

**2022 - 2023 American Legion Auxiliary Programs Action Plan
Department of Florida
Juniors Activities**



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 mission of the Jr. Activities committee is to promote volunteerism through community based programs and services that involve veterans and to teach the principles of loyalty to God & Country, justice, freedom and democracy to our young members. We will “Honor our Veterans Everyday” by COLOR (Continue Our Legacy Of Respect) me There!

Committee Contact Information

Chairman: Dara Oliver

(321) 543-1069

juniors@alaf1.org

17776 SE 158th Court

Weirsdale, FL 32195

Facebook: American Legion Auxiliary Florida Juniors

#COLORmeThere – Please Support the President’s Project

Committee Members: Tara Harris, Michelle Ligeikis and Sarana Minick

Committee Volunteers: Kathy Derouin and Julie Kay

Juniors (ages 8-17) will be invited to attend: Department Workshop July 22-24, 2022, Fall Conference Nov. 18-20, 2022, National Jr’s Meeting and will be installed at Convention June 15-18, 2023 as well as any events deemed for children such as a

Juniors Camp, Children & Youth Activities, President's Project events and programs that they can assist with or participate in. Juniors **under 8 years old** will be allowed to attend with an adult presence.

The charm of the Junior Activities Committee is that our Junior can assist in every committee that we have, allow them to be Artists ~ to paint the town for our Veterans and Military Children -

What can we do?

1. **MEMBERSHIP** - Build your Junior Activities program! Get all eligible Girls to become Junior members. Just because most Juniors activities require girls to be 5 years of age - please allow them to become members, ***even at birth***. Ask Legion members to sign up their daughters and granddaughters. They don't have to live in Florida to be members here, sign-up your relatives as long as they are eligible. You can always find things for them to do, and if you offer to pay for their membership (annual fee which is cheaper than adult membership) you can make your membership goals quickly. Organize your own Juniors Group within your Unit or District - It only takes 1! If your Unit still has bank accounts set aside for juniors, utilize them to pay for members still on your roster.
2. **AMERICANISM** - Ask your Junior Members to assist at a meeting or event to say the Pledge of Allegiance or Sing the National Anthem. Value them as members! Juniors can also participate in the Star Spangled Kids program which educates youth on the US Constitution and History of the United States, this year there is an award specifically for Juniors. Teach these young members to memorize and learn to recite the ALA Preamble, Children have great memories and once they learn it, they can help adult members say it. Don't forget the Oratorical Contest, Flag Etiquette or the Americanism Essay Contest - Juniors from 3rd - 12th Grades, as well as ALA Girls State candidates can participate and could win the National Essay Contest. This year's Essay is: ***What does Patriotism mean to you?*** Follow the PAP under Americanism for information, awards, deadline dates and specifics.
3. **CHILDREN & YOUTH** - Your Juniors can help set-up the Military Child's Table - and have it accessible so that your juniors can perform each part and help to educate the rest of your Legion family about the sacrifices that children of military must

go through. Wear Purple on April 15th or have Juniors participate in making crafts to celebrate the Month of Military kids day and month. September 11th is Patriots Day and September 17th is Citizenship Day Make our Juniors feel Special with certificates to acknowledge or honor themes being Great American's! You can also purchase or download the coloring books for Juniors. Follow the PAP under Children & Youth for more information, awards, deadline dates and specifics.

4. COMMUNITY SERVICE - Juniors can help in any activities including at the Legion Post home or going outside the Legion Family. Encourage them to wear their ALA Branded apparel and participate in Legion, SAL & Riders events, dinners, walks, nursing home visits, volunteering at a dog shelter and local events including other children organizations like Scouting, Children's Miracle Network, Special Olympics or Rotary Club Kids. Follow the PAP under Community Service for more information, deadline dates and specifics.
5. EDUCATION - Check out scholarships especially for junior members that are graduating or heading to college, trade school or even the Military. Some include: Spirit of Youth Scholarship, James H. Parke Memorial, Children of Warriors and Samsung for ALA Girls State attendees. Juniors can also partner with schools and donate for: Give 10 to Education, Box Tops or School Supply Drives, you can also ask the schools to see what community service projects they can assist with perhaps volunteer to read to younger students. Follow the PAP under Education for more details, awards, deadline dates and specifics.
6. ALA GIRLS STATE - Make it a point to tell your Junior members that have completed their 11th grade to apply to attend ALA FL Girls State. The 2023 session at FSU will be in June 2023. Juniors can also assist the program by having a fundraiser to support meals or supplies needed at ALA Florida Girls State. Follow the Girls State PAP for more info.
7. HISTORY - Ask your Juniors to either put together a Pictorial History book (scrapbook) or a submit a written History on your Unit or District and submit to the Department Historian. They can also start writing the veterans history Project

by interviewing veterans; either family members or neighbors. Follow the PAP under Historian for awards, deadlines, dates and specifics.

