

**JUNIOR ACTIVITIES**

**2017-2018**

**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 an active Juniors, consider working with a sister Unit that has an active group.
* If you are a Unit officer or chairman, offer to mentor to a Junior member. Have fun teaching her about you 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 after dinners.
* 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. Encourage members to bring in greeting cards they may not be using for Junior members to distribute.
* Offer to help during Junior meetings.

**3. 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 Juniors social media sites.
* Give Junior members the opportunity to work on requirements for the patches at Unit meetings.

**4. Make Junior meetings fun and informative.**

* Junior members can help plan and lead the meeting to make it more fun and informative to their age group.
* Be flexible during your meetings. *Robert’s Rules* can be intimidating and boring for Juniors; there will be plenty of time for them to learn. Keep an orderly meeting, but don’t put too much emphasis on protocol.
* Plan activities that are fun, yet teach about the mission of the ALA. Remember, they are kids with short attention spans. Activities that involve light exercise are helpful to burn off their youthful energy. If you need ideas, ask a teacher; it might end up being a great win/win as you share ideas.
* Crafts are another good activity for Juniors. They can make poppy crafts for a fundraiser, patriotic decorations for your post or local veterans home, handmade cards to send to veterans at your local VA, etc.
* Have snacks and drinks on hand. Juniors could even make poppy cookies to snack on.

**What can our Unit do?**

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

**Junior Activities Reporting**

**Mid-Year Reports**

Each **Unit** Children & Youth/ Junior Activities Chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **November 15, 2017** to the District Children & Youth Chairman.

Each District Children& Youth/Junior Activities Chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **December 1, 2017** to the Department Children & Youth Chairman. Mail all reports to:

Wanda Brandt

4344 Tideview Dr

Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

**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 1, 2018**.

Each District Children& Youth/Junior Activities Chairman is required to submit a narrative along with each Unit Narrative

**Report** , **in addition to ,the Year-End Reporting Sheet by Apr 15, 2018 to the Department Children & Youth and Southern Division Chairman.** Mail all reports to:

Wanda Brandt

4344 Tideview Dr

Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

**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. How has participation in the Patch Program increased enthusiasm among Junior members?

3. What kind of service projects were the Juniors involved with? Please list projects and the total number of Juniors involved in each project. Has participation in the service projects increased as the year progresses?

4. How many Juniors attend regular meetings?

5. In what ways did your Senior members mentor to your Junior mentors?

6. How does your unit plan to increase Junior member participation in Auxiliary meetings and activities?

7. List total amount of money raised by Junior members. List how money was raised and how it was spent.

8. Please include pictures and news articles showing how Juniors are involved in Unit activities.

**JUNIOR ACTIVITIES and 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 2018 below.

* Springfield, Illinois — October 14, 2017
* Hartford, Connecticut — October 21, 2017
* Minneapolis, Minnesota — October 2, 2017
* Shreveport, Louisiana — October 28, 2017
* Charlotte, North Carolina — January 20, 2018
* Las Vegas, Nevada — February 3, 2018

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**

###### **Junior Activities Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements:**

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just three simple steps to add your part to our national success story:

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

**Type of Award:** Engraved plaque, invitation to National Convention

**Presented to**: One Junior member, selected from the Department Junior Members of the Year, in recognition of her dedicates 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 2017-2018.
* 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 **National 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, 2018 or emailed by 5:00 p.m. EDT June 1, 2018. Mail to:

National Headquarters Program Coordinator

Kristin Hinshaw

8945 N. Meridian St. Suite 200

Indianapolis, IN 46260

(317) 569-4556

khinshaw@ALAforVeterans.org

**Entries will be judged by the National Junior Activities Committee**

**Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program**

**Type of Award** : Citation Plaque

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

**Material and Guidelines**:

* Entries must include the **National 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.
* All entries must be sent to the national Chairman, postmarked by June 1, 2018, or emailed by 5:00 p.m. EDT June 1, 2018.

**Southern Division Chairman**

Gabriele Barnett

258 Calloway Court

Evans, GA 30809

(706) 951-3906

barnettgabriele@hotmail.com

**Department Award: Best Department Junior Activities Program**

**Type of Award** : Citation Plaque

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

**Material and Guidelines**:

* Entries must include the **National 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.
* All entries must be sent to the national Chairman, postmarked by June 1, 2018, or emailed by 5:00 p.m. EDT June 1, 2018.

**Southern Division Chairman**

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**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 **National 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, 2018, or emailed by 5:00 p.m. EDT June 1, 2018.

**Southern Division Chairman**

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