

## DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA MARCH POPPY 2026



REMINDER: Reports and narratives are due May 1<sup>st</sup>. Poppy Posters (originals with paperwork) are due May 5<sup>th</sup>. Please adjust your reporting accordingly.

**Attention Unit Executive members:** Each year we find some Juniors are participating in the Miss Poppy Program, yet they are not completing a scrapbook and forwarding it to National. A review of this program does not yield many directions or guidance for participating in this part of the Poppy Program.

As you can see from the National Rules listed below, Miss Poppy starts in May, so plans should be made in April to get the year started on time. We as an organization do a lot of pre-planning but it seems this is an area that is lacking that attention. Perhaps if we look at all programs there might be other areas we need to start pre-planning.

The following is taken from National: Little Miss Poppy (Ages 6-12)

NEW FOR 2023-2024 – Little Miss Poppy award submissions are now electronic to address postage and material cost considerations. Please refer to the rules below for submission requirements and deadline information.

- Participant must be between 6 and 12 years of age as of June 1 and be a Junior member in good standing of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- *Promotional activity of the poppy story must occur through The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the community during the timespan of May 1 of the current year to April 30 of the following year.*
- For National Little Miss Poppy consideration, participant must submit a <https://www.legion-aux.org/Little-Miss-Poppy-Award-Form> with supporting documentation.
- All entries are due by 5 p.m. on June 1.
- In addition to the information on the award application, please include documentation on the criteria below. Accepted formats are Word document, Google Slides, or .pdf. PowerPoint presentations may also be uploaded via Googles Slides. For more information on Google Slides, please visit <https://www.google.com/slides/about/>.

Criteria for judging Little Miss Poppy entries:

- The memorial poppy must be visible in all promotion and publicity submitted.
- There is no specific dress code or dress color for Little Miss Poppy.
- Promotion of the Poppy Program: What did you share and do?
- Publicity of poppy activities (newspapers, radio/TV, etc.).
- Submitted file must include the following information (both pictures and descriptions)
  - What I learned during my time as Little Miss Poppy?
  - How I shared the story of the poppy with my community?
  - What does the poppy mean to me?
  - What activities did I attend to promote the poppy and its meaning?

- Age-appropriate originality with considerations for neatness and creativity.

The Little Miss Poppy (age 6-12) winner may be invited to the ALA National Convention immediately following her selection, and if she so chooses, will travel at her own expense.

The winner of the National Little Miss Poppy contest will receive a citation plaque.

We, the membership of the American Legion Auxiliary work as a team in our Units to do seemingly impossible tasks for our veterans, community and our youth. So, your input is invaluable at the Department level to help lift this part of the Poppy Program up and encourage more participation.

It has been many years since my home Unit has had a Miss Poppy participant so as the Department of Arizona Poppy Chairperson I am asking for your assistance. This state is not the only state struggling to get participants for Miss Poppy. Will it help if there is some kind of calendar of events that the Units can assist Juniors to plan on participating in to provide more activity in this contest? Will it help to have some guidelines and goals associated with these events to enhance participation?

EXAMPLES: May is the month to distribute poppies so planning must be made in April for participation as there are three opportunities during this month –Armed Forces Day May 16, National Poppy Day May 22, and Memorial Day May 25.

June 14 is flag day –contestants could give a small flag on a stand decorated with at least one poppy to veterans either in VA hospital/home or a local nursing home. Photo-op

Each month could be a different participating event/goal with unit members creating special Unit goals for the contestants in their unit in addition to ones provided. Each photo op requires an explanation of who, date, event, and where.

In looking at the Junior Patch Program levels there is a detailed guide on how to complete the goals for a Poppy Patch at four different levels of age groups. Perhaps we can incorporate parts of those level guides to assist the Miss Poppy contestants.

Maybe with your help we can re-energize participation in Miss Poppy and provide a pathway for other states. I look forward to hearing from you

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