



**American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida
Children & Youth
Program Engagement Plan 2024-2025**



Securing Our Foundation to Build a Stronger Future!



Military families, Community and Children & Youth

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Join our Facebook page ([ALA FL Children & Youth](#))

WHAT IS THE C&Y PURPOSE?:

The purpose of the Children & Youth Committee is to work collaboratively with The American Legion to promote programs that protect, care for, and support children and youth, especially those of our military and veterans. Standing Rules 6, Core National Standing Committees.

The Children & Youth program emphasizes protecting, caring for, and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans' and military families.

KEY ELEMENTS OF OUR PROGRAM

- To recognize and reward the positive actions of our children and youth, the American Legion Auxiliary has two special national awards bestowed to youth nominated by units: the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award.
- Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2) is an initiative honoring military children who may be experiencing a separation from one or both parents, whether deployed to a war zone, having a short tour, or on an extended temporary duty assignment.
- The American Legion Auxiliary Children & Youth program strives to support and promote the Children & Youth program of The American Legion (<https://www.legion.org/youthprograms>).

The need to support our veterans' and military children and youth never ends. We want to encourage our units/members to support our children and youth in new and old ways.

This Program Engagement Plan will list a few ways, but don't be limited. Our members are talented and creative, and each unit has the right people to come together to assist the children and youth in our communities.

EXAMPLES OF WHAT WE CAN DO?

- Wear purple April 15 in honor of Purple Up! Day for Military Kids.
- Perform the [Military Child Table ceremony](#) at a unit meeting or in your community.
- Contact your local churches, homeless shelters, and food pantries to identify homeless veterans' children. Ask what their specific needs are and offer them your services as an ALA member.
- Contact your local news sources (newspaper, community television, community websites, and social media accounts) and town council with an offer to give a presentation about you and your unit's work for veterans and military children.
- Plan a special celebration for children during the month of April in honor of Children & Youth Month and Month of the Military Child (#momc).
- Host a dinner, game night, or community fair, etc., that will bring military and non-military families together.

REWARDING

To recognize and reward the positive actions of our children and youth, the American Legion Auxiliary has two special national awards bestowed to youth nominated by units: the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award.

- Watch your socials and local media for possible nominations of students.
- Use the [online form](#) to submit your nomination.
- Invite your winners to a unit meeting to present the award to them.
- Contact your local media and submit a [press release](#) regarding the award presentation.

Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2) is an initiative honoring military children who may be experiencing a separation from one or both parents, whether deployed to a war zone, having a short tour, or on an extended temporary duty assignment.

- Volunteer at a Family Readiness Group event where [KDH2 “I’m a Hero 2” buttons/stickers](#) can be distributed.
- Host a KDH2 celebration with recognition buttons/stickers to let military kids know we appreciate their sacrifices.

The American Legion Auxiliary Children & Youth program strives to support and promote the [Children & Youth program](#) of The American Legion.

- Work with your post to organize celebrations for the youth in your community. Host an Easter egg hunt, a Christmas party, or a family movie night, etc.
- Work with your post to cross promote youth programs. Invite Legionnaires to speak at a unit meeting about Legion Boys State, Legion Baseball, Oratorical Contest, etc. Speak at a post meeting about ALA Girls State, Junior Activities, etc.

Support Children’s Hospitals

- You can visit the hospital in your area and ask for a donation list of needed items to make the patients’ lives fun, to take their minds off their health situations.
- Donate to John Hopkins All Children’s Hospital, St. Petersburg, via the donation remittance form.
- Contact the hospital/facility in your area and ask how your Unit can volunteer or find out what their needs are.

Homeless Children and Families

Some of our homeless veterans also have children living on the streets with them.

- Contact your local churches, homeless shelters, and food pantries to identify homeless veterans' children. Ask what their specific needs are, offer them your services.
- Contact local schools to assess their need for supplies and extra clothes for homeless children.
- Help raise awareness for the needs of homeless children in your community by sharing unit activities on the unit website, social media pages and newsletters.

Child Welfare Fund

- The Child Welfare Fund's mission is to give grants to youth-serving nonprofit organizations. American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is "Dedicated to the betterment of all children".

100% Per Capita Banner Program Request Form 2024 – 2025. Each American Legion Auxiliary unit must donate one dollar per member based upon its official membership during the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's award year (1 June - 31 May).

The form can be found at CWF Banner Order Form 2024-2025 - fillable (legion.org).

Special Olympics

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympic athlete, and the community.

It takes all of us to create a world of inclusion-athletes, volunteers, families, sponsors, coaches, the general public-who are willing to open their minds and hearts to provide new opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics does not charge a fee to train the athletes or to compete.

You can donate to the Special Olympics by using the donation remittance form.

Camp Boggy Creek

- Camp Boggy Creek is a place where children can reach beyond their illnesses and enjoy the simple pleasures of childhood. The programs are always provided free of charge to the campers and families.
 - **Host an Event:** Do you like to bake? Have dinner with friends? These events can be fundraisers to benefit Camp Boggy Creek!

AWARDS:

National Award Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program (per division)

- **All entries must be submitted to the Department Chairman later than May 1, 2025. Late arrivals will not be accepted.**

Your Unit Report will be used for this award. Include pictures! Indicate this report is for the National award. Please submit to me:

**Lisa Hoyland
childrenyouth@alaf.org**

Submissions must be emailed, because they must be submitted to National electronically.

Department Awards

- **LOIS McFALL CHILDREN & YOUTH AWARD**

Children & Youth Year-End Report must be submitted and includes all required statistical information (i.e., money expended, number of children and families assisted., ect.) Cash contributions must be made through Department Office (list in on the Award Rules (use the donation remittance form).

Narrative to be received by the Department Chairman no later than thirty (30) days prior to Department Convention.

Rules and guidelines are listed in the Unit Guide. Please Follow the Rules Exactly!

Chairman:

- **MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD PROCLAMATION AWARD**

Certificate to each Unit participating in Children & Youth Month by completing a Month of the Military Proclamation.

REPORTING

- **YEAR-END:** Unit Year-End Reporting form must reach your District Children & Youth Chairman by **April 1, 2025**. Please include a narrative report. Please send pictures and/or news articles (JPEG).
- **District Chairman** must send the Year-End Reports to the Department Children & Youth Chairman by **April 15, 2025**.

Please contact me with any questions. Lisa Hoyland childrenyouth@alaf.org 727-482-0873