



Pod—Family Support

- Americanism
- Education
- Community Service
- National Chaplain

Education

2011-2012 American Legion Auxiliary Plan of Action

Purpose: To promote quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion and support of education beyond high school, especially for military children.

Committee Contact Information

education@ALAforVeterans.org



National Chairman

Name: Coral May Grout
Department of Massachusetts
978-297-0329
cmgrout@comcast.net

National Vice Chairman (1)

Name: Ann Fournier
Department of Massachusetts
508-822-7880
ann.fournier@comcast.net

Committee Member (2)

Name: Beverly Anderson Otterness
Department of Minnesota
651-674-8164
orvey@msn.com

Committee Member (3)

Name: Karyn Porempski
Department of New York
716-674-0465
skisbees@earthlink.com

Central Division Chairman

Name: Katie Jo Baumgardner
Department of Kansas
913-406-5880
katie_baumgardner@baylor.edu

Eastern Division Chairman

Name: Helen J. Skelton
Department of Delaware
302-945-8694
maxwell36@mchsi.com

Northwestern Division Chairman

Name: Peggy Miller
Department of Wyoming
307-682-7412
sislee@vcn.com

Southern Division Chairman

Name: Barbara J. Austin
Department of Kentucky
502-228-9931
barbara.austin@insightbb.com

Western Division Chairman

Name: Eva Wallace
Department of Washington
425-338-2358
evas_place@hotmail.com

National Headquarters Contact (Program Coordinator)

Maria Potts
8945 N Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46260
Phone: (317) 569-4500
E-Mail: mpotts@ALAforVeterans.org

() = denotes number of terms left on committee

For examples on how to implement each objective in this Plan, refer to the *How To* component at the end of this section.

Education

National-level Objectives

1. **Objective:** Focus attention on educational and scholarship opportunities for military children, whether their parent(s) are active duty or reserve.

Action Steps

- a. Give 10 to Education program: Units can contribute supplies to classrooms in their community. Priority can be given to schools on military bases, military schools or military Family Support Groups to provide Give 10 items to military families in your area.
 - b. Participate in the United Through Reading (www.Unitedthroughreading.org)
 - c. Seek out local opportunities for scholarships and share with the military members in your community.
 - d. Participate in American Education Week. This year's theme is "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility." The dates are November 13-19, 2011.
2. **Objective:** Educate school administrators about the unique mental health issues facing children of our military.

Action Steps

- a. Distribute ALA KIDDS flyer (available at www.ALAforVeterans.org) at education conferences and offer to connect teacher/administrators with mental health resources where they can refer military children.
3. **Objective:** Enhance respect for the sacrifices of our military heroes among school children by scheduling Veterans in the Classroom programs at your local school.

Action Steps

- a. Collaborate with your American Legion counterparts in this effort.
- b. Provide information about the challenges faced by military families (particularly the children) to teachers so they can prepare classes for this topic.

Programs and Activities

1. Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship - The National Presidents' scholarships are awarded to children of veterans who served in the Armed Forces during the eligibility dates for The American Legion. One \$2,500 scholarship, one \$2,000 scholarship, and one \$1,500 in scholarship money will be awarded in each division. Fifteen outstanding students will be awarded a total of \$30,000 to further their higher education. The applicant must complete 50 hours of community service during his/her high school years to be eligible for one of these scholarships.
2. The Non-Traditional Student - There will be five scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,000, awarded in each administrative year. One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded in each American Legion Auxiliary division. Applicant must be a member of The 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.
3. Spirit of Youth - One Junior member in each division will receive a scholarship valued at \$1,000 per year for four years (total \$4,000). The applicant must have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the immediate past three years,

For examples on how to implement each objective in this Plan, refer to the *How To* component at the end of this section.

Education

currently hold a membership card, and continue to maintain her membership throughout the four-year scholarship period.

Education Awards

Unit Awards

1. Most Outstanding American Education Week Program
A plaque will be presented to the Unit Education Chairman for the most outstanding American Education Week program. Award entry shall be in narrative form and must not exceed 1,000 words. The cover page should have the name of the award entry, Department name, Unit name and name and address of the Unit Chairman. A copy of the Unit's Department report form must accompany the narrative. Entries must be judged at the Department level and forwarded appropriately by June 1 of each year. Please mail entry to National Education Vice Chairman Ann Fournier.
2. Most Outstanding Literacy Program
A plaque will be presented to the Unit Education Chairman for the most outstanding literacy program. Award entry shall be in narrative form and must not exceed 1,000 words. The cover page should have the name of the award entry, Department name, Unit name and name and address of the Unit Chairman. A copy of the Unit's Department report form must accompany the narrative. Entries must be judged at the Department level and forwarded appropriately by June 1 of each year. Please mail entry to Bev Otterness.
3. Most Outstanding Scholarship Program
A plaque will be presented to the Unit Education Chairman for the most outstanding scholarship program. Award entry shall be in narrative form and must not exceed 1,000 words. The cover page should have the name of the award entry, Department name, Unit name, and name and address of the Unit Chairman. A copy of the Unit's Department report form must accompany the narrative. Entries must be judged at the Department level and forwarded appropriately by June 1 of each year. Please mail entry to Karyn Porempski.
4. Most Outstanding Veterans in the Classroom Program
A plaque will be presented to a Unit Education Chairman for the most outstanding Veteran in the Classroom Program. Award entry shall be in narrative form and must not exceed 1,000 words. The cover page should have the name of the award entry, Department name, Unit name and name and address of the Unit Chairman. A copy of the Unit's Department report form must accompany the narrative. Entries must be judged at the Department level and forwarded appropriately by June 1 each year. Please mail entry to National Education Chairman Coral May Grout.
5. Give 10 to Education
Every Unit participating in the Give 10 to Education Program will be featured on the ALA website's Give 10 Honor Roll, a page dedicated to showcasing contributions to this program. Units will notify the Divisional Chairman in writing and indicate what was accomplished under this program. This program will accept submissions at any time during the year, but no later than June 1, 2012.
6. Honoring the Service of our Military
A citation will be presented to one Unit in each Division for the most outstanding promotion of education for military children. Award entry shall be in narrative form and must not exceed 1,000 words. It may include pictures and other forms of publicity. Each Unit shall submit a cover page to include the name of the award entry,

