



## **JUNIOR ACTIVITIES**

**2016-2017**

**The Junior Activities Program is designed to inspire active participation by American Legion Auxiliary members under the age of 18 years old. The Junior Activities Program builds a strong future for the American Legion Auxiliary by engaging productive members to carry on the ALA mission for life.**

### **1. Increase Junior Membership**

**As an ALA member, how can I help?**

- Ask to speak at the monthly American Legion meeting at your post. Bring Junior members and membership applications with you. Personally invite each and every Legion member to sign up their daughters, granddaughters and great granddaughters.
- Sign up your own daughters, granddaughters and great granddaughters.
- “LIKE” the National Junior Activities Facebook Page.  
(<https://www.facebook.com/alajuniors/>) Follow the posts and share them with your friends. Encourage them to sign up their eligible Juniors.
- Teach Juniors about the American Legion Auxiliary eligibility requirements.
- Encourage Juniors to bring their friends to Auxiliary functions and volunteer opportunities, even if they are not eligible to join.
- If your Unit does not have any active Juniors, consider working with a sister Unit that has an active group.
- If you are a Unit officer or chairman, offer to mentor a Junior member. Have fun teaching her about your role in the American Legion Auxiliary.

## **How can our Unit help?**

- Organize an active Juniors group. Give the Junior Activities Unit Chairman a budget to work with and space to hold Junior meetings and fundraisers.
- Continually ask members to sign up their eligible daughters, granddaughters and great granddaughters.
- Include information on Junior membership and activities in monthly newsletters and social media.
- Include information on Junior membership in renewal notices and reminders.

## **2. Engage Juniors in Programs of the American Legion Auxiliary**

### **As an ALA member, how can I help?**

- Bring Juniors to a meeting with you. Ask your Unit President if the Junior(s) can lead the Pledge.
- Present any patches that Junior(s) earn at Unit meetings. They will be proud of their achievement and members will be able to see what great work the Juniors are doing.
- Bring Junior members to all appropriate ALA activities you are participating in. They can help with many activities, such as Poppy Distribution. After dinners, they can help with serving and cleaning tables.
- Older Junior members can mentor younger Junior members by encouraging them to participate in Junior meetings and by teaching them what they have learned about the American Legion Auxiliary and its mission. Encourage participation in the patch program and share information about the program.

## **How can our Unit help?**

- Give Juniors a place to display their crafts or artwork.
- Help your Junior Activities Chairman find places and occasions to distribute cards and crafts made by Juniors.
- Offer to help during Junior meetings.

## **4. Promote and Encourage Junior Participation in the Patch Program.**

### **How can I help?**

- Mentor Juniors and help them acquire patches. The Patch Program activities can be found on the Junior Member Activities Page in the Members Only section at [www.ALAforveterans.org](http://www.ALAforveterans.org)
- Hold a special meeting to help Juniors earn patches.
- Older Juniors can help the younger Juniors earn patches.

**What can our Unit do?**

- Encourage Juniors to participate in the Patch Program.
- Encourage use of electronic patches on Junior members' social media sites.
- Give Junior members the opportunity to work on requirements for the patches at Unit meetings.

## **Junior Activities Reporting**

### **Mid-Year Reports**

Each Unit Children & Youth/ Junior Activities Chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **November 15, 2016** to the District Children & Youth Chairman.

Each District Children & Youth/Junior Activities Chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **December 1, 2016** to the Department Children & Youth Chairman. Mail all reports to:

Ann King-Smith

P.O. Box 101236

Palm Bay, FL 32910

### **Annual Reports (Year-End)**

Each Unit Children & Youth/ Junior Activities Chairman is required to submit a narrative report, along with a Year-End Reporting Sheet, to their District Children & Youth/Junior Activities Chairman by **April 15, 2017**.

Each District Children & Youth/Junior Activities Chairman is required to submit a narrative report **in addition to the Year-End Reporting Sheet by May 1, 2017 to the Department Children & Youth Chairman**. Mail all reports to:

Ann King-Smith

P.O. Box 101236

Palm Bay, FL 32910

**As part of your narrative report, please make sure to answer the following questions.**

1. How many Juniors are involved in the Patch Program?
2. What kind of service projects were the Juniors involved with? Please list projects and the total number of Juniors involved in each project.
3. How many Juniors attend regular meetings?
4. List total amount of money raised by Junior members. List how money was raised and how it was spent.

## JUNIOR ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

1. Requirements, instructions and patch forms for the Junior Patch Program are available at [www.ALAforveterans.org](http://www.ALAforveterans.org)
2. A National Junior Meeting will be held at the same time as Mission Training. Please refer to the list of locations and dates for Mission Training 2017 below.

