



A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Oklahoma 2024-2025 Junior Activities Plan of Action

Let me begin by answering some questions about the Junior Activities program such as: What is a Junior member?; Why do we need Junior members?; What can a Junior member do to help the American Legion Auxiliary? But most importantly, What can the American Legion Auxiliary do to help Junior members?

A Junior member is any member under the age of 18 and their membership counts just the same as that of a Senior member. Membership eligibility is the same for Junior members as it is for Seniors. So, keep in mind that for every American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Senior member there should be at least one Junior member, if not more. Don't forget, daughters and grand-daughters are eligible also. If Mom is an ALA member, then her daughters and grand-daughters should also be members.

Junior members can be extremely helpful to your unit! Who doesn't like to see children handing out poppies at the store? Veterans love to tell their stories to kids of all ages. Take your Junior members with you when visiting veteran's centers or nursing homes. Let them help you with fundraising events such as having a car wash. Lots of fun - especially in the summertime!

Now to the really important question, "What can the American Legion Auxiliary do to help our Junior members?" The American Legion Auxiliary has several scholarships available to Junior members who have at least three years of continuous membership. The Spirit of Youth Scholarship, the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship, the Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship, and the James H. Parke Scholarship. Applications for these scholarships must be filled out online by the date specified at the ALA National website (alaforveterans.org). Enroll your Juniors early so that they can qualify for these scholarships when the time is right. The cost of Junior membership in most units is minimal – usually less than a cup of coffee these days!

ALA Junior Activities Patch Program – It's a fun program for kids of all ages!



Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary, as well as school-aged Sons of the American Legion members who often work alongside Juniors, may earn patches for activities in ALA programs, such as Poppy, Leadership, Americanism, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, and more. Participating in the Patch Program is a terrific way to be involved in learning about the

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Auxiliary and our Legion Family, volunteering in the community, and serving our country's veterans.

There are four levels to the ALA Patch Program:

- **PURPLE LEVEL** - Age 3 to Kindergarten
- **RED LEVEL** – Grades 1 to 4
- **GOLD LEVEL** – Grades 5 to 8
- **BLUE LEVEL** – Grades 9-12

To earn a "Patch" a Junior member must complete a series of tasks. For example on the **PURPLE LEVEL** to receive an "Americanism Patch" they must recite the Pledge of Allegiance and three other tasks. To receive a "Poppy Patch" they must have someone read them the Poppy story and three other tasks. The task forms for all levels are on both the Department website (OKAmLegionAux.org) under the Plan of Action Program (PAP) tab, and on the National website under the Junior Activities Committee (alaforveterans.org). Once the tasks are completed simply fill out the Junior Patch Order Form (found on the National website). Your Juniors will be proud to earn and wear these patches and your unit can help its Juniors with their tasks. **And, they are FREE!!!** If you need help filling out the form online, just contact me!

Junior Member of the Year (JMOY) program: To reward our Junior members who are actively participating in the ALA's mission, National expanded the Junior Member of the Year program.

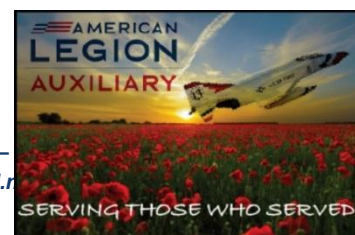
- One overall national JMOY will win a \$5,000 scholarship, as well as a trip to the ALA's National Convention.
- Four division JMOY winners will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.
- Nominees must have been a Junior member at the start of the current ALA administrative year.
- Juniors must be at least in eighth grade or eighth grade equivalent and may win only once.
- Juniors may be nominated by any member, unit, or department.
- The narrative should detail the Junior nominee's ALA participation and activities during the past year. Document with photographs, screenshots, and other evidence of Junior's ALA participation and activities.
- All entries must be submitted on the Junior Activities Program Awards webpage via [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.
- Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.

I want to encourage everyone to visit the National ALA website and explore the Junior Activities Program. There is a wealth of information available to all members including the task forms, patch order form, and what Juniors can do to help make our organization even better! Let them help you in achieving President Susan Engstrom's motto of "**Serving Those Who Served**".

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

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