

*Ideas, Projects and Programs Proposed for the World War I
Commemoration 2017-2018: The Education Connection
Compiled by: Amy Jo Baker*

Individual Schools/Districts-Contact all public, private, charter, and home school associations

- Ask each school to plan and implement a program/project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of World War I as a turning point in history: at the local, state, national, and international levels. Ideas include, but are not limited to:
- Plays, program, speakers, music
- Observing various patriotic/historic days: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veteran's Day, Celebrate Freedom Week (Grades 3-12)
- Beautify one's school; plant a tree in honor of World War I veterans from your community
- Plan a time capsule to open in 100 years; what would be representative of the present day to be included?
- Examine what life was like 100 years ago during WW I and compare to today: how was it the same or different from today?
- Celebrate or observe your school's name or an important site/person/event in the neighborhood/community; for example, some schools are named after people from World War I. What did that person do to be recognized with a school named for them?
San Antonio- John J. Pershing Elementary; David Barkley Elementary (SAISD)
MacArthur High School (NorthEast ISD); (Elecuterio, JR) Escobar Middle School (Edgewood ISD, closed)
- Create a special school and/or community newspaper World War I issue-did you have an ancestor, family member, or a person in your community that participated in WW I?
- Identify individuals and reflect on how they spent the war years. Soldiers and nurses deployed overseas, but those men and women on the home front also contributed. Share stories with your readers: a portrait, a short biographical sketch, family letters or a diary entry from that time period.
- Have a one day "Teach In" about World War I to include lesson plans developed by numerous historic organizations (see ww1cc.org/tools)

Giving Back to your community in honor of World War I Veterans (with parent permission)

According to the Handbook of Texas, 198,000 Texans served in WW I; how many served from your community? How many were casualties of the war?

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National Cemeteries in Texas/Local and Private Cemeteries

In collaboration with a national or local cemetery, adopt a grave of a World War I veteran. Learn about that person and their military contribution; place a wreath at Christmas (“Wreaths Across America” project); or place a flag on their grave Independence Day/Memorial Day/Veteran’s Day

This project proposal was inspired by French children adopting an American World War II veteran’s grave, learning about that person and placing an American flag on their grave each D-Day at the American Cemetery in Normandy, France, in honor of their sacrifice in liberating a continent and their community.

Do you have any statues or monuments to World War I in your community? If so, are they in need of repair?

Are there businesses or churches in your community that date from World War I? Examine their role in WW I.

In collaboration with city churches ring the bells on November 11, 2018, signifying the end of hostilities in World War I at 11:00 a.m. (The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month)- Honor our Veterans Past and Present!

100th Anniversary of World War I	75th Anniversary of World War II	50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War
April 6, 2017-November 11, 2018	December 7, 2016-May 8, 2020	Memorial Day, May 28, 2012-Veteran’s Day, November 11, 2025

September 11-National Day of Service and Remembrance

The September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance is the culmination of efforts originally launched in 2002 by the 9/11 nonprofit MyGoodDeed with wide support from the 9/11 community and leading national service organizations. The effort first established the inspiring tradition of engaging in charitable service on 9/11 as an annual and forward looking tribute to the 9/11 victims, survivors, and those who rose up in service in response to those attacks.

In collaboration with United Way, churches, and other charitable organizations do “100 minutes” of community service in honor of our World War I veterans.

“From now on in America any definition of a successful life must include serving others”
 George HW Bush