

Junior Activities

Program Action Plan

2018 - 2019

The Junior Activities program is designed to inspire active participation in members age 17 and under so they will become engaging, productive members. If we strengthen our Juniors, they will be the Senior members who will carry our organization into the next 100 years!

“Betting on our future is a sure WIN!”

1. Build Junior Activities program one member at a time by giving Junior members a voice and an opportunity to participate.
 - Organize an active Juniors group. Select a chairman and give them a budget to work with.
 - Continually ask members to sign up their eligible daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters.
 - Include information on Junior membership and activities in monthly newsletters.
 - Include information on Junior membership in renewal notices.
 - “Like” the national Junior Activities Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/alajuniors/>). Share the posts to your friends and encourage them to sign up their eligible Juniors.

2. Engage Juniors in programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.
 - Encourage your Juniors to attend meetings.
 - Mentor the Juniors in your unit. Teach them about your roles as officers and chairmen. Help them understand... ***Who we are, What we do, and Why we matter!***
 - Let them serve as a Committee Member, Chaplain, or Historian. There is nothing in the National governing documents that prohibits a Junior member from serving in an administrative appointed or elected Senior position
 - Bring Juniors to all appropriate ALA activities in which you participate. They can help distribute poppies, clean tables after dinners, visit veterans in nursing homes etc.
 - Present any patches your Juniors earn at a Unit meeting. They will be proud of their achievement and your members will see what great work the Juniors are doing.
 - Older Junior members can mentor younger members. They can teach what they have learned about the ALA and our mission, and help them earn their patches.

- Plan activities that are fun, yet teach about the mission of the ALA.
3. Promote and encourage Junior participation in the Patch Program.
 - Mentor Juniors and help them to acquire patches. The Patch Program activities can be found on the Junior Member Activities page in the Members Only section at www.ALAforVeterans.org
 - Encourage Juniors to participate in the Patch Program.
 - Encourage the use of electronic patches on Juniors' social media sites.
 - Give Junior members the opportunity to work on requirements for patches at unit functions.

Additional Resources

1. *ALA Junior Activities Handbook* – available for free at www.ALAforVeterans.org, printed copies can be purchased through Emblem Sales at www.emblem.legion.org
2. **The national American Legion Auxiliary Junior Activities Facebook page** – www.Facebook.com/ALAJuniors
3. **Junior Patch Program** – information, by level, at www.ALAforVeterans.org
4. *ALA Unit Handbook* – available for free at www.ALAforVeterans.org, printed copies can be purchased through Emblem Sales at www.emblem.legion.org
5. **Junior Leadership Course** – on www.ALAforVeterans.org

Awards

NATIONAL:

- A. Member Award: Junior Member of the Year
 - Presented to one Junior member, in recognition of her dedicated service, efforts, and talents.
- B. Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program.
 - Presented to one Unit in each division (5)
- C. Best Media Coverage of Activity or Project
 - Presented to One Junior group (department, district or unit)

Department:

- A. Certificate of Appreciation for any Unit that demonstrated, in a narrative, how they included their Juniors while working the American Legion Auxiliary Programs.

REPORTING

MID-YEAR: Please send a narrative to your District Children & Youth Chairman by December 1, 2018. You are encouraged to include any pictures or news articles. District Chairman must send the narratives to the Department Children & Youth Chairman by December 15, 2018.

YEAR-END: Your Year-End Reporting form must reach your District Children & Youth Chairman by April 1, 2019. Please include a narrative report. Please be encouraged to send pictures and/or news articles. District Chairman must send the Year-End Reports to the Department Children & Youth Chairman by April 15, 2019.

Narratives should include the following:

1. How has participation in the Patch Program increased enthusiasm among the Juniors?
2. What are the various service projects in which Juniors were involved? Has participation in the service projects increased as the year has progressed?
3. What type of volunteer hours did Junior members perform?
4. What ways did your senior members mentor the Junior members?