

Junior Activities

Program Action Plan – 2016-2017

Donna Davis, Chairman

The Junior Activities Program inspires active participation in members age 17 and under so that they will become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood. The programs offered to Junior members of the ALA cover a wide range of learning experiences for both the very young, and Junior members reaching Senior membership in the year they turn 18.

How can you help to promote and increase Junior Activities Membership?

- Acquire the **Junior Activities Handbook** from either Emblem Sales or download from the **Junior Member Activities page** on the **Members Only** section at www.ALAforVeterans.org.
- Familiarize yourself with the different programs the ALA offers and learn how your Juniors can participate.
- Learn and teach the eligibility requirements (found in the Junior Handbook) and invite members of your Legion and your ALA to recruit their daughters, granddaughters, great granddaughters and sisters into junior Activities Programs to increase membership.
- If you are a Unit officer or chairman, offer to mentor one of your Unit's Juniors. Teach her about the roles ALA members participate in.
- Include reporting to your Legion Family the accomplishments and progress of your Junior group. Use newsletters, web page, Facebook or newspapers to report a special event your Junior group participated in.
- Organize and present the Junior Leadership Program, www.ALAforVeterans.org.
- Encourage your Juniors to bring a friend to a meeting or an activity.
- Help support the Junior Activities Chairman and participate in their fundraisers so there are funds to support events that will interest the girls.
- You don't have Junior members? Be sure to support the Junior Program by creating activities and encouraging girls to attend these events.

Units

- Organize an active Junior group. Give the Junior Activities Chairman a budget to work with and space to hold meetings and fundraisers.
- Include information on Junior membership and activities in newsletters.
- Have on hand pamphlets promoting Junior Activities (and other related pamphlets).

Resources

- The following will greatly help you in the progression of your Junior Auxiliary:
 - www.ALAforVeterans.org - Members Only – programs, information, etc.
 - www.aladepin.org – programs, information, monthly mailings, etc.
 - Emblem Sales – www.emblem.Legion.org – or catalog – Junior Handbook and other items that will be helpful.
 - Facebook page

Engage Juniors in the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary

- Have your Juniors attend one of your ALA meetings, perhaps have lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Teach your Juniors how to run a meeting and the importance of each office. Make Junior meetings fun and informative – plan activities – have snacks!
- Introduce your Junior(s) to the Junior Activities Patch Program. This is a great program your Juniors can have fun with, learn what we do and why it matters. They will be proud of their accomplishments. Information on the Patch Program can be found in the Junior Activities Handbook and at www.ALAforVeterans.org - Members Only page. The Patch Program covers several programs ALA offers, and with three different levels, is age appropriate beginning with kindergarten and ending in grade 12.
- If permission is granted, include Juniors in Legion Ceremonies such as The Thirteen Folds or a Flag Retirement Ceremony. Teach Flag Etiquette.
- Hosting a Bake Sale and/or a Craft Sale is a wonderful way of teaching Juniors fundraising. Include younger SAL members, too.
- Encourage Juniors to participate in volunteering at VA Medical facilities or nursing homes.
- Juniors learn the value of “giving” when they make cards for any holiday or birthday and send them to soldiers overseas or to veterans in hospitals or nursing homes.
- Encourage Juniors to learn and participate in the Poppy Program. Rules for Poppy contests can be found in the Poppy Program Action Plan.
- Recognize and reward Juniors for their achievements.

Programs and Activities

- Junior Patch Program
- Mean Stinks - www.meanstinks.com
- Spirit of Youth Scholarship – www.ALAforVeterans.org
- Veterans History Project – www.loc.gov/vets
- VA Student Program – www.volunteer.va.gov/StudentProgram.asp
 - www.volunteer.va.gov/ParkeScholarship.asp
- Children of Warriors National Presidents’ Scholarship – www.ALAforVeterans.org
- Poppy Program – See Poppy Program Action Plan
- Food Drive for Veterans – Indiana Department Honorary Junior Department President Deanna Woodburn’s project
- Junior Leadership Program – www.ALAforVeterans.org
- National Mission Training/Junior Leadership – Saturday, October 15th in Columbus, OH
 - For information see www.ALAforVeterans.org or Department Secretary/Treasurer Marti Drake at www.aladeptin.org

2016-2017 Junior Meetings

- All meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. EDT (Indianapolis Time)
- Saturday, September 24th – Department Headquarters
- Saturday, March 11th – West Lafayette Post #492 – Indiana Veterans Home Fun Day
- Saturday, May 20th – Avon Unit #145 – Junior Conference

