

2023-2024 American Legion Auxiliary

Junior Activities Program Engagement Plan

The Junior Activities program inspires active participation in members age 17 and under so that they will become engaging members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership all the way through into adulthood.

Our goal again this year, is to **continue to increase our Junior Membership**. Wouldn't it be nice to share your American Legion Auxiliary values and experiences with your daughter or granddaughter? Ask them to participate with you; you may receive a pleasant YES and Thank You!

Here are some important dates and activities to be aware of:

- April 15: Purple Up! Day for Military Children
- May 1: Unit chairmen reports due to department chairman
- May 15: Department chairmen reports due to division chairmen, cc: national chairman
- June 1: Awards submissions due, including Junior Member of the Year
- August 1-15: Honorary National Junior Division Vice President elections. Open to any Junior who attended a 2023-2024 national Junior meeting. Winners will be announced at National Convention.
- 2023-2024 National Junior Meetings: [See dates and locations on separate page](#)

What Can You Do As A Unit Member?

There are a number of things members in your Unit can do.

1. Build your Junior Activities program one member at a time by giving Junior members a voice and an opportunity to participate.

- To build your Unit's Junior Activities program, ask to speak at your post's monthly meeting. Bring Junior members and membership applications with you. Personally invite Legion members to sign up their daughter, granddaughters and great-granddaughters. Older Junior members could speak about the value of their membership to the post.
- Even if you only have one junior member, encourage her to organize a service project that your unit will participate in; it may attract other juniors to join.
- Continually ask members to sign up their eligible daughters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters.
- Teach your Juniors about The American Legion Family's eligibility requirements.

2. Engage Juniors in programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

- Bring your Junior(s) to a meeting with you. Ask your unit president if the Junior(s) can lead the Pledge.
- Bring your Junior(s) to all appropriate ALA activities in which you participate. They can help distribute poppies, clean tables after dinners, etc.

Programs and Activities for Junior Members



Junior Activities Patch Program

American Legion Auxiliary Junior members and Sons of The American Legion youth members can be active participants of the organization with the Patch Program. Regardless of where one lives, and whether she/he belongs to an active Junior group or Squadron, the Patch Program is a terrific way for Junior Auxiliary members and SAL youth members to learn about the Auxiliary and the Legion Family, to learn about patriotism, health, fitness and leadership and to serve their communities and veterans.

Each sheet explains the criteria and what must be accomplished in order to earn a specific patch. When the activities are completed, an adult or Senior member must sign the form to verify that the Junior or SAL youth has met the patch criteria. Mail the completed form to the address indicated below.

There are three levels of patch criteria:

- Red – Level 1: Kindergarten through 3rd grade**
- Gold – Level 2: 4th grade through 8th grade**
- Blue – Level 3: 9th grade through 12th grade (or 18 years old)**

In each level, the following patches can be earned:

Red – Level 1: Grades K-3
Americanism
Community & Family Safety
Community Service
Education
Leadership
Membership
Physical Fitness
Poppy
Technology

Gold – Level 2: Grades 4-8
Americanism
Community & Family Safety
Community Service
Education
Leadership
Membership
Physical Fitness
Poppy
Star-Spangled Kids

Blue – Level 3: Grades 9-12
Americanism
Caregiver
Community Service
Education
History
Leadership
Membership
National Security
Physical Fitness

If you would like copies of forms for one or more levels, please let me know.

You will also find the forms on the Department website (www.okamlegionaux.org).

Please send completed forms throughout the year to the following address:

Carol Blosch
5421 West 8th Ave.
Stillwater, OK 74074
Email: bloschs@yahoo.com

Junior Activities Reporting

It is extremely important that your Unit send a year-end report. The due date for your Unit Report is **May 1, 2024**. Year-End Reports reflect the program work of your unit for the year. Your report may result in a national award for your unit if award requirements are met. The American Legion is chartered by congress, and the National Commander at the close of his term of office must report to Congress. The accuracy of his report depends on the individual reports filed by Units throughout the country.

Reporting does not have to be difficult or time-consuming. You can email your report or send it through the U.S. Post Office. There are some tips on some of the things you should include in your report on the following page.

What to Report

But what can a Unit write in their report? Don't make it complicated. Just write a sentence or two about any of the above activities or any other project that your Junior members were involved in. Use specific numbers of volunteers, hours, dollars spent and number of veterans/military servicemen/families served, if possible. Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! Answer these questions:

- What are the various service projects in which Juniors were involved? Include the number and type of service projects. Has participation in service projects increased as the year has progressed?
- What type of volunteer hours did Junior members perform? Did they serve veterans families or military servicemen who served? How many volunteers, how many served – and how many hours?
- Please include pictures and news articles showing Juniors involved in their activities.

Awards

- 1) Please follow instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet.
- 2) Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the award's materials and guidelines section.
- 3) Submit *as indicated in the Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan*.

Junior Member of the Year Award:

Engraved Plaque and an invitation to National Convention will be presented to: One Junior member in recognition of her dedicated service, efforts, and talents.

Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program Award

Citation Plaque presented to one unit in each division (5).

Materials and guidelines:

- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.
- Include specific examples of what your Juniors did.
- May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.

National Junior Meetings

The National Junior Meetings will be held at the same time as Mission Training. Dates and meeting sites can be found below. Juniors who attend one of the national Junior meetings will be eligible to vote and run for Honorary National Junior Division Vice President (HNJDVP). Each of the elected HNJDVPs will help conduct the national Junior meetings and will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. Ask Carol Blosch, Junior Activities Chairman, for information.

Five ALA Mission Trainings and National Junior Meetings are planned. They will be held at the same time and locations throughout the winter and spring.

2023-2024 Dates & Locations

Central: 11/4/2023

Cincinnati, OH
Embassy Suites Cincinnati River center Covington

Eastern: 11/4/2023

Providence, RI
Marriott Providence Downtown

Northwestern: 2/3/24

Lincoln, NE
Marriott Lincoln Cornhusker

Southern: 2/3/2024

Nashville, TN
Hilton Nashville Airport

Western: 1/27/2024
Las Vegas, NV
Tuscany Suites & Casino

Scholarships

Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship

The American Legion Auxiliary annually provides one Junior member in each of the five American Legion Auxiliary divisions with a \$3,000 Scholarship. For information, contact the Department Education Chairman or at www.alaforveterans.org/Scholarships/Junior-Member-Loyalty-Scholarship/

Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members

Five Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members in the amount of \$5,000 each are awarded; one scholarship in each division. For requirements and applications, contact the Department Education Chairman or at www.alaforveterans.org/Scholarships/Spirit-of-Youth-Scholarship-Fund/

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship

Three \$5,000 scholarships are awarded annually per geographic division, for a total of 15 scholarships. These scholarships are for undergraduate study only at a four-year accredited college or university, and may be used for tuition, books, fees, room, and board. For information, contact the Department Education Chairman or at www.alaforveterans.org/Scholarships/Children-of-Warriors-National-Presidents--Scholarship/

Project Resources

Veterans History Project: www.loc.gov/vets

VA Student Volunteer Program: www.volunteer.va.gov/StudentProgram.asp &
www.volunteer.va.gov/ParkeScholarship.asp

ALA Junior Activities Handbook available for free at www.ALAforVeterans.org, printed copies can be purchased through Emblem Sales at www.emblem.legion.org.

Junior Patch Program - information by level at www.ALAforVeterans.org

Junior Leadership Course on www.ALAforVeterans.org