



# *Master Statesman Program Phases*

The American Judicial Alliance Master Statesman program consists of three phases each containing twenty individual activities. In order to advance to the next phase, a student must complete at least 14 of the 20 activities. Activities from higher phases may be accomplished at any time; however, each phase will be awarded incrementally. For each activity, a student must complete a general certification form, (GCF) also noting any additional requirements listed under a specific activity.

## Prerequisites to Phase I:

Read the United States Constitution. A copy may be obtained through [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org). Submit the general certification form.

## Phase I – Countryman

**C1.** Submit a Letter to the Editor and have it published. Attach a copy of your published letter to your GCF. *Hint: Small, local newspapers are easier to be published in. Subject matter is up to you, but we would prefer a response to a current event or policy.*

**C2.** Make an appointment to meet with your state representative or state senator in their local office. Make sure you are professionally dressed and prepared to discuss an issue that is important to you. It may be helpful to bring a homemade dessert, a plant or a small item that demonstrates thanks for their service. To research your lawmaker's voting record go to [www.lafamilyforum.org](http://www.lafamilyforum.org). Follow-up by sending your lawmaker a thank you note or letter. Ask the lawmaker to sign your GCF as the "event leader."

**C3.** Volunteer at a political rally, press conference, or similar event. Try to get involved in the behind the scenes action (help with set up, promotion, decoration, errands and general help). Ask the event's leader to sign your GCF.

**C4.** Create a website that promotes political awareness of a certain issue you care about or of general political information that offers links to other websites. Include the site's URL and a summary of the site's content with your GCF.

**C5.** Attend a local intercessory prayer group associated with Intercessors for Louisiana or another organized prayer ministry. Go to [www.IFL.org](http://www.IFL.org) to

locate a group near you. Ask the leader of the group to sign your GCF.

**C6.** Attend a town hall, city council, or parish commission meeting. Be prepared! Look at the agenda before you go to understand any issues that will be discussed. Bring a notebook and take thorough notes while at the meeting and include them with your GCF for this activity. Introduce yourself to at least two leaders of your community and respectfully offer comments to them on at least one of the issues addressed during the meeting. Ask an elected official in attendance to sign your GCF.

**C7.** Call a talk radio show in which a current political issue is being discussed. You must get “on air” time to qualify for this activity. Keep calling! Include a summary of the issue you discussed with your GCF.

**C8.** Give a speech at a local home school or civic club about a political, governmental or constitutional issue. You may also elect to give a speech to the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) or the American Legion. Both organizations hold oratory contests each year. The speech must be at least five minutes long. Include your speech’s script with your GCF.

*VFW:* <http://www.vfw.org>

*American Legion:* <http://legion.org/oratorical>

**C9.** Set up a political resource table at your church fellowship to provide information on current issues/events. This is a great way to distribute voter guides or voting records or encourage voter registration. Include at least two samples of literature provided for the table in your GCF. You may secure information from sources such as Louisiana Family Forum, Family Research Council or Focus on the Family Action.

**C10.** Volunteer to work on a political campaign for at least 20 hours. This may involve sign waving, going door-to-door, and/or phone banking. Any

other miscellaneous campaign related tasks are fine. Include the candidate's or campaign manager's signature in your GCF.

**C11.** Work in a positive influence program (i.e. Character First, Awana, Royal Rangers, Big Brothers/Big Sisters). Once started you will get credit if you make a commitment to assist for the traditional duration of the program. Include the program leader's signature in your GCF.

**C12.** Read the book God is the Issue by Brad Bright. Print your favorite quote from each chapter. [Check Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or your favorite bookseller.

**C13.** Volunteer for 5 hours to pro-life activism. There are many ways to achieve this goal. Call your local crisis pregnancy center if you need ideas. Include a summary of your activities with your GCF.

**C14.** Subscribe to a daily Christian news report such as Family Research Council, and a secular news source on the internet for one week and make a one-line observation each day about the differences. Include your observations and the names of each news source with your GCF.

Family Research Council - <http://www.frc.org/>

**C15.** Study a world religion other than Christianity and determine how the belief system affects personal freedoms. How do those beliefs affect the government? Write a one-page report with MLA citations. *Examples: Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Postmodernism, New-Age Movement, etc.*

**C16.** View New Answers DVDs 1 & 2 from Answers in Geneses. Write a one-page summary on each video and include with your GCF. Videos may be borrowed from AJA.