8. ALA JUNIOR LEADERSHIP COURSE - Juniors can take the leadership course online through the ALAforVeterans.org website. Mentor them or be a Senior Sponsor to guide them through a committee or office. Allow them to have their own Junior meeting and teach them to use Robert's Rules of Order, but make it fun for them so it's orderly but not too much emphasis on protocol. There is also a Junior Activities Handbook available to use as a guide at www.ALAforVeterans.org
9. NATIONAL SECURITY - Juniors can participate or apply for: Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program, CERT Civilian Emergency Response Training, Welcome Home ceremonies at Military Installations, Airports or at Legion Posts. If they participate in their schools JROTC program there are awards that they are eligible for. Follow the PAP under National Security for awards, deadlines, dates and specifics.
10. PRESIDENT'S PROJECT – Gary Sinise Foundation, Florida Chapter “**Snowball Express**” - The Juniors have plans to participate and help to raise funds for the Department President's project which highlights Military Children, “Honoring those we lost and left behind.”
11. POPPY - Encourage Juniors to apply for Little Miss Poppy Contest (ages 6-12) on the Department and National level. Ask the girls to make table favors or wreaths and participate in the Poppy Poster Contest. Juniors can also be great helpers when you host your “poppy days” they can distribute poppies and collect donations. Juniors can also learn the story of the Poppy, recite In Flanders Fields Poem or learn about Moina Michaels; the Poppy Lady. Follow the PAP under Poppy for awards, deadlines, dates and specifics.
12. PUBLIC RELATIONS – Please make sure when using our youths photos a Media Release form has been filled out and is on hand. Utilize PR and different media sources by promoting what your Junior Members are doing - Newspapers & TV Stations love children, call your local radio stations, many have to give free PSA's (Public Service Announcements.) Also allow your Juniors to assist you in setting

up a Facebook page, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter or other Social Media accounts as well as websites. Juniors are very tech savvy and can help you set things up for your Unit or a separate Juniors Group or page. Follow the PAP under Public Relations for awards, deadlines, dates and specifics and check out the National Awards for submissions.

Social Media pages includes Facebook: American Legion Auxiliary Florida Juniors, Ala Florida, American Legion Auxiliary Juniors - just remember to post where you've been, not where you're going! We are also on Instagram = alajuniors and you can use hashtags **#ALAJuniors** **#COLORmeThere** **#ALAJuniors** or **#ALARockStars**

13. Participate and donate in supporting the Junior Activities Committee.
Fundraisers are a way that the Juniors learn to budget and work towards a goal as well as manage their money and help raise funds for Veterans Programs, Military Families or Community Service projects.
14. Don't forget to Celebrate our Juniors - make it a point to Congratulate them on any accomplishment, be it a certificate, plaque, award, patch, celebration, or something at school to honor them. Offer them snacks or drinks or even host a pizza party, prom or girls tea.
15. **AND Finally the PATCH PROGRAM** - All Juniors, as well as young SAL Members (17 and younger) can participate in this program. Not only will they be rewarded for their good deeds they will also be recognized at Department Convention for earning patches. The Patch Program activities can be found on the Junior Member Activities page on the Department of Florida website www.alafll.org attachments or in the Members Only section at www.ALForVeterans.org There are 3 different age groups: Red, Gold & Blue and 11 different categories that can be earned.



2023 Honorary Department Junior President Color Wheel Patch Challenge – All Junior Officers and Jr. members are encouraged to earn at least 2 patches by Convention 2023. HDJ President Jasmine will present a special certificate for those Juniors that complete the challenge.



DEPARTMENT AWARD

Sponsored by: PHDJP: Delaney Enya and Dara Oliver

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR AUXILIARY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Awarded to the Florida American Legion Auxiliary Junior Member who is a current paid member in good standing that shows outstanding participation in one or more programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. Narrative to be typed, submitted and signed by Unit Junior Activities Chairman (or a nominating senior member) not to exceed 500 words. A cover page must include the nominee’s name, age, date of birth, Unit name and number, Jr’s ALA membership number, e-mail, mailing address and contact #. The

narrative should summarize and include the Juniors accomplishments during the current year. Pictures, clippings, social media posts, scrapbooks, folders, flyers etc. can be included and are not counted against the word count. The submission must be signed by the Unit President. Entries to be received by the Department Junior Activities chairman: postmarked before May 1, and the winner will be presented a plaque at the Department Convention.

NATIONAL JUNIOR AUXILIARY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Awarded to the Junior Auxiliary Member who is a current paid member in good standing at the start of the 2022-23 administrative year in recognition of her dedicated service efforts and talents towards the American Legion Auxiliary. National Report and Award Cover sheet is required to accompany submission. Narrative to be typed and submitted by Unit Chairman not to exceed 500 words to include a cover page with the nominee's name, age, date of birth, ALA membership number, e-mail, and mailing address. The narrative must summarize their accomplishments during the current year. Pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, flyers etc. can be included but must be signed by the Junior Activities Chairman. Entry to be received by the National Headquarters to the Junior Activities Program Coordinator/Committee Liaison via email before June 1, 2023 with an ALA award cover sheet. More information can be found on the Junior Member Activities page in the Members Only section at www.ALAforVeterans.org

COMMITTEE AWARDS

BEST MEDIA COVERAGE OF A JUNIOR ACTIVITY OR PROJECT

To the Unit, District or Department that demonstrates in a narrative 500 words or less the Best Unit Junior Activities Program utilizing Public Relations. Pictures, press releases, news clippings, social media activity, speeches, website addresses etc. can be included. Entry to be received by the National Chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on or before June 1, 2023 with an ALA award cover sheet. More information can be found on the Junior Member Activities page in the Members Only section at www.ALAforVeterans.org

BIGGEST INCREASE OF JUNIOR MEMBERS CERTIFICATE

To the Unit(s) in each of the 6 membership groupings will receive recognition for the biggest increase of Junior Membership for the 2022-2023 year.

