



2026-27 Department of Florida Junior Activities Committee:

Department Chair- Andrea O'Neal

Committee Member-Maryann Spellman

Committee Member-Sherry Shupp

Committee Member- Caitlin Hanechak



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

Under President Lindas theme, our Junior members are the Cadets, and our Juniors are on a mission!

The goal of this program is simple: to give our Juniors more opportunities to participate, learn, serve, and have fun while being part of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Throughout the year, Cadets will take on four missions. These missions are designed to encourage Juniors to get involved in different areas of our organization while building confidence and creating memories along the way.

Mission Serve is about honoring our veterans, supporting military families, and finding ways to give back through service.

Mission Lead encourages Juniors to step up, try new things, and discover that leadership can start with something as simple as helping with a project or taking part in a meeting.

Mission Community reminds us that our service reaches beyond our Legion Family. Juniors can make a difference by helping the people and organizations in their own communities.

Mission Grow focuses on strengthening our Junior program by welcoming new members, learning more about the Auxiliary, and encouraging others to get involved.

One of the goals of this year's program is to bring more attention and excitement to the Junior Patch Program. Many of the activities Cadets complete for their missions can also help them earn patches. By looking at the patch requirements while planning activities, Juniors can get credit for the work they are already doing and explore even more of what the Auxiliary has to offer.

When you think about camouflage, you may think about staying hidden, but our Juniors are not here to sit on the sidelines. They are here to participate, serve, learn, and grow.

Every Junior has something valuable to contribute, and every mission completed is another step toward becoming a more confident member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

So Cadets, grab your mission card, get involved, and let's see what you can accomplish this year.

Top Secret Missions

Throughout the year, Cadets may receive optional "Top Secret Missions" tied to Auxiliary programs or patriotic observances, such as Veterans Day or Poppy Month. These provide additional opportunities for participation and recognition.



Junior Patch Program

The Patch Program is one of the best ways for Juniors to learn about the American Legion Auxiliary and everything we do. By connecting it to our Cadet missions, we're making it easier for Juniors to participate in both.

Many of the activities completed for **Mission Serve**, **Mission Lead**, **Mission Community**, and **Mission Grow** may also meet the requirements for a Junior patch. Rather than creating separate projects, Cadets can often complete a mission and work toward a patch at the same time. I encourage every Unit to make the Patch Program part of your regular Junior

activities. Before planning a project, take a look at the patch requirements. You may find that one activity gives your Juniors the opportunity to complete a mission, earn a patch, and learn more about the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

By using the Cadet missions alongside the Patch Program, we hope to increase participation, introduce more Juniors to the wide variety of Auxiliary programs, and recognize the accomplishments of our Cadets throughout the year.

Mission Completion and Patch Submissions

As your Juniors complete their missions and earn patches, please send the completed information to the Department Junior Activities Chairman as soon as possible.

Submitting your information early will help ensure we have enough time to verify completions, order awards, and have everything ready to recognize our Cadets at **Fall Conference**

and Department Convention.



Bonus Mission: Supporting Girls State

This year, our Cadets have the opportunity to support the Department President's project, **Florida Girls State**.

Girls State is an important American Legion Auxiliary program that introduces young women to the workings of government while developing leadership skills, confidence, and a greater understanding of civic responsibility. Our Juniors can play a part in supporting this program and encouraging the next generation of leaders.

Juniors can complete this bonus mission by:

- Making welcome notes or cards for Girls State delegates.
- Helping collect items for delegate bags or care packages.

- Assisting with Unit fundraising efforts that support Girls State.
- Learning more about Girls State and sharing information with their Unit.
- Recognizing and encouraging local Girls State delegates.

This is a great opportunity for our Juniors to see the impact of Auxiliary programs beyond their own Unit and to support young women who are learning, leading, and making a difference.



Promote the National Junior Member of the Year award

Five divisional awards will be rewarded, and 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

Department Junior Member of The Year

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 sent electronically to the Department Junior Activities chairman before May 1,

2027, and the winner will be presented with a plaque at the Department Convention.



Chairperson Award

Mission Accomplished Award.

A Junior earns it by successfully completing:

- Mission Serve
- Mission Lead
- Mission Community
- Mission Grow

Mission Serve

Serving Our Veterans, Military, and Their Families

Complete two or more of the following:

1. Make thank-you cards for veterans, active-duty military, or first responders.
2. Help assemble care packages for deployed service members or veterans.
3. Volunteer at a veteran appreciation event or American Legion Auxiliary activity.
4. Participate in placing flags for patriotic holidays or assist with a memorial ceremony.
5. Collect needed items (toiletries, socks, books, snacks, etc.) for a local veteran home or military support organization.

Mission Lead

Building Tomorrow's Auxiliary Leaders

Complete **two or more** of the following:

1. Lead the Pledge of Allegiance, Preamble, or opening prayer at a Unit meeting.
2. Chair or help organize a Junior activity or service project.
3. Invite and mentor a new Junior member at a meeting or event.
4. Give a short presentation about an American Legion Auxiliary program.

5. Attend a District or Department event and share what you learned with your Unit.

Mission Community

Serving Beyond Our Organization

Complete two **or more** of the following:

1. Participate in a community cleanup or beautification project.
2. Volunteer with a local food pantry, animal shelter, or community nonprofit.
3. Help collect school supplies, books, or hygiene items for children in need.
4. Recognize a community hero (teacher, healthcare worker, firefighter, law enforcement officer, or EMS) with a thank-you note or small token of appreciation.
5. Participate in a community parade, patriotic celebration, or local volunteer event while representing the American Legion Auxiliary.

Mission Grow

Growing Membership, Knowledge, and the Future

Complete two **or more** of the following:

1. Invite a friend or family member to attend a Junior meeting or activity.
2. Recruit one new Junior member or help welcome a new member into your Unit.
3. Earn a Junior Program patch during the year.
4. Learn about one American Legion Auxiliary program and share one interesting fact with your Unit.
5. Attend at least three Junior meetings or activities during the membership year.

Deadlines and Important Dates

April 15th - Unit Reports due to District Chair

May 1st - District Reports due to Department Chair

May 1st Department Junior Member of the Year submissions - submit electronically to the Department Juniors Chair -

juniors@alaf1.org



JUNIOR CADETS ★ WE NEED YOU! ★

YOUR MISSION. YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR FUTURE.

**JOIN OUR
JUNIOR
CADETS!**

- **SERVE**
Serve your community
and make a difference
where it matters.
- **LEARN & LEAD**
Build skills, confidence
and lasting friendships.
- **SUPPORT
VETERANS**
Honor those who
served our country.

**ARE YOU READY
TO ACCEPT THE
MISSION?**
We can't do it without you!

Juniors Chair
★ *Andrea O'Neal* ★
813-455-3650

**CAMOUFLAGE
MISSION:
MAKE AN
IMPACT!** ★

**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**