

Veteran's Day Patch

Developed by Troop 271 in 2016 as part of their MEdia Journey. A variety of patches are available in the GSCTX shop for purchase upon completion of this patch program.



Discover

- Research and make a short presentation of one or all of the branches of service.
- Interview a veteran or have a veteran guest speaker.
- Visit a Texas Military Museum.
- Learn the etiquette of being around an assistance-dog so that if you meet a disabled vet and his companion you know how to treat them both with respect



Connect

- Go to a Veteran's Day parade or ceremony.
- Welcome back soldiers at Ft. Hood.
- Visit a Veteran's Memorial.
- Tour a military base or a military vessel.



Take Action

- Organize, or volunteer at, a Veterans Day Flag Ceremony.
- Place Flags at a Veteran's Cemetery on Memorial Day.
- Plant Red Poppy flowers in memory of veterans.
- Write letters or send care packages to the Troops.
- Choose your own way to take action to honor veterans
- Place wreaths at a Veteran's Cemetery at Christmas

Veteran Interview Questions

- 1 Which branch of military did you serve in?
- 2 What was your main duty?

- 3 How long did you serve?
- 4 What was your reason for joining the military?
- 5 Have you ever been deported? If so, to where?
- 6 Do you have any interesting stories or memories?
- 7 How has being in the military helped or changed you?

Branches of Military Information

Army: Largest branch of military service and does land based military operations.

Preserve the peace and security and provide defense for the U.S. Commonwealths and any possessions and any area occupied by the U.S.

Air Force: Aerial warfare branch of the armed forces. Most recent branch of the military.

To provide prompt and sustained defensive and offensive air operations.

Navy: The naval or sea warfare branch. The U.S. navy is the largest navy in the world. To protect and defend the U.S. and their allies so that they can move safely in the ocean and to protect our country against her enemies.

Marine Corps: Responsible for providing power projection. Rapidly delivers combined task forces on land, sea, and air. Work closely with army, air force, and navy. Expeditionary force and readiness. Has three main areas of responsibility: the seizure or defense of advanced naval bases and other land operations to support naval campaigns, to develop tactics, techniques, and equipment used by amphibious landing forces in coordination army and air force, to do other duties the president assigns.

Coast Guard: Maritime (sea) military multi-mission service. Maritime (sea) law enforcement. Has jurisdiction both in U.S. and national waters. Has enforcement in rules in maritime law enforcement and security, search and rescue, maintenance of river intra-coastal and offshore navigation aids.

What is Veterans Day?

Welcome in autumn. Our country steps up to elections. Our view of the land flashes from green to fading oranges and yellows. Where parks and buildings raise flag poles we see our nations pride: the American flag flies! It is more colorful; hangs more prominent; and displays strength on Veterans Day.

Each November 11 America looks to the past, the present and is thankful for the future with eyes on our servicemen and women. This year 11/11/11 illustrates squadrons standing next to each other... the date is like a parade marching across a page; a phalanx of individual 'ones' standing side by side and displaying numerical meaning to the date.



November 11 the date for Veterans Day, first decided upon by in European countries in 1918. The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. This day became known as Armistice Day. A day set aside to celebrate the end of World War I. *The war to end all wars.*

Eight years later America brought the name before Congress but it was twelve years after that date before a Congressional act passed to make November 11 a National Holiday. And then...war broke out again. The amount of US servicemen that died in battle was staggering; those who survived came home changed.

Let's hear it for Birmingham, Alabama! This is a city where change pulses and takes life. In 1947 the first World War II veteran parade took place in Birmingham to honor all veterans.

Later in 1954, Armistice Day was officially changed to Veterans Day. President Eisenhower, a distinguished veteran signed the proclamation.



For a brief time Veterans Day was changed from the 11/11 calendar date to the 4th Monday. One does not mess with vets! In 1978 Congress returned it to November 11, the traditional date.

The most heart wrenching ceremonies can be heard like a symphony around the world. Our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines are interred overseas as well as in veteran cemeteries. Wreaths are laid in Paris and London. However on the steps of the Potomac River in Washington DC the chilling steps of the Old Army Guard keep vigilant the safe guarding of our military pride and taps fill the air at Arlington Cemetery.

.US Department of Veteran Affairs "Celebrating America's Freedoms"

What is a Veteran?

A military veteran is:



experienced in a trade
trained and **skilled** in their job
knowledgeable about being *on time* and *on target*
salutes the flag with purpose
wears or has **worn** a uniform
has **sworn** and taken an *oath*
has **carried** a weapon
has **polished** boots
understands what '*taps*' means
comprehends an *order*
has **awoken** to *reveille*
knows the chain of *command*
has **spoken** the language of acronyms
has **longed** for leave
owns a set of dog tags
has access to organizations like the VFW, American Legion, VA, MOAA, NCOA
garners respect when speaking of service
has protected the *integrity* of our constitution
has **pledged allegiance** to *our flag*, and meant it!

