



Volunteers from the chapter visit local schools to teach students about the U.S. flag.

Flag Education

The chapter teaches local schoolchildren about the U.S. flag.

Members of the Northwest Arkansas Chapter are teaching local schoolchildren about the history, heritage, and customs of the U.S. flag through its long-standing flag education program. The chapter coordinates and presents the program each year at 35 elementary schools throughout Washington and Madison counties to almost 4,000 fifth-grade students.

Arkansas code requires schools ensure students are instructed about the etiquette of the flag. The chapter saw this as an opportunity to provide community outreach by volunteering to manage the program and teach the classes, said Lt. Col. Jay Stout, USA (Ret), chapter program coordinator.

“Schools eagerly embraced the offer for chapter members to teach this very important subject,” he said.

Stout trains and certifies seven other volunteer instructors from the Northwest Arkansas Chapter and the Fayetteville American Legion. Instructors are encouraged to wear their uniforms, and they also give each student a U.S. flag pin.

“The students take their pin home to show and discuss with their families and friends,” Stout said.

Teachers have conveyed to the chapter how valuable the program is for their students. One teacher told the chapter: “This training is vitally important not just for learning but for interaction with the speaker. The training influences our students to appreciate the military, to love America, and to love their families.”

Stout added that in addition

to the program benefiting the students, it also has given the chapter positive exposure locally. Through press releases to local media, chapter members spread the word about the program. Other veterans’ organizations also get briefed about it at monthly Northwest Arkansas Veterans Coalition meetings.

“The flag education program has been a remarkable way to connect to the entire community through these elementary school students,” Stout said. ■■■

— *By Blair Drake,*
managing editor

CHAPTER VISIT

WY-CO Border Chapter, Cheyenne, Wyo., Aug. 17, Capt. Erin Stone, JAGC, USN (Ret), Council and Chapter Affairs

Note: Chapter visits are subject to change. For the latest, visit www.moaa.org/chapters or call (800) 234-MOAA (6622).

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