MOST OUTSTANDING UNIT JUNIOR ACTIVITIES PROGRAM (Per Division)

To the Unit that demonstrates in a narrative 1000 words or less, the Best Unit Junior Activities Program. Narrative should include examples of how your Juniors worked the ALA Mission. Entry to be received by the National Southern Division Chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on or before June 1, 2023. More information can be found on the Junior Member Activities page in the Members Only section at www.ALAforVeterans.org

HONORARY DEPARTMENT JUNIOR PRESIDENT AWARD

To the Honorary Department Junior Auxiliary President that served in all capacities of her full term will receive a citation and her name will be placed upon a perpetual plaque to be displayed at Department Headquarters.



UNIT YEAR-END REPORTING FORM FOR JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Unit Reports are due to DISTRICT Jr. Activities Chairman by **April 1, 2023**

Dist. Chairman _____ (Department Chairman: Dara Oliver)

Unit Name: _____ Unit # _____ District _____

Unit Chairman: _____ e-Mail _____

Unit President: _____ e-Mail _____

This information is from April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

How many paid Juniors are in your Unit? _____ Membership Group _____

Did you increase membership from the last reporting period? _____

If so by how many? _____ And how did you gain? _____

How many of those Juniors are active and participated in which programs? (List # _____

What program did the Juniors participate in the most? _____

Did any Junior participate in the ALA Patch Program? _____

If so, how many Juniors participated? _____ And how many patches were earned? _____

How many Sr. Auxiliary Members assisted in a Junior Project or Program? _____

Please explain program or project in detail, including hours spent, expenses and if it directly helped a Veteran or Military Family (Write Narrative on a separate sheet)

Are any of your Juniors an Honorary Officer 2022-2023? (if so name & office served) _____

Did any of your Juniors attend Department Convention 2022? _____ If so How Many? _____

Did any of your Juniors attend Work Shop? _____ If so How Many? _____

Did any of your Juniors attend Fall Conference? _____ If so How Many? _____

Did any of your Juniors attend a Unit or District Jr. Meeting? _____ If so How Many? _____

Did any of your Juniors attend a National Division Jr. Meeting? _____ If so How Many? _____

Did any of your Juniors attend ALA Girls State? _____ If so How Many? _____

Are any of your Juniors planning on attending Department Convention 2023? _____

Are any of your Juniors planning on Running for an Honorary Department Office? _____

List: _____

Total # of Hours Jr.'s spent _____ Total # of Hours Sr. members spent _____

In detail, please explain the above information, submit a written narrative of special events, projects and activities that your Juniors participated in and include: volunteer hours for both Junior & Senior members, Monetary donations given, cost involved and if you had media coverage. Also include: What various service projects in which the Juniors are involved? Has service projects increased your membership as the year progressed? What type of volunteer hours did the Juniors perform? What ways did your senior members mentor your junior members? How does your unit plan to increase junior membership participating in meetings and activities?



YEAR END REPORTING FORM FOR JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT # _____

Reports are due to Dept. Junior Activities Chairman - April 15, 2023

District Chairman report to Department Chairman: Dara Oliver 17776 SE 158th Ct. Weirsdale, FL 32195

Dist. Chairman: _____ e-Mail _____

Chairman Phone # _____ Dist. President: _____

This is compiled from All Unit reports received dated: April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

How many Units are in your District? _____ Is there a District Jr's Group? _____

How many Units have a separate Juniors Group? _____

How many paid Juniors are in your District? _____

How many of those Juniors are active and involved? _____

What programs did the Juniors participate in? _____

Did any Junior participate in the ALA Patch Program? _____

If so, how many Juniors participated and how many patches were earned?
 _____ / _____

How many Sr. Auxiliary Members assisted in a Junior Project or Program? _____

Please explain program or project in detail, including hours spent, expenses and if it directly helped a Veteran or Military Family (if so how many?) _____

Are any of your Juniors an Honorary Officer 2022-2023? (if so name & office served) _____

Did any of your Juniors attend Department Convention 2022? _____ If so How Many? _____

Did any of your Juniors attend Work Shop? _____ If so How Many? _____

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Did any of your Juniors attend a National Division Jr. Meeting? _____ If so How Many? _____

Did any of your Juniors attend ALA Girls State? _____ If so How Many? _____

Are any of your Juniors planning on attending Department Convention 2023? _____

Are any of your Juniors planning on Running for an Honorary Department Office? _____

List: _____

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