For examples on how to implement each objective in this Plan,
refer to the *How To* component at the end of this section.

Education

Department name, Unit name, contact information, and name/address of Unit chairman. A copy of the Unit's Department report form must accompany the narrative. Entries must be submitted to the appropriate Divisional Chairman by June 1, 2012.

Department Awards

1. Most Outstanding Overall Department Education Program

A citation will be presented to the Department Education Chairman in each division reporting the best overall Department Education Program. Award entry shall be in narrative form and must not exceed 1,000 words. The cover page should have the name of the award entry, Department name, and name and address of the Department Chairman. Entries should be forwarded by June 1 of each year. Entries should be sent to the Divisional Education Chairman.

Resources

1. Scholarship applications are available on the Auxiliary's website at www.ALAforVeterans.org.
2. Contact American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales online for educational products at www.emblem.legion.org/
3. Educational resources are available at no cost by contacting the Americanism and Children & Youth Commission of The American Legion or visit their website at www.legion.org.
4. The American Legion's comprehensive national scholarship resource, *Need A Lift?* at <http://www.legion.org/mygibill/needalift>

See program page on www.ALAforVeterans.org for additional resources.

For examples on how to implement each objective in this Plan, refer to the *How To* component at the end of this section.



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
CHILDREN OF WARRIORS NATIONAL PRESIDENTS' SCHOLARSHIP
2011-2012**

Fifteen scholarships will be awarded for the 2011-2012 Auxiliary year. Three scholarships will be awarded in each Division of the American Legion Auxiliary: one in the amount of \$2,500, one in the amount of \$2,000 and one in the amount of \$1,500. All are gift scholarships and not loans.

RULES

1. Candidates for this award shall be daughters, stepdaughters, sons, stepsons, grandsons, step-grandsons, granddaughters, step-granddaughters, great-granddaughters, step-great-granddaughters, great-grandsons, step-great-grandsons of veterans who served in the Armed Forces during eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion.
 - a. April 6, 1917 through November 11, 1918 (WWI)
 - b. December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946 (WWII)
 - c. June 25, 1950 through January 31, 1955 (Korea)
 - d. February 28, 1961 through May 7, 1975 (Vietnam)
 - e. August 24, 1982 through July 31, 1984 (Grenada and Lebanon)
 - f. December 20, 1989 through January 31, 1990 (Panama)
 - g. August 2, 1990 to the date of cessation of hostilities (Persian Gulf to present)
2. Applicants must be in their senior year of high school.
3. Previous National Presidents' Scholarship recipients are not eligible for further consideration.
4. Participation in this scholarship program shall be on a voluntary basis in all Units and Departments.
5. No Unit may enter more than one candidate in the Department competition. Each Department is restricted to submitting one candidate to the Divisional competition.
6. The scholarship must be used within 24 months of the date the winner receives notification by National Headquarters, or the scholarship will be forfeited.
7. Applicant must complete 50 hours of volunteer service within the community, verified in writing by the recipient organization(s).
8. Applicants must present the completed application to the local American Legion Auxiliary Unit President **ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2012.**
9. The winning entry for each Unit shall be certified by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit President and mailed to the Department Secretary, to be received **ON OR BEFORE MARCH 15, 2011.**

10. Judging, at all levels, shall be on the following basis:

Character/Leadership	- 25%
Essay/Application	- 25%
Financial Need	- 25%
Scholarship	- 25%

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.

1. The award will be paid directly to the school for the first semester upon notification from the school that the student has registered. ***American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters must receive certification of enrollment within 12 months of a winner's notification or the scholarship will be forfeited.*** The scholarship must be used within 24 months of the date the winner receives notification by National Headquarters, or the scholarship will be forfeited. Thus, if winning student does not wish to use monies for FIRST YEAR expenses, it must then be used for SECOND YEAR expenses or forfeited.

APPLICATION PACKET REQUIREMENTS

1. Completed application packet for National Presidents' Scholarship.
2. The following four letters of recommendation are required:
 - a. One letter from either the principal or guidance counselor of the school from which the applicant will graduate, to include size of class and student's position in the class and the cumulative grade point average.
 - b. One letter from a clergyman/clergywoman of the applicant's choice.
 - c. Two letters from adult citizens, other than relatives, attesting to the applicant's character in regard to conduct, citizenship and leadership.
3. An original article consisting of no more than 1,000 words. The title of the article/essay will be **"The Importance of Helping Military Families in Your Community."**
4. A letter from a recipient organization verifying 50 hours of voluntary service.
5. A certified transcript or photocopy of the applicant's high school grades.
6. A copy of ACT or SAT test scores.
7. A copy of the FASFA (financial aid) form submitted for assistance in