

Education

Department of Florida

Department Education Chairman — Liz Close

Committee Members: Carla Struble /Jenny Bare-Anguinzoni

2022-2023 American Legion Auxiliary Education & Scholarship

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, with a special emphasis on children of veterans and service members.

What Can You Do?

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

Ideas for an Individual Member:

- Locate a veteran willing to share his/her experience with school children. Attend a post-meeting or ask around the post for a volunteer.
- Contact your local schoolteachers or principals to see if they would be interested in hosting a Veterans in Community Schools event.
- 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.

Ideas for the Unit:

- Collaborate with your local American Legion Post to present Veterans in Community Schools within your local schools.
- Promote your Veterans in Community Schools event through local media and on your own social media accounts.
- Promote American Legion Auxiliary Scholarships, and award local Scholarships at the Department and Unit levels.

Ideas for an Individual Member:

- 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, and Unit American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship opportunities.
- Make copies of any scholarship applications (found at www.ALAforVeterans.org/
- Scholarships), and provide them to schools that request them.
- Volunteer to be on the scholarship selection committee.
- Make a donation to American Legion Auxiliary Education National Scholarship Funds:
 - Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship Fund
 - Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund
 - ALA Foundation at www.ALAFoundation.org
 - Department, District, or Unit scholarships

Ideas for the Unit:

- Assign a member to communicate with schools regarding scholarship applications.
- Create a Unit Scholarship Fund to award scholarships to local students.
- Refer to "How to Create a Unit Scholarship Fund" following this program Plan. • 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 ALA scholarships at a school presentation and in the media.
- Please keep track of the total number of applications received for any National Scholarship, and pass that information on to your Department's Education Chairman.
- Support Give 10 to Education, American Education Week, and Teacher Appreciation Week.

Ideas for an Individual Member:

- 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 (ie. grocery stores, banks, senior centers, post office), and invite local residents to donate.

- Save Box Tops for Education and send them to local schools. Most schools participate in this program.◦ A downloadable certificate may be found on the Education page of the Members Only section at www.ALForVeterans.org.
- Promote Teacher Appreciation Week, the first full week in May.
- Send cards to your local school's teachers.
- Donate resources that teachers or needy children may need.
- Promote American Education Week, celebrated the week prior to Thanksgiving.
 - Send a card to all local school staff thanking them for the work they do. Include all school personnel with whom children interact (ie., bus drivers, custodians, etc.).
- A sample card may be found on the Education page of the Members Only section at www.ALForVeterans.org.

Ideas for the Unit:

- Participate in the Give 10 to Education program by soliciting items from members to distribute to the schools in your district. Contribute supplies to local classrooms.
- Recognition certificates are available to download and print at www.ALForVeterans.org on the Education Committee page.
- Promote Teacher Appreciation Week (the first full week of May) by reaching out to teachers, and asking how your Unit can enhance their school curriculum.
- Find out if there are any needy children, and figure out what resources your Unit can provide to the student.
- Participate in American Education Week (week prior to Thanksgiving). Remember to recognize all school personnel, not just teachers.
- Educate school administrators on how the American Legion Auxiliary can have a positive impact on students.
- Assist and support veterans pursuing higher education and vocational education, concentrating on Female Veterans.

Ideas for an Individual Member:

- Contact a campus student veteran's group at colleges and universities in your community to see what kind of help they might need. The VA counselor at the college can assist you in locating the veteran's groups.
- Sign up to receive The American Legion's Legislative Action Alerts, and support the alerts regarding the GI Bill.

Ideas for the Unit:

- Collaborate with a campus student veteran's group at colleges and universities in your community.
- Arrange for your post home to be available for off-campus events/chapter meetings.
- Provide information/handouts to members on organizing and delivering presentations on career and life skills topics to student veterans.
- Promote events through local media and your own social media accounts.
- Encourage members to sign up to receive The American Legion's Legislative Action Alerts, and support the alerts regarding the GI Bill.

Scholarships

- Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship
 - Spirit of Youth Scholarship
 - Non-Traditional Student Scholarship
 - Junior Loyalty Scholarship

[See ALAforVereterans.org/scholarships](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/scholarships)

Member Award: Give 10 to Education

- Award: Printable citation
 - Presented to Participants of Give 10 to Education
 - Deadline: May 1, 2023 — sent to Department Chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 pm.
 - Materials and Guidelines:
 - Recognition certificates are available to download and print at www.ALAforVeterans.org on the Education Committee page.
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- Department Scholarships are awarded annually to children and stepchildren of honorably discharged veterans only. The applicant must be a resident of the State of Florida. The student deadline is February 1, 2023, to the Unit. Deadline for receipt of completed applications by the Department Education Chairman for grants shall be March 1, 2023.

- Department Memorial Scholarships are awarded annually to members of the American Legion Auxiliary, daughters or granddaughters of members, provided said member has been a member in good standing in a Unit within the Department of Florida and shall have maintained that membership for at least (3) consecutive years prior to the date of application. The student deadline due to the Unit is February 1, 2023. Due to Department Chairman by March 1, 2023.
- The Norma Kerkow Female Veteran's Scholarship is awarded annually to Honorable Discharged female veterans residing in Florida. All scholarships will be renewed annually in an undergraduate school provided the student needs further financial assistance and has maintained at least a 2.5 GPA. Renewal contracts to be sent by Department Headquarters to recipients and reviewed by the Department Secretary and Education Committee. Sponsoring Units will be notified of scholarship renewal approvals for students that they have previously sponsored. The cover page of the application contains all rules. All scholarship applications are to be submitted to Department Headquarters either directly or via a sponsoring Unit. Applications can be obtained from the Department Headquarters. The deadline for receipt of completed applications by the Department Chairman for grants shall be March 1, 2023.

Department Awards.

- The Elizabeth A. Nelson Award is awarded to the Unit having reported the best year-round program through participation in all phases of the education and scholarship program and in conformity with the current National program. This award is sponsored by St. Cloud, Unit 80 American Legion Auxiliary. Entries must reach the Department Education Chairman no later than May 1, 2023.
- The Kathy DeRouin Award is sponsored by Orlando, Unit 19. It is awarded to the Unit which hosts the best educational tutoring program. Grades can include Pre-K through high school or any adult literacy course. Tutoring may take place in schools, libraries, community centers, or after-school programs and should conform with the National guidelines. The report must be received by May 17, which is 30 days prior to Department Convention. The report is to be sent to me, Liz Close, Department Chairman.

See Unit Guide for full details.

Education Reporting

Year-End Reports

Annual reports are due to District Education Chairman by April 1, 2023.

District Chairman reports are due to Department Chairman by April 15, 2023.

Continue Our Legacy of Respect.

Additional Resources You Can Use

- American Legion Auxiliary scholarship applications: www.ALforVeterans.org/Scholarships
- Educational resources through the Americanism and Children & 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 National Education Committee Facebook group: search ALA Education 593- (https://www.facebook.com/groups

Continue Our Legacy of Respect!

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