



2024-2025 American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida Junior Activities Program Engagement Plan

The purpose of the Junior Activities Committee is to inspire active participation in members aged 17 and under so they become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood. *Standing Rule 6, National Committees – Mission Outreach*

2024-25 Department of Florida Junior Activities Committee:

Department Chairman- Tara Harris

Committee Members- Caitlin Hanechak, MaryAnne Spellman & Michelle Ligeikis

Under President Charlotte's theme this year, the Juniors are the ***APPRENTICES***.

There are many tools in the Junior Activities toolbox to encourage Juniors' active participation.



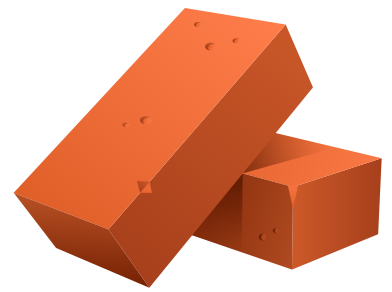
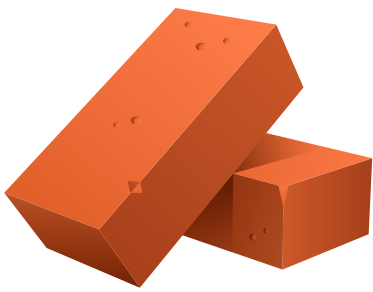
Mission-related:

- Allow Junior members to assist in distributing poppies
- **Encourage** Juniors to organize and participate in service projects
- Help Veterans with technology!
 - There is an excellent article in the National Auxiliary magazine on Veterans Tech Support, an organization founded by an ALA JUNIOR!!!
 - [Auxiliary magazine on Veterans Tech Support](#)
 - [Veterans Tech Support Website](#)
- Offer help to military families and military kids entering a new school

Leadership:

- Allow Junior members to shadow senior member officers at meetings and allow Junior members to hold appropriate offices at the Unit and District levels.
- **Involve** them in posting colors at meetings and other Auxiliary events
- Allow Juniors to lead opening ceremonies (the Pledge, prayer, Preamble, etc.)
- Promote ALA Scholarships to high school Juniors, including the Member Loyalty scholarship, to encourage remaining a member after turning 18
- **Encourage** Juniors to attend Girls State the summer between Junior and Senior years of high school





Brick by Brick, Junior by Junior

- Give your Junior members a voice; allow them to participate
- Plan mission-related activities that will interest and inspire Juniors
- Hold graduation ceremonies for Juniors who are moving to Senior membership status and pay the first year of senior membership dues to encourage them to remain a member
- Share information about the ALA scholarships available at both the Department and National levels
- Pair older Junior members with younger members to promote mentorship

Promote the Junior Member of the Year award

- Five divisional awards, one National JMOY will be awarded
- This scholarship rewards Junior members who contribute to the organization and our mission, with the long-term goal of increasing Junior participation.





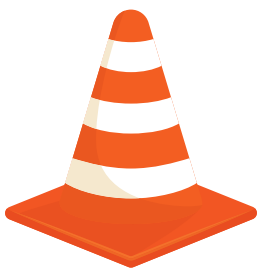
Encourage Participation in the ALA Patch Program

- Work on patches at unit meetings
- Collaborate with SAL for young SAL members to participate in the ALA Patch Program
- Last year, the Department of Florida Juniors and Young SAL earned THIRTY-SIX PATCHES!
- Please send all completed ALA Patch Program Forms to the Department Junior Activities Chairman at Juniors@al afl.org

MAKE IT FUN

- Discuss mission service and ways they can impact our mission at each meeting
- Foster friendships and mentoring by planning fun team-building activities
- Promote the various ALA learning opportunities in the ALA Academy





Deadlines and Important Dates

August 1-15-

Honorary National Junior Division Vice President elections

November 16th

Southern Division National Juniors Meeting- Nashville, TN

April 15th

Purple Up! Day for Military Children

May 1st-

District Reports are due to the Department Chairman

Department Junior Member of the Year submissions

Please visit the National American Auxiliary website at [National ALA Junior Activities Information](#) for further information on getting Junior members involved.



Awards



- **National Awards**

- National Junior Member of the Year
- Unit Award: Most Outstanding Junior Activities Program (per division)
- National Award: Best Media Coverage of Activity or Project
- Please see [National Junior Activities Awards](#) for further information on National Awards

- **Department Awards**

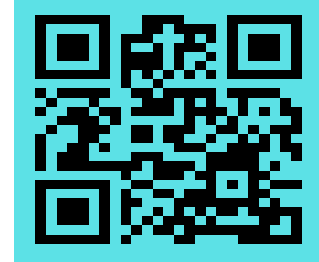
- Department Junior Member of the Year
 - Sponsored by: PHDJP: Delaney Enya and Dara Oliver
 - Awarded to the Florida American Legion Auxiliary Junior Member who is a current paid member in good standing who shows outstanding participation in one or more programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. The Narrative must be typed, submitted, and signed by the Unit Junior Activities Chairman (or a nominating senior member) not exceeding 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 Junior's 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, 2025, and the winner will be presented with a plaque at the Department Convention.



Important Links



National American Legion
Auxiliary
Junior Activities Webpage



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Florida Junior
Activities Webpage



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Florida Juniors
Facebook Page



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Florida
Juniors Facebook Group

