Kind regards,

Harry Boner, Department Children & Youth Chairman

18057 461st Ave, Castlewood, SD 57223,

Telephone: 605-691-4571 Email: hb.boner@gmail.com

Post Name		No.	District No.
Department of		Present Membership	
City		State	ZIP
Address			
Date	Signature		

(1) Did your post file a Consolidated Post Report form? Yes No

(2) Did your post participate in any of the following National Children & Youth Program objectives?

- Family Emphasis (National Family Week)
- Child Safety (Drug Abuse Prevention, Youth Suicide Prevention, etc.)
- Halloween Safety
- Missing Children
- Temporary Financial Assistance

(3) Estimate the number of volunteer service hours provided by the membership of your post for the children and youth in your community: Hours

(4) Please estimate the amount of money your post expended for administrative expenses for Children & Youth overhead (postage, printing, conferences, travel, salaries, etc.) \$

(5) Use the remaining space on this sheet to describe, in detail, specific C&Y activities promoted by your post. (Attach extra sheets as needed.) This section of the narrative is most important to your department Children & Youth committee in determining various awards.

Instructions on other side

INSTRUCTIONS

For the post Children & Youth chairman:

1. Before completing this form, complete your section of the Consolidated Post Report.
2. Fill out this narrative report form.
3. Send this completed form, and any additional information, to your department C&Y chairman at department headquarters.
4. This narrative report form is NOT to be attached to the Consolidated Post Report form. It is intended for use by your department chairman in determining post C&Y awards and validating to National Headquarters your department's attainment of 100 percent C&Y post narrative reporting.
5. To make your total report more effective, we recommend you make three copies: one for your file, and one to be mailed to both your district and department C&Y chairman.

For the department Children & Youth chairman:

1. This narrative report form should be helpful in determining winners of various C&Y reporting awards and citations.
2. This form is for use within your department. DO NOT FORWARD individual post forms to National Headquarters.
3. Review the Consolidated Post Report for each narrative received. Together, they should provide an accurate picture of each post's particular C&Y program.
4. Each question has been designated by a letter. The department chairman's reporting sheet references the same letters. It is your responsibility to transfer all information from the narrative form to the chairman's reporting sheet.
5. For the purpose of 100% narrative reporting awards, National Headquarters will recognize this form. The decision to recognize this form in no way removes the responsibility of the post for submitting the Consolidated Post Report form. As chairman of a major program within your department, you should strongly encourage posts to file the CPR.
6. To provide feedback to your districts, you may wish to compile separate reports concerning narratives at the district level and mail those figures to the appropriate C&Y officers.