Rise to The Challenge!

Each year we offer an exciting memorization challenge for all Patriot Camp participants. We feel strongly that knowledge and understanding of important founding documents, as well as other American texts, will empower citizens to recognize and fight for the freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution. We would like to invite ALL Patriot Camp participants to take the Patriot Challenge. Teen Leaders may also take the challenge, with a few additional items.

On these pages you will find the list of Challenge items to be memorized. An award will be given for each item passed off. Campers who memorize all 6 will receive the following awards:

- Certificate of Achievement
- Camp-wide recognition on the final day of camp



We will be working on some of these items (Preambles, National Anthem, Bill of Rights) during camp. Although to achieve them all, campers will also need to work on their own at home. Campers can pass off memorized items with designated leaders each day before and after camp, and during snack times.

Patriot Challenge

U.S. NATIONAL ANTHEM

(first verse)

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

(last verse)

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

PREAMBLE to THE CONSTITUTION

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

ARTICLES of THE CONSTITUTION

Only the following..

- Legislative Branch
- Executive Branch
- Judicial Branch
- States' Powers
- Amendments
- Federal Powers

Ratification

BILL of RIGHTS (as follows)

- Freedom of:
 - o Speech
 - o Religion
 - o Press
 - o Assembly
 - o Petition
- Right to bear arms
- No quartering of soldiers

- No unreasonable search & seizure
- Right to remain silent
- Right to a speedy trial by jury
- Right to a speedy trial by jury in civil cases
- No cruel or unusual punishments
- Rights reserved to the people
- Rights reserved to the states

U.S. PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PREAMBLE to THE DECLARATION of INDEPENDENCE

(a portion of what is commonly referred to as the preamble of the Declaration of Independence)

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness; That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Patriot Challenge for Teen Leaders

(all regular Challenge items, plus the following...)

SUMMARY of THE ARTICLES of THE CONSTITUTION

Article 1

Legislative Branch – the U.S.
Congress makes the laws for the
United States. Congress has two
parts, called "Houses," the House
of Representatives and the
Senate.

Article 2

Executive Branch – the President, Vice-President, Cabinet, and Departments under the Cabinet Secretaries carry out the laws made by Congress.

Article 3

Judicial Branch - the Supreme

Court decides court cases according to US Constitution. The courts under the Supreme Court decide criminal and civil court cases according to the correct federal, state, and local laws.

Article 4

States' powers – States have the power to make and carry out their own laws. State laws that are related to the people and problems of their area. States respect other states laws and work together with other states to fix regional problems.

Article 5

Amendments – The Constitution can be changed. New amendments can be added to the US Constitution with the approval by a two-thirds vote in each house of Congress (67, 281) and three-fourth vote by the states (38).

Article 6

Federal powers – The Constitution and federal laws are higher than state and local laws. All laws must agree with the US Constitution.

Article 7

Ratification – The Constitution was presented to George Washington and the men at the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787, Representatives from twelve out of the thirteen original states signed the Constitution. From September 1787 to July 1788, the states met, talked about, and finally voted to approve the Constitution.

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

November 19, 1863

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

PORTION of PATRICK HENRY'S SPEECH

St. John's Church – Richmond, Virginia March 23, 1775

There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations; and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come.

It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!