



**DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**  
**EDUCATION**  
**PROGRAM ACTION PLAN 2020-2021**  
**Chairman Linda Dixon**

The American Legion Auxiliary believes education is vital to democracy and that investing time and money to educate our youth is literally an investment in America's future. The education program fosters learning for children in our own communities, with our focus on the children of our military and veterans. The education of all of America's children is essential for the future of our nation. The American Legion Auxiliary joins with the American Legion to aid and support the basic rights of all children to receive an appropriate education.

National has suggested the following areas to focus on:

**Build a relationship with your local schools:**

- Volunteer to be Education Chairman in your Unit.
- Give 10 to Education. Contribute supplies to schools in their communities. Priority should be given to schools serving military children and military Family Support Groups in your area.
- Promote American Education Week (November 14-20, 2021). Send cards to a local school thanking them for what they do. A sample card may be found on the Education page of the Members Only section at [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org). Also, American Education Week isn't just for Teachers, it is for all that work with students: Bus Drivers, Para Pros (Assistants), Office Staff, School Nurses, etc.

- Promote Teacher Appreciation Week (May 3rd-7th, 2021) by sending a card to your local schools and/or provide a snack for teachers.
- Promote Auxiliary scholarships during American Education Week using local media and your own social media accounts.
- Enhance respect for the sacrifices of our military heroes among school children by scheduling Veterans in the Classroom at your local school.
- Collect “box tops” or “labels” for education and donate to your local school.

**Box Top Program is going digital, becoming effective on June 1, 2019.**

Go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for official rules and you may go to [BoxTopsForEducation.com](http://BoxTopsForEducation.com) to register for the program and choose a school to donate to. Membership is free.

- Ask Educators/Administrators – How can we be of assistance to you and your school?
- Check with the nurse/school clinic if their department in school has needs.
- Volunteer to be tutors, class counselor, assist in after school activities or bus patrol.

**Assist and support military children with educational opportunities:**

- Identify military children in local classrooms and reach out to the child who has a family member deployed.
- Offer individual tutoring or assistance to a struggling military child.
- Inform schools of a free tutoring website for military children: [www.tutor.com/military](http://www.tutor.com/military)
- Organize a classroom recognition event for military children to share the accomplishments of their relative who is serving.
- Provide local schools with a copy of “Educator’s guide to the Military Child during Deployment.” Visit: [www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/os/homefront/homefront.pdf](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/os/homefront/homefront.pdf)
- Ask the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion and Legion Riders to hold a fundraiser for the benefit of a scholarship for a descendant of a veteran. A good example would be the American Legion Auxiliary Department Scholarship.

**Assist and support veterans pursuing a higher education or vocational education**

- Members should sign up to receive The American Legion’s Legislative Action Alerts and support the alerts regarding the GI Bill.

- Volunteer to collaborate with campus student veterans group at colleges and universities in your community.
- Arrange for your post home to be available for off-campus events/chapter meetings. Promote events through local media and your own social media accounts.

### **Veterans in the Community, events in the classroom and community**

- Contact your local school teachers to see if they would be interested in hosting a "Veterans in the Classroom" event.
- Involve your local post to present Veterans Community Schools within your local schools.
- Provide information to the teacher hosting your program about challenges in today's military families. This article that was published in the Legion's magazine is a tool for teachers to use that will introduce the topic before the Unit's presentation:  
[www.legion.org/magazine/162500/hardest-year](http://www.legion.org/magazine/162500/hardest-year)
- Wear your American Legion Auxiliary apparel when you visit schools.
- Review Veterans in the Community Schools: History in the First Person on the Legion's website at [www.legion.org/publications](http://www.legion.org/publications) for hints on starting this program.

**NOTE:** Check with Principal or school board to see if permission is needed to present information.

### **Important Due Dates:**

#### **Mid-Year Reports due:**

- **Unit Reports**—to District Chairman: December 1, 2020.
- **District Mid-Year Reports** Due to Department Chairman: December 15, 2020.
- **Please tell a story, this is your Narrative.** Your stories, pictures, and other ALA mission-related activities are important. As a part of your Narrative Report, please include answers to the following questions:
  1. How was Give 10 participation recognized in your Unit?
  2. Describe how Veterans in the Community Schools were presented.
  3. Did your unit actively support Veterans associations on campus, describe their activities.
  4. Total number of "Veterans in Community Schools" presentations were facilitated.
  5. Number of Scholarships presented.

6. Total dollar amount of Unit Scholarships.
7. Total dollar amount sent to Department Scholarships.
8. You may also include # of volunteer hours and money/in-kind donations.