- Columbus, Ohio                      October 15, 2016
- Hartford, Connecticut              October 29, 2016
- Spokane, Washington                October 29, 2016
- Minneapolis, Minnesota              November 5, 2016
- Atlanta, Georgia                      January 14, 2017
- Las Vegas, Nevada                    January 28, 2017

3. **Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members:** Five (5) scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 each will be awarded for the 2016-2017 Auxiliary year. One scholarship will be awarded in each division of the American Legion Auxiliary. Requirements and applications are available at [www.ALAforveterans.org](http://www.ALAforveterans.org)

4. **Junior Projects:**

- ❖ Veterans History Project: [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets)
- ❖ VA Student Volunteer Program: [www.volunteer.va.gov/StudentProgram.asp](http://www.volunteer.va.gov/StudentProgram.asp)
- ❖ Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship: [www.ALAforveterans.org](http://www.ALAforveterans.org)
- ❖ Mean Stinks: [www.meanstinks.com](http://www.meanstinks.com)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)
  - ❖ Junior Activities Chairman Guide
  - ❖ Junior Activities Handbook
  - ❖ Junior Leadership Course
  - ❖ Junior Patch Program
  - ❖ ALA Unit Handbook
  
2. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs information on student volunteers.
  - ❖ [www.volunteer.va.gov/StudentProgram.asp](http://www.volunteer.va.gov/StudentProgram.asp)
  
3. American Legion Auxiliary Junior Activities Facebook Page
  - ❖ [www.facebook.com/alajuniors](http://www.facebook.com/alajuniors)

## AWARDS

### **Unit Award: Best Overall Unit Junior Activities Award**

**Type of Award :** Citation Plaque

**Presented to:** One unit in each division (5 overall awards)

#### **Material and Guidelines:**

- Entries must include the Award Cover Sheet located in this Program Plan.
- Awarded to the unit with the most outstanding Junior Activities Program.
- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. Include specific examples of how your Juniors worked the ALA mission.
- May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.
- Send entries to Department Chairman by June 1, 2017.

### **Junior Member Award: Junior Member of the Year**

**Type of Award:** Engraved plaque

**Presented to:** One Junior member, selected from the Department Junior Members of the Year, in recognition of her dedicated service, efforts, and talents.

#### **Materials and Guidelines:**

- Entries must include the Award Cover Sheet located in this Program Plan.
- Entries must be typewritten and include the following information:
  - ✓ Consideration of only Junior members in good standing for 2016-2017.
  - ✓ Outstanding contribution the Junior has made through the ALA program or project.
  - ✓ Nominee should not be serving as an honorary Department Junior President.
  - ✓ Length of membership is not a criteria.
  - ✓ Name, email and complete mailing address of nominee must accompany nomination.
  - ✓ A narrative, typed essay, not to exceed 500 words, summarizing the nominee's accomplishments during the current administrative year.
  - ✓ Please include pictures, scrapbooks, folders, etc., either electronically or via postal mail.

- ✓ Nomination must be signed by the candidate's Unit Junior Activities Advisor.
- ✓ Attach an Award Cover Sheet, including the name of the award, as well as the name and contact information for the Junior Activities Chairman.
- ✓ All entries must be sent by the Unit Chairman to National Headquarters, to the attention of the Junior Activities Program Coordinator. Entries must be postmarked by June 1, 2017 or emailed by 5:00 p.m. EDT June 1, 2017. Mail to:

National Headquarters Program Coordinator

Kristin Hinshaw

8945 Meridian Street

Indianapolis, IN 46260

[JuniorActivities@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:JuniorActivities@ALAforVeterans.org)

Entries will be judged by the National Junior Activities Committee

**Junior Public Relations Award:** Best Media Coverage of Activity or Project

**Award type:** Engraved Plaque

**Presented to:** One Junior Group (Department, District or Unit)

**Materials and guidelines:**

- Entries must include the Award Cover Sheet in the Program Plan.
- Awarded to the Junior group with the best media coverage of their activities or project.
- Narrative, not to exceed 500 words. Include specific examples of media coverage, including news articles, news releases, newsletters, pictures of displays, ALA events, speeches, website address, social media activity, etc.
- All entries must be sent to the national Chairman, postmarked by June 1, 2017, or emailed by 5:00 p.m. EDT June 1, 2017. Mail to:

Pam Ray

National Chairman

6410 Wind Hill Drive

Springhill, IL 62711-6163

[sparkle1979@hotmail.com](mailto:sparkle1979@hotmail.com)