

## 2016-2017 American Legion Auxiliary Programs

### Action Plan Junior Activities

Junior Activities and the 2014-2019 Centennial Strategic Plan – Inspiring active participation by ALA members under the age of 18, the Junior Activities program builds a strong future for the ALA by engaging productive members to carry on its mission for life

#### What is this program, and why do we have it?

The Junior Activities Program inspires active participation in members age 17 and under so that they will become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood. What can you do to help the program?

#### Increase Junior membership.

- Ask to speak at your post's monthly meeting.
- Bring Junior members and membership applications with you.
- Personally invite Legion members to sign up their daughter, granddaughters and great-granddaughters.
- Older Junior members could speak about the value of their membership to the post.
- Sign up your own eligible daughters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters.
- "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.
- Teach your Juniors about The American Legion Family's eligibility requirements.
- Encourage your Juniors to invite their friends to attend ALA functions and volunteering opportunities, even if they are not eligible to join.
- If you don't have Junior members of your own, be sure to support them anyway. Offer to help the Junior Activities chairman and participate in their fundraisers.
- If you are a unit officer or chairman, offer to mentor one of your unit's Juniors. Teach her about your role with the ALA. Unit or Department
- Organize an active Juniors group. Give the Junior Activities chairman a budget to work with and space to hold meetings and fundraisers.
- 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.

#### Engage Juniors in programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. Ideas: Member

- Bring your Junior(s) to a meeting with you. Ask your unit president if the Junior(s) can lead the Pledge.

- Mentor a Junior in your unit. Teach them about your role as an officer and chairman. Help them understand what we do and why it matters.
- Present any patches your Junior(s) earn at a unit meeting. They will be proud of their achievement and your fellow members will see what great work their Juniors are doing.
- Bring your Junior(s) to all appropriate ALA activities in which you participate. They can help distribute poppies, clean tables after dinners, etc.

### Junior Activities

- Older Junior members can mentor younger members by encouraging them to participate in Junior meetings, teaching them what they have learned about the ALA and our mission, and helping them earn their patches. Unit or Department
- Support and assist your Junior Activities chairman. Give her a budget to work with, space for meetings and fundraisers and be flexible with your activities so that Juniors can be involved. Provide her with an updated copy of the Junior Activities Handbook, which can be purchased from Emblem Sales or downloaded from the Junior Member Activities page in the Members Only section at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).
- Post Junior activities on your unit department Facebook page with approval from parents and Junior member.
- Encourage older Juniors to become mentors to younger Juniors.

### Make Junior meetings fun and informative.

- Junior members can help plan and lead the meeting to make it more fun and informative to their age group.
- Be flexible during your meetings. Robert's Rules can be intimidating and boring for Juniors; there will be plenty of time for them to learn. Keep an orderly meeting, but don't put too much emphasis on protocol.
- Plan activities that are fun, yet teach about the mission of the ALA. Remember, they are kids with short attention spans. Activities that involve light exercise are helpful to burn off their youthful energy. Have a service project relay race where the Juniors prepare buddy baskets or socks of love, do the cheers they learned at one of the national meetings, etc. If you need ideas, ask a teacher; it might end up being a great win/win as you share ideas.
- Crafts are another good activity for Juniors. They can make poppy crafts for a fundraiser, patriotic decorations for your post or local veterans home, handmade cards to send to veterans at your local VA, etc.
- Have snacks and drinks on hand. Juniors could even make poppy cookies to snack on. Unit or Department
- Give your Juniors a place to display their crafts or artwork.

- Help your Junior Activities Chairman find places to distribute the cards and crafts made by Juniors. • Offer to help during Junior meetings.

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](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org). • Hold a special meeting to help Juniors earn patches.
- Older Juniors can help the younger Juniors earn patches
- Encourage Juniors to participate in the Patch Program.
- Encourage use of electronic patches on Juniors' social media sites.
- Give Junior members the opportunity to work on requirements for patches at unit functions. Department
- Include information on the patch program in each department chairman's pack.
- Provide opportunities for Juniors to work on requirements for patches at department functions.
- Host a Juniors meeting to encourage and increase interest in the Patch Program.
- Host a special meeting to present earned patches to Juniors with senior members in attendance.
- Mentor Juniors and help them acquire patches.
- Set up and attend a special meeting to help Juniors earn patches. Junior Activities Reporting
- Visit <https://www.alaforveterans.org/Programs/Junior-Member-Activities/> to learn about the patch program activities.

Junior Activities Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements:

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just three simple steps to add your part to our national success story:

- 1) Please follow instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet found in the awards section of the Programs Action Plan.
- 2) Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the award's materials and guidelines section.
- 3) Submit as indicated in the Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan.

National Report and Awards Cover Sheet, deadlines, and Junior Activities committee contact information may be found on the Junior Activities committee page on the national website, [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).

A. Member Award: Junior Member of the Year

- Deadline June 1, 2018
  - Unit chairman must send to National Headquarters to the Junior Activities Program Coordinator/Committee Liaison via email
- B. Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program
- Deadline: June 1, 2018
  - Send to national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above.
- C. Department Award: Best Department Junior Activities Program
- Deadline: June 1, 2018
  - Send to national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above.
- D. National Award: Best Media Coverage of Activity or Project
- Deadline June 1, 2018
  - Send to national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above.

Mark your calendars for the Kansas Department Junior lock in meeting in Mulvane. March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity for the girls to work together earning patches as well as building lifelong friendships.

Junior Activities Reporting:

Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of units in the department, and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction. The Unit Mid Year Report is due to your District Chairman by December 1, 2017. The District Mid Year report is to to me by December 15, 2017.

Year-End Reports

Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the department, and may result in a national award for participants if award requirements are met. End of Year Unit reports are due to your District Chairman by March 1, 2018. District End of Year reports are due to me by April 2, 2018.

Questions/Comments:

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