



Americanism Commission

"Knowledge is Power"

American Education Week - American Education Week is held each November, this year it will be from November 13 thru the 19. During WWI with men and women from coast to coast coming together in the war effort and seeing first hand so many in action it was observed that 25 percent of the country's World War I draftees were illiterate and 9 percent were physically unfit. When the American Legion was founded, this was one of their first priorities. The American Legion met with the National Education Association in 1919 to seek ways to seek standardized curriculum, including physical fitness, and to generate public support for education.

The conventions of both organizations subsequently adopted resolutions of support for a national effort to raise public awareness of the importance of education. The first observance of American Education Week occurred December 4-10, 1921, with the NEA and American Legion as the cosponsors. A year later, the then U.S. Office of Education joined the effort as a cosponsor, and the PTA followed in 1938.

This year, the 2016 theme will be, "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility," with special observances each day of the weeklong celebration:

- Monday, November 14, 2016: **Kickoff Day**
- Tuesday, November 15, 2016: **Parents Day**
- Wednesday, November 16, 2016: **Education Support Professionals Day**
- Thursday, November 17, 2016: **Educator for a Day**
- Friday, November 18, 2016: **Substitute Educators Day**

If you have children or grandchildren in either public or private schools I urge you to seek more information on this week and get involved to support your children, your grandchildren, or the children of your community, and the educators that are shaping all those lives. More information is readily available on the American Legion website

- Submitted by Jim Borgman