Thank a veteran today. They have done so much for each of us, and continue to do so!

Veterans Day Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Which is the correct spelling of Veterans Day?

- a. Veterans Day
- b. Veteran's Day
- c. Veterans' Day

A. Veterans Day (choice a, above). Veterans Day does not include an apostrophe but does include an "s" at the end of "veterans" because it is not a day that "belongs" to veterans, it is a day for honoring all veterans.

Q. On what day of the week will Veterans Day be observed?

A. Veterans Day is always observed officially on November 11, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls. The Veterans Day National Ceremony, like most ceremonies around the nation, is held on Veterans Day itself. However, when Veterans Day falls on a weekday, many communities choose to hold Veterans Day parades or other celebrations on the weekend before or after November 11 so that more people can participate.

Q. Who decides if a government office or business closes or stays open on Veterans Day?

A. Federal government closings are established by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Generally, when a holiday falls on a non-workday—Saturday or Sunday—the federal government is closed on Monday (if the holiday falls on Sunday) or Friday (if the holiday falls on Saturday).

State and local governments, including schools, are not required to follow OPM closure policies and may determine for themselves whether to close or remain open. Likewise, non-government businesses are free to make their own decisions to close or remain open for business, regardless of federal, state or local government closings.

Q. Why do some schools close and others remain in session on Veterans Day?

A. Because there is no legal requirement that schools close on Veterans Day, individual states or school districts are free to establish their own policies on school closings. Most schools that do not close for Veterans Day schedule assemblies or other activities to honor America's veterans on Veterans Day and throughout the week that includes Veterans Day.

Q. What is the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day?

A. Many people confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Memorial Day is a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. While those who died are also remembered, Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor ALL those who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank LIVING veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty.

Q. Why are red poppies worn on Veterans Day, and where can I obtain them?

A. The wearing of poppies in honor of America's war dead is traditionally done on Memorial Day, not Veterans Day. The practice of wearing of poppies takes its origin from the poem In Flanders Fields, written in 1915 by John McCrae. For information on how to obtain poppies for use on Memorial Day, contact a veteran's service organization, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) or The American Legion, as a number of veteran's organizations distribute poppies annually on Memorial Day. You can find veterans groups in the Veterans Service Organization link on VA's Veterans Day web page. Veterans groups in your area can be found in your local phone book. Look in the yellow pages under "Veterans and Military Organizations" or a similar heading.

Q. How can I get a Veterans Day poster?

A. Each September, posters are distributed to schools, state governments, Veterans Day Regional Sites, the military services, and veterans service organizations. Poster requests are fulfilled until the inventory is exhausted. You can download or print your own poster from the Veterans Day Poster Gallery.

Q. Can I get a Veterans Day Teacher's Guide?

A. Teacher's Guides may be downloaded. You may make as many additional copies as you need.

Q. Is Veterans Day celebrated in other countries?

A. Yes, a number of countries honor their veterans each year on November 11, although the name and types of commemorations differ somewhat from Veterans Day celebrations in the United States. For example, Canada and Australia observe "Remembrance Day" on November 11, and Great Britain observes "Remembrance Day" on the Sunday nearest to November 11. There are similarities and differences between these countries' Remembrance Day and America's Veterans Day. Canada's observance is actually quite similar to the U.S. celebration, in that the day is intended to honor all who served in Canada's Armed Forces. However, unlike in the U.S., many Canadians wear red poppy flowers on November 11 in honor of their war dead. In Australia, Remembrance Day is very much like America's Memorial Day, a day to honor that nation's war dead.

In Great Britain, the day is commemorated by church services and parades of ex-service members in Whitehall, a wide ceremonial avenue leading from London's Parliament Square to Trafalgar Square. Wreaths of poppies are left at the Cenotaph, a war memorial in Whitehall, which was built after the First World War. At the Cenotaph and elsewhere in the country, a two-minute silence is observed at 11 a.m., to honor those who lost their lives in wars.

Helpful links:

<https://www.operationgratitude.com/wishlist/>

<http://www.redcross.org/support/get-involved/holiday-mail-for-heroes>

<http://www.theteachersguide.com/veteransday.htm>

<http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/#get-involved>

<http://texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org/>

http://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetday_faq.asp

<http://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/>

<http://www.operationwearehere.com/ColoringVeteransDay.pdf>