

**Participating Students
Receive A
Certificate of Participation**

On the day of the program, all county committee members should be present. The chairman will need help in registering students and getting them to the meeting room so the program can get started on time. He will also need help to see that all students get from the Court House to the place where lunch will be served. Inviting the county officers to lunch will help provide transportation.

The period following lunch offers many opportunities for students. They might hear a speaker, hold a question-and-answer period with county officers, or possibly conduct a mock trial.

The Department of Missouri has a good supply of Certificates of Participation on hand. Please use these. They will be mailed to you on request, at no cost, by the Department Adjutant. These should be presented to students at the close of the day's activities.



These certificates available at no cost from —
**Department Headquarters
The American Legion
Post Office Box 179
Jefferson City, MO 65102**

County Government Day for Schools



An Activity Sponsored By

**The American Legion
Department of Missouri**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI
County Government**

Program

- 9:00-9:30 A.M. Registration
- 9:30-10:00 A.M. Introductions
Short talk on County Government
Explain program for the day
- 10:00-12:00 A.M. Visit County Offices
- 12:00-1:00 P.M. Lunch at The American
Legion home or other
appropriate place
- 1:00-1:30 P.M. Speaker
- 1:30-2:30 P.M. Questions and Answers
Presentation of certificates
Final Announcements
Return Home

**WHAT THE PROGRAM IS
AND HOW IT FUNCTIONS**

The National Executive Committee of the American Legion in May, 1950, adopted a resolution whereby County Government was authorized and became a part of the official program of the American Legion as an activity of the National Americanism Commission. The 1954 Department Convention of Missouri adopted a resolution setting up a Department County Government Committee to further County Government in Missouri.

This program gives high school students an insight on the workings of government on the local level. With the cooperation of the local posts in the county, the school officials, and county officers, this program can be a huge success. This program can be the key to interesting our young people in America to local government. This may be the only contact some of these students will have with the people who govern our counties. No other program takes students into the offices of elected officials and teaches them something of what goes on in them. With our young people now being able to vote at the age of eighteen, it is urgent that they know something about the person and the office they are running for.

STUDENT SELECTION

The selection of students should be left to the schools. If the school has time for students to campaign and conduct a regular election, this is fine. It gives these young people some political education. Some schools use a certain class, such as government, civics, etc. Most

small schools just select students, making sure they pick different ones each year, so that most all high school students get to participate during their four years. How the students are selected is not as important as selecting good students. Make sure they are interested in government and will be a good representative of the high school. Most young people these days are very much interested in politics and the working of government.

**PLANNING COUNTY
GOVERNMENT DAY**

The district chairman should initiate the planning. He should get each post in the county to appoint a representative. These individuals will form the county committee. The county committee will elect one of its members as county chairman. The county committee will be responsible for planning the program for County Government Day. The County Court or other responsible county officials should be contacted to see what day would be suitable for them to hold this program. As soon as the day is set, the high schools should be notified so as to get this in their schedule. It is very important to have good working relations with both the schools and the county offices. Plan this program far enough ahead so that everyone has time to prepare for it. Once this program is established everyone will be looking forward to it year after year.

The Auxiliary should be asked to join the planning and the working of this program. They can be very helpful, especially in the planning and serving the lunch to the students.