

## August National Patriotic Instruction

Brothers,

Another National Encampment has come and gone, and I want to take this time to thank Br. Bruce Frail, PCinC for trusting me with this position for his term as well as express my gratitude towards Br. Peter Hritsko, our new Commander-in-Chief of keeping me in the position for his term and I look forward to working with him this year. As we enter the last few months of our busy season, I look forward to seeing all of the hard work you all continue to do online. With the coming school year I hope that all Brothers, Camps, and Departments look into teaming up with local schools to honor the boys in blue through either school presentations, scholarships, ROTC Collaborations, or by helping with back to school needs.

For a while now I have mentioned that interacting with our communities is the best way for us to complete our multiple missions; Remembering the Boys in Blue, Teaching the History of the Civil War, Promoting Patriotic Values, Promoting the Order just to name a few of them. By working with schools as students go back, or during the school year, we can accomplish many of these missions. Many of our current school programs tackle a few of these items, if not all, which is even more of a reason why we need to take advantage of this, as school age parents will agree with me, most wonderful time of the year. However, our standard presentations are just the tip of the iceberg in giving back to our communities during back-to-school season.

Some additional ways that we can support our local communities during the back-to-school frenzy is by sponsoring different programs. What programs you ask? Camps and Departments can sponsor school supply drives to help provide classrooms with supplies that they are in desperate need of. We can also sponsor backpack giveaways to those in our towns that might not be able to afford new backpack and school supplies. These are just two ways in which we can support our local schools and students. I can already hear you asking, well how does this spread Patriotism? In both examples we can provide the students, teachers, administrators, and parents with literature on Patriotism that is available on the Patriotic Education page on our webpage (<https://suvchw.org/patriotic-education>). There is no wrong way to support our local schools, and I hope that your Camps and Departments will take the time this school year to discuss ways in which they might be able to.

As you might have guessed, my challenge to you all this month is to find some way to work with your local schools to spread Patriotism and succeed in our many missions. I look forward to hearing and seeing all the ways you all interact with your local schools this year!

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Br. Ben Frail, PDC

National Patriotic Instructor