National Scholarships

- Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members - \$500.00
- Children of Warriors National President’s Scholarships
- Find information about these and others at www.ALAforVeterans.org

Department Scholarships

- Department of Indiana Academic Gift for Junior Members - \$500.00
 - Due to Department Secretary-Treasurer before April 1st, 2017
- For other Department of Scholarships – see www.aladeptin.org
 - Also check in the Department Unit Guide

“Pride in Giving Service”

- Department President Peggy Bishop’s theme for 2016-2017
- Projects
 - Raising money for the **Child Welfare Foundation**
 - All funds go directly to the aid of children.
 - Purchasing items needed in the Indiana Veterans Home Recreation Craft Room.
- Honorary Department Junior President Deanna Woodburn’s Project
 - Food Drive for Veterans
 - Asking Unit Juniors to donate to their local food pantry of any military installation.
 - Juniors attending Department Junior Meetings and Conference should bring non-perishable food items.
 - **Let’s See What Juniors Can Do!**
 - Project will be discussed at the Saturday, September 24th Junior Meeting at Department Headquarters.

National Awards

All entries **must** have a **National Award Cover Sheet!** For complete rules and instructions visit www.ALAforVeterans.com or Call Junior Activities Chairman Donne Davis at 219-464-8979

- **National President’s Award for Excellence**
 - Award to the Unit – submitted by Unit President
 - Deadline June 1, 2017
- **Best Overall Unit Junior Activities Award**
 - Citation Plaque
 - No later than May 20, 2017 to Department Chairman
- **Junior Member of the Year**
 - Engraved Plaque
 - Selected from Department Junior Members of the Year
 - Recognition of her dedicated service, efforts and talents
 - Postmarked by June 1, 2017 or emailed by 5:00 p.m. EDT June 1, 2017
- **Junior Public Relations Award**
 - Best Media Coverage of Activity or Project
 - Engraved Plaque
 - Postmarked by June 1, 2017 or emailed by 5:00 p.m. EDT June 1, 2017

Department Awards

- **Judy Butler Monetary Award** for best all-around program of Junior Activities.
- **Dr. Corinne Walker Presentation** for the organized Junior Group having the highest total number of Junior members present for the year at Department sponsored Junior Activities.

Department Chairman Personal Awards

Information on Coloring Contest and essay will be sent out no later than the October mailing. Deadline for Coloring and Poppy Contests is Saturday, March 11th, 2017. Entries need to be brought to the IVH Junior Fun Day at West Lafayette Post #492. Items will be judged at this meeting. Winners will be announced at the Department Junior Conference on Saturday, May 20th, 2017.

- Trophy to the Junior with the most participation in the all-around Junior Activities Program.
- Award to the District Chairman with the most contributions to Child Welfare Foundations.
- Award to one (1) Junior member from each grade – grades K-3 – coloring contest on our Flag – details to come.
- Award to one (1) Junior member from each grade – grades 4-6 – coloring contest on our Flag/with a twist – details to come.
- Award to one (1) Junior member from each grade – grades 7-12 – Essay on “When I Look at the American Flag I See. . .” – No less than 500 words and no more than 1000 words.
- Prize for winning Junior History and Junior Chaplain books.

Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year and Annual Reports – reporting is very important for the American Legion Auxiliary. Ultimately, facts and figures are combined with the American Legion and SAL and then sent to Congress in order to maintain a non-for-profit status. It was determined the estimated value of **one hour of volunteer service was \$23.07** in 2014. This past year, American Legion Auxiliary members **volunteered more than 10 million hours** for a collective **\$3.1 billion in service to veterans, service members and their families! Your Unit Report is Vital!**

- Each Unit Junior Activities Chairman is required to submit a Mid-Year Report by December 1, 2016 to her District Junior Activities Chairman.
- Each District Junior Activities Chairman is required to submit a Mid-Year Report by December 15, 2016 to the Department Junior Activities Chairman

Annual Reports

- Each Unit Junior Activities Chairman is required to submit an Annual Report by April 15, 2017 to her District Junior Activities Chairman.
- Each District Junior Activities Chairman is required to submit an Annual Report by May 1, 2017 to the Department Junior Activities Chairman.

Let’s demonstrate Pride in Giving Service by reaching a 100% goal in reporting!

Junior Activities is a great chairmanship as it allows you to guide our Junior members by teaching them about the American Legion Auxiliary and our various programs. In addition, there are many fun activities that Juniors undertake that the chairman becomes involved with. Make a difference in the lives of our Juniors today and build the ALA of the future by inspiring Juniors.

Donna Davis, Department Chairman

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