### **Year End Reports Due:**

- **Unit Year-End Reports** due to District Chairman: April 1, 2021.
- **District Year-End Reports** due to Department Chairman: April 15, 2021.
- **Please tell a story, this is your Narrative.** Your stories, pictures, and other ALA mission-related activities are important. As a part of your Narrative Report, please include answers to the following questions:
  1. How was Give 10 participation recognized in your Unit?
  2. Describe how Veterans in the Community Schools were presented.
  3. Did your unit actively support Veterans associations on campus, describe their activities.
  4. Total number of “Veterans in Community Schools” presentations were facilitated.
  5. Number of Scholarships presented.
  6. Total dollar amount of Unit Scholarships.
  7. Total dollar amount sent to Department Scholarships.
  8. You may also include # of volunteer hours and money/in-kind donations.

## **Scholarships**

Education is vital to democracy and investing time and money to educating our youth. It is literally an investment in America’s future. Our veterans make sacrifices every day so that we can live in freedom. We can ease the burden of the cost of their children’s education by providing scholarships, which is one way we can express our gratitude to veterans. To that purpose, the Auxiliary supports a number of scholarship programs on the National and Department level.

### **National Scholarships**

(See the Application Rules Sheet for more information)

#### **Children of Warriors National President’s Scholarship**

- Awarded to children of veterans who served in the armed forces during eligibility dates for the American Legion. One for \$3,500, one for \$3,000 and one for \$2,500 will be awarded in each division. A total of 15 outstanding students will be awarded a total of \$45,000 to further their higher education. Applicant must complete 50 hours of community service

during his/her high school years to be eligible for one of these scholarships. See complete list of eligibility requirements at [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org). Send Scholarship applications to your local American Legion Auxiliary unit. Deadline: March 1, 2021

### **The Non-Traditional Student Scholarship**

- One scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 to be awarded in each American Legion Auxiliary division.
- Must be a member of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion and shall have paid dues for the two preceding years and for the calendar year in which application is made. See complete list of eligibility requirements at [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org). Send Scholarship applications to your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit. Deadline: March 1, 2021

### **Spirit of Youth Scholarship**

- One Junior Member in each division will receive a scholarship valued at \$5,000.
- Applicant must have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the immediate past three years, hold a current membership card and continue her membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the four-year scholarship period. See complete list of eligibility requirements at [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org). Applications are on National's website at: [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org). Check deadline dates for submission on all applications. Send Scholarship Application to your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit. Deadline: March 1, 2021.

### **Department Scholarships**

- Awarded annually to children of honorably discharged veterans only.
- Four-year University grants are not to exceed \$2,000.
- Junior College and Technical Vocational school grants are not to exceed \$1,000.
- Scholarships shall be all grants and require the recipients to attend an accredited Florida. University, College or Technical Vocational school and be a resident of the State of Florida.

### **Department Memorial Scholarship**

- Awarded annually to members of the American Legion Auxiliary, their daughters or granddaughters, provided said member has been a member in good standing in a Unit within the Department of Florida.
- Member shall have maintained that membership for at least three (3) consecutive years, with current dues paid.
- Four-year University grants are not to exceed \$2,000 per year and Junior College and Technical – Vocational school grants are not to exceed \$1,000 per year.
- All awards are to be made to full-time students only (defined as students who have earned 12 credit hours in the semester).
- Awards shall be paid directly to the institution, payable in two equal payments by the Department Secretary-Treasurer, second payment contingent on meeting credit hour and GPA minimum requirements.
- Scholarships awarded will be determined by the funds available at the time of each screening meeting.
- 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.

#### **Department Master's Scholarship**

- Awarded to members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have maintained membership for five (5) consecutive years with current dues paid.
- Grants not to exceed \$2,500 for continuing their education in an accredited Master's Degree program and can be renewed only once.

**Applications:** Applications can be obtained from the Department Headquarters or downloaded from the website. Deadline for receipt of completed applications to Department of Florida (P.O. Box 547917 Orlando, FL 32854-7917) for 2020-2021 is March 1, 2021 (**Received by not mailed on**). Applications are on the Department Website at: [www.alafl.org](http://www.alafl.org). Check deadline dates for submission on all applications.

#### **Attachments to completed applications must include:**

- Certified transcript from high school, college or university last attended by applicant.
- Personal letter from applicant supplying any information concerning him or herself that would be of interest in consideration of application including extracurricular activities.
- Three letters of reference from those who have known the applicant for at least one year. One of these shall be a faculty member of the school last attended by the applicant.

- Provide signed complete copies with all schedules for Form 1040 of the individual income tax returns of all those who will contribute to support.
- Copy of veteran parent's honorable discharge.

