

**2022-2023**

**Department of Oklahoma**

**Education**

**Program Action Plan**

As the percentage of active Military families decrease the importance and need of educating the American public – individuals, families and students’ increases. The American Legion Auxiliary members work with teachers, news media and the public across our Nation to educate citizens of the services and sacrifices Veterans, Military members and their families make.

It is important that children of military know that they are appreciated for their sacrifice as well!

**As stated by - Liza Ruzicka, ALA Children of Warriors National Presidents’ Scholarship Recipient - The American Legion Auxiliary offering the Children of Warriors scholarship**

**“To know that someone was thinking about me and that someone cared about me … was the biggest light at the end of the tunnel. I was leaving my family, leaving a lot of my connection to the military, and someone was still there to support me, and there were organizations vested in my interests. It really just meant the world to me.”**

[Looking for ideas?](https://www.facebook.com/groups/alaeducation)

* ALA Committee Facebook Groups are spaces on the social media network for ALA members to discuss or share about broad or narrow topics related to each committee. Groups provide an arena for organic discussion about your local programs or services and present the opportunity to cultivate brand awareness.
* This is a place to share service activities and events, ask questions, obtain information, and network for those interested in the American Legion Auxiliary Education program
* [https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAEducation](https://www.facebook.com/groups/alaeducation)

Social Media is the future – do you or someone you know love to share their activities on Facebook? If so I need your Help! I am not up to date on the ins and outs of Facebook and I hate to see Oklahoma miss the opportunity of shinning on Facebook because of that fact…. Please contact me if you would like to assist with posting for Oklahoma. Also please friend the above ALA Education Facebook page as soon as possible.

**Key Program Statements:**

* To promote quality education for children, especially for military children, and adults
* To encourage schools to invite veterans to speak in their classrooms
* To provide scholarships for students who desire a college education
* To Support legislation that establishes new scholarship opportunities
* To support the Education program and scholarship opportunities of The American Legion

**Veterans in Community Schools:**

Veterans in community schools bring history to life! Sharing their military experiences with students especially when taught in conjunction with history lessons is a win-win experience for both students and Veterans or Military personnel.

It is vital for The American Legion Family to come together and share the life experiences of yesterdays and todays Military Families. In addition to sharing their experiences, veterans may also educate students on assisting a family with a deployed military member, how to show support for the troops, proper respect for the flag, or why The American Legion Family was formed and what it stands for.

**Steps for organizing a Veterans’ in Community Schools Activity:**

1. Identify and Contact Schools.
2. Propose an Activity Plan - provide resources for teachers so they can introduce key concepts to students prior to the activity.
3. Identify and Prepare the Veterans for speaking.
4. Implement the Activity.

**Give 10 to Education**

The American Legion Auxiliary’s Give 10 to Education program collects donations of school supplies in multiples of 10. Think 10 pencils, 10 notebooks, 10 glue sticks or 10 rulers.

**Find out what’s needed**

School supply needs differ according to school and grade, so your first step should be to check with local schools to see what they can use.

* Enlist the help of your members who are teachers.
* Reach out to your school contacts for ALA Girls State.
* Visit school websites for supply lists.
* Access the Give 10 to Education *Suggested Donation Items and Tracking Sheet*, available as an ALA Members Only resource on the national ALA Education Committee

Remember: As you’re compiling your lists of most-needed materials, make sure to include supplies for subjects like art, library, music, and physical education.

**Get everyone involved**

**Share the supplies — and gratitude**

**National Scholarships:**

Each year the American Legion Auxiliary National Organization awards the following scholarships for members and the Children of Warriors.

Criteria and applications are found on the American Legion Auxiliary National web-site.

 <https://www.alaforveterans.org/scholarships>

* Children of Warriors National Presidents’ Scholarship
* Spirit of Youth Scholarship
* Non-Traditional Student Scholarship
* Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship

All Scholarship applications must be turned into American Legion Auxiliary Units by March 1, 2023. Scholarships maybe accepted prior to March 1, 2023 but must not be accepted after that date. **Units select only one application** and ensure the entry has met all requirements as set forth for each scholarship guideline. Do not forget to check and verify if the applicant is a member in good standing of the American Legion Auxiliary, The American Legion or Sons of The American Legion if needed. Students applying for the Children of Warriors Scholarship do Not have to be members.

Mail the selected application to Department Education Chairman Debbie Bertolasio on or before March 15, 2023.

Oklahoma had two (2) applications for the National Children of Warriors Scholarship in 2022 and one of the applicants was selected and received a $5,000.00 dollar National Southern Division Scholarship. So it works!!

**Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Education Program.**

As you work the Education Program, keep track of your accomplishments and take pictures along the way. Don’t forget to recognize those who step up to help the students and schools of your community. Do not forget to recognize the applicants. But most Important do not forget to recognize you!! Please send me your pictures and reports. You make Oklahoma Great!

Entries must be submitted to Department Chairperson Debbie Bertolasio on or before June 1, 2023.

National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

**Important Dates:**

All Scholarship applications due to Units on or before March 1, 2023

All Scholarship applications due to Department Chairmen on or before March 15, 2023

Scholarship applications due from Department Chairmen to Division Chairman April 1, 2023

American Education Week – November 15 – 19, 2022

Teacher Appreciation Week – May 1 – 5, 2023

*2022 - 2023*

Oklahoma’s American Legion Auxiliary President Gayle Keene’s theme is, ***Strength Thru Unity***. Gayle’s President’s project is to raise funds for Oklahoma’s Veterans and Military.

National President, Vickie Koutz’s focus is ***“Honor Our Veterans Everyday”***. Vicky’s Presidents project is The Creative Arts Festival and she is working to raise awareness on Our Countries Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

I challenge all Units to form a Program Action Plan to Educate America’s youth on the Services and Sacrifices of America’s Military Families and Veterans. I am available and would love to attend your Unit’s Education Program.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Debbie Bertolasio

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