**C17.** Ask your state representatives to sign a Declaration Pledge to acknowledge the Declaration of Independence as the legally binding

legitimate preamble to the Constitution. A copy of the pledge will be posted on this site shortly: [www.AJAToday.com](http://www.AJAToday.com)

**C18.** Memorize the Exordium of the Declaration of Independence. This includes the text from “When in the course of human events...” to “...impel them to the separation.” Be prepared to recite the Exordium at a bi-annual meeting to confirm completion of this task.

Declaration of Independence: <http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/>

**C19.** Memorize the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17). Be prepared to recite these verses at a bi-annual meeting to confirm completion of this task.

**C20.** Develop your own project. The project must be pre-approved. Contact the program coordinator with your idea for consideration.

## Phase 2 – Patriot

**P1.** Make an appointment to meet your US Congressman or Senator while they are on recess. It is acceptable to go to a town hall event to meet them. Be prepared to voice an opinion on a current issue and know where he/she stands. It is important to thank them for their service.

**P2.** Attend a court case at the state level of jurisdiction that involves trial by jury. Bring a notebook and take thorough notes and include them with your GCF.

**P3.** Meet with your pastor or spiritual leader to discuss the role of Christians in government. Be prepared to discuss your position and ask him to prepare a sermon or Sunday School lesson on the issue. Have your leader sign your GCF. *Wall Builder's Ministry is a great resource.*

URL: <http://www.wallbuilders.com/>

**P4.** Contact your state representative or senator and ask if you can shadow them one day during session. Be flexible and respectful of their schedule when you ask. Include an outline of the day's events with your GCF. Have them sign your GCF upon completion.

**P5.** Teach young children how a bill becomes a law. Come up with a creative way to help them retain the information. Include a summary with your method of teaching and what tools you used with your GCF.

**P6.** Lobby for an issue that is important to you at your State Capitol. Include a summary of the issue you lobbied for with your GCF.

**P7.** Read the book The Law by Fredrick Bastiat. Write a one-page report on the book. The book can be found online at <http://www.amazon.com>.

**P8.** Research financial contributions made to a candidate of your choice. List the top three individuals, businesses and PACs by amount that contribute to this candidate and include that information with your GCF.

**P9.** Follow a bill through its entire legislative process. Write a detailed report on amendments and votes. Determine the biggest obstacle to the bill's passage in each house. Include that information in your GCF. *If a bill doesn't make it out of committee, try another bill. Ask around to determine bills most likely to become law.*

**P10.** Start a Bible study or prayer group that meets at least 5 times. Focus should be on individual revival and direction for life's purpose. Include the signature of at least one member of the group in your GCF as a participant.

**P11.** Spend a day at a television station and/or on the road with a newscaster. Include an outline of the day's events with your GCF. Have the newscaster or a station member sign your GCF as event leader. Note to parents: There are Christians in media, but not many. Discuss with your student practical boundaries for safety and protection. Maybe two students can do this together.

**P12.** Spend a day at a newspaper office. Include an outline of the day's events with your GCF. Have the editor or a staff member sign your GCF as event leader.

**P13.** Spend a day at a radio station. Include an outline of the day's events with your GCF. Have a DJ or staff member sign your GCF as event leader.

**P14.** Attend a State Supreme Court Oral Argument Hearing. Bring a notebook to take thorough notes and include them with your GCF.

**P15.** Attend an approved advanced training workshop in leadership,

government, economics, speech, etc. *Must be pre-approved! Contact the Master Statesman program coordinator with the class information for consideration.*

**P16.** Write a 2-3 page biography on a famous Christian who served as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. Include the biography with you GCF.

**P17.** Watch Darwin's Deadly Legacy DVD and include a one page summary of it with your GCF. Videos may be borrowed from AJA.

**P18.** Memorize the Enunciation of the Declaration of Independence. This includes the text from "We hold these truths..." to "...submitted to a candid world." Be prepared to recite the Enunciation at a bi-annual meeting to confirm completion of this task.

Declaration of Independence: <http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/>

**P19.** Craft a 30 second public service announcement. Suggested topics: Civic Activism, Patriotic Duty, Constitutional Excellence, Authentic American History, Balanced Origins Science, Character. This may be in film or radio. Check with your church media department to see if they can assist you in production. Once produced, turn in a media copy as well as script. These may be submitted to radio/TV station for use. A copy should be submitted with your GCF form.

**P20.** Develop your own project. The project must be pre-approved. Contact the program coordinator with your idea for consideration.

## Phase 3 - Statesman

**S1.** Be a guest on the Word of Life Radio program with AFR New Orleans. Contact Kathleen Benfield or email her at [Kathleen@kathleenbenfield.com](mailto:Kathleen@kathleenbenfield.com) to arrange a time. This may be accomplished by calling in to the program from home.

**S2.** Work as a page at the State Capitol or work in the district office of your local lawmaker. This may be paid or volunteer, but you must work at least 20 hours to get credit for this activity. Have your page coordinator or lawmaker sign your GCF upon completion.

**S3.** Testify in a legislative committee on an issue that is important to you. Be prepared with an outline of what you will say. Speak for at least 3 minutes. Include your outline with your GCF.

**S4.** Staff a grassroots student project for a candidate of your choice. It must be at least an overnight project with a minimum of ten volunteers. Have the candidate sign your GCF upon completion.

**S5.** Craft a policy paper from a Judeo-Christian perspective. Suggested Topics: Pro-Life, Pro-Family, Pro-Constitution. Consider answering the question: “How did we get here and where are we going?”

**S6.** Put together a multi-media presentation to be presented at a Master Statesman’s Retreat on a topic that has been pre-approved. Contact the program coordinator with your idea for consideration. Include the presentation slides, notes, and/or outline with your GCF.

**S7.** Coordinate with American Judicial Alliance to determine a court system near you that is lacking a Commemorative Harlan Bible. Work with the court and AJA to place a Bible in the courtroom. Visit [www.ajatoday.org](http://www.ajatoday.org) for

more information. Have a member of AJA and a judge from the court you placed the Bible in sign your GCF.

**S8.** Host a candidate forum with at least 2 candidates. It may be for any elected office. This can be in conjunction with an organization if you take a lead role. It may be held at a church or civic club. Contact your local party officials to determine if one is planned and how you can be involved.

Include the signature of at least one of the candidates or leaders in your GCF.

**S9.** Write an article for a home school newsletter (electronic version is fine) about your experience with TeenPact state class or alumni event. The article should be positive and have the effect of promoting TeenPact. Attach a copy of the published material to your GCF.

TeenPact - <http://www.teenpact.com/>

**S10.** Organize a political awareness group in your circle of influence. Keep the group updated on current political issues on the local, state, and/or national level. This may be done by phone, email, webpage or newsletter. This should be done for at least one month. Create a document with some of the current political issues you addressed and include it with your GCF.

**S11.** Set up a time for a state elected official to speak at an informal event. This could be a community group, home school group, youth club, dessert social, etc. Have the elected official sign your GCF upon completion.

**S12.** Organize or participate in a protest of an elected official or peacefully and prayerfully picket at an abortion clinic. *Contact the local police department for proper protocol. This may be dangerous.*

**S13.** Attend a worldview camp. This may be TeenPact University, Worldview Academy, Summit, Patrick Henry College, or another similar

organization. Take thorough notes while there and include summaries of your notes for at least two sessions. State the camp you attended in one of your summaries.

TeenPact – <http://teenpact.org>

Worldview Academy - <http://www.worldview.org/>

Summit - <http://www.summit.org/>

Patrick Henry College - [http://phc.edu/teen\\_1.php](http://phc.edu/teen_1.php)

**S14.** Organize a voter registration drive. You must have at least 15 people register. This may be at a local college campus, your church, the library, etc., or a combination of these. Get permission if it is not on public property.

**S15.** Give a speech at a civic club or other special interest group. NCFCA or ICC are good venues. The goal is to educate the public about an issue of a political nature. The speech must be at least 10 minutes. Submit a copy of the speech with your GCF.

**S16.** Watch First Amendment Debate DVD and include a one page summary of it with your GCF. Videos may be borrowed from AJA.

**S17.** Intern with American Judicial Alliance or another like-minded Christian biblical values organization.

**S18.** Memorize Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution. This includes the text from “The Congress shall have Power...” to “...any Department or Officer thereof.” Be prepared to recite the Article 1, Section 8 at a bi-annual meeting to confirm completion of this task.

Constitution – <http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html#A1Sec8>

**S19.** Memorize the Conclusion of the Declaration of Independence. This includes the text from “We, therefore, the Representatives...” to “...and our

sacred Honor.” Be prepared to recite the Conclusion at a bi-annual meeting to confirm completion of this task.

Declaration of Independence: <http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/>

**S20.** Develop your own project. The project must be pre-approved. Contact the program coordinator with your idea for consideration.