**Please make sure all required document/signatures are in order before sending to Department.**

## **National Awards**

### **Member Award:**

#### **Give 10 to Education**

**Type of Award:** Printable citation Presented to: Those who have participated in Give 10 to Education.

**Unit Award: Million Member Award Type of Award:** Citation Plaque Presented to: One Unit per division, five total awards Guidelines:

**For Rules, go to [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org). (National Education Programs Action Plan 2017-2022, and 2019-2020 Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plans.)**

- Due to the Southern Division Chairman: Sallie Rossman, Department of Virginia 110 Forest Ct., Danville, VA 24540 [sabrossman@comcast.net](mailto:sabrossman@comcast.net)

#### **Unit Award: Most Outstanding American Education Week Program**

Type of Award: Citation Plaque Presented to: One Unit Education Chairman Guidelines:

• For Rules go to [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) (National Education Program Action Plan, 2017-2022 Programs Action Plan, and 2019-2021 Supplement to Programs Action Plan).

- Due to the Southern Division Chairman: Sallie Rossman, Department of Virginia 110 Forest Ct., Danville, VA 24540 [sabrossman@comcast.net](mailto:sabrossman@comcast.net)

#### **Unit Award: Most Outstanding Scholarship Program**

Type of Award: Citation Plaque Presented to: One Unit Education Chairman Guidelines:

• For Rules, go to [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) (National Education Program Action Plan, 2017-2022 Programs Action Plan, and 2019-2021 Supplement to Programs Action Plan).

- Due to the Southern Division Chairman: Sallie Rossman, Department of Virginia 110 Forest Ct., Danville, VA 24540 [sabrossman@comcast.net](mailto:sabrossman@comcast.net)

**Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Education Program** (To include Veterans in the Community Schools and Honoring the Service of our Military. Type of Award: Citation Plaque Presented to: One Unit Education Chairman Guidelines:

- For Rules go to [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org). (National Programs Action Plan 2017-2022 and Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plans 2019-2021)
  - Due to the Southern Division Chairman: Sallie Rossman, Department of Virginia 110 Forest Ct., Danville, VA 24540 [sabrossman@comcast.net](mailto:sabrossman@comcast.net)

**Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Education Program**

- Award: Citation plaque • Presented to: One Unit in each division
- Materials and guidelines:
  - Awarded to the unit in each division with the most outstanding Education program. o Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. Include specific examples of how your unit worked the Education program, including Veterans in Community Schools.

May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.

- Due to the Southern Division Chairman: Sallie Rossman, Department of Virginia 110 Forest Ct., Danville, VA 24540 [sabrossman@comcast.net](mailto:sabrossman@comcast.net)

## **Department Honorary Awards**

### **Elizabeth A. Nelson Award**

*(Formerly Barbara McEvilly Trophy Unit Award)*

(This Award expires in 2031)

The best-year-round program through participation in all phases of the Education and Scholarship program. Must conform with the National Programs Action Plans.

**Type of Award:** Department Award

**Guidelines:**

- **SEE 2019-2020 UNIT GUIDE FOR RULES. PLEASE FOLLOW RULES EXACTLY!**

**Due to Department Education Chairman by April 15<sup>th</sup>.** Linda Dixon 67 Tropical Ct. Port Orange, Fl 32127 [education@alafl.org](mailto:education@alafl.org)

### **Kathy DeRouin Award**

*(Formerly Elizabeth P. Storer Plaque Unit Award)*

(This Award expires in 2031)



Awarded to the Unit that hosts the best Educational Tutoring Program.

Type of Award: Department Award

• **SEE 2019-2021 UNIT GUIDE FOR RULES. PLEASE FOLLOW RULES EXACTLY!**

**Due to Department Education Chairman by April 15<sup>th</sup>.** Linda Dixon 67 Tropical Ct. Port Orange, Fl 32127 [education@alaf1.org](mailto:education@alaf1.org)

### **Resources**

1. Veterans in the Classroom: [www.alaforveterans.org/Programs/Education](http://www.alaforveterans.org/Programs/Education)
2. American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship applications: [www.alaforveterans.org/Scholarships](http://www.alaforveterans.org/Scholarships)
3. Educational resources through the Americanism and Children & Youth Commission of the American Legion: [www.legion.org/education](http://www.legion.org/education)
4. Free online tutoring for military children: [www.tutor.com/military](http://www.tutor.com/military)
5. Student Veterans of America: [www.studentveterans.org](http://www.studentveterans.org)
6. American Legion Flag and Emblem Sales for educational products at [www.emblem.legion.org](http://www.emblem.legion.org)