

Education

Program Action Plan - 2016-2017

Sandy McCool, Chairman

The Education Program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's role in providing quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion and support of education beyond high school, especially for military children.

1. Enhance respect for the sacrifices of our military heroes among school children by scheduling Veterans in Community Schools programs at local schools.

- Locate a Veteran willing to share his/her experience with school children. Attend a post meeting or ask around the clubroom for a volunteer. Conduct a flag disposal ceremony.
- Contact your local school teachers or principals to see if they would be interested in hosting a Veterans in Community School events.
- Volunteer to provide transportation to and from the school for the Veteran speaking in community schools.
- Wear your American Legion Auxiliary apparel when you visit schools.
- Promote your Veterans in Community School events through local media and on your own social accounts.

2. Promote American Legion Family (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders) Scholarships and award local scholarships at the Department, District and Unit levels.

- Contact the person at your local high school who handles scholarship opportunities. It will typically be a guidance or career counselor. Ask if you can send them information about National, Department, District and Unit American Legion Auxiliary scholarships.
- Make copies of any scholarship applications (found at alaforveterans.org/scholarships) and provide them to the schools that request them.
- Volunteer to be on the scholarship selection committee.
- Assign a member to communicate with schools regarding scholarship applications.
- Create a Unit Scholarship Fund to award scholarships to local students.
- Prepare a news release with scholarship information for local media and your post/unit newsletter.
- Form a committee to select scholarship winners.
- Publicize the winners of the ALA scholarships at a school presentation and in the media.
- Keep track of the total number of application received for any National Scholarship, and pass that information on to your Department Education Chairman.

3. Support "Give 10 to Education", American Education Week and Teacher Appreciation Week.

- Participate in the "Give 10 to Education" program by purchasing items to distribute to schools
 - Place a poster with a collection box at local sites (i.e. grocery stores, banks, senior centers, post office), and invite residents to donate.
 - Save Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education and send them to local schools. Most schools participate in these programs.

4. Assist and support Veterans pursuing higher education and vocational education.

- Contact a campus student Veterans group at colleges and universities in your community to volunteer. The VA counselor at the college can assist you in locating the Veterans groups.

- Sign up to receive the American Legion’s Legislative Action Alerts, and support the alerts regarding the GI Bill.
 - Provide information/handouts to members on organizing and delivering presentations on career and life skills topics to student Veterans.
 - Provide events through local media and your own social media accounts.
- 5. Assist and support military children with educational opportunities.**
- Provide your local school with a copy of the Educator’s Guide to the Military Child during Deployment: www2.ed.gov/about/office/list/os/homefront/homefronts.pdf
 - Inform schools of a free tutoring website for military children: www.tutor.com/military
 - Provide information on the ALA Children of Warriors National President’s scholarship

Education Reporting

Mid-Year Reports – Submit a Narrative

- Unit Education reports due to District Education Chairman by **December 1, 2016.**
- District Education reports due to Department Education Chairman by **December 15, 2016.**

Annual Reports – Submit a Narrative

- Unit Education reports due to District Education Chairman by **April 15, 2017.**
- District Education reports due to Department Education Chairman by **May 1, 2017.**

As part of your Narrative Report, please include answers to the following questions:

- Did member/units participate in Teacher Appreciation Week? How?
- How was Give 10 participation recognized in your district?
- Describe how Veterans in Community School programs were presented?
- If your unit actively supports veterans associations on campus, describe your activities.
- What types of help did units give a needy student?
- How did units and districts recognize scholarship winners?
- How many scholarship applications were received by your unit for National Scholarships?

Department Academic Gifts

- ALA Dept. of IN Academic Gift for Jr. Members
- Firkins Veteran’s Children Academic Gift
- Hoosier Academic Gift
- Past President’s Academic Gift

National Scholarships

- Children of Warriors National President’s Scholarship
- The Non-Traditional Student Scholarship
- Spirit of Youth Scholarship

ALL OF THESE APPLICATIONS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE AT: ww.aladepin.org

National Awards – Each Award must include a cover sheet:

- **Member Award – Give 10 to Education**
 - Recognition Certificates are available to download and print at www.alaforveterans.org on the Education web page.
- **Unit Award**
 - Most Outstanding Unit Education Program
 - Most Outstanding Veterans in Community Schools Program
 - Honoring the Service of Our Military

Additional Resources you can use:

- www.alaforveterans.org/Programs/Education for more how to sheets and other support tools
- American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship applications: www.alaforveterans.org/Scholarships
- Educational resources through the Americanism and Children and Youth Commission of the American Legion: www.legion.org/education
- Free online tutoring for military children: www.tutor.com/military
- Student Veterans of America: www.studentveterans.org

The ALA Education Program allows us to touch the lives of children and adults to assist them in educational opportunities to learn more about Veterans, to obtain educational assistance so they may continue their education and to provide educators with items needed in their classrooms. If you have any questions about the program, please contact me and I will be happy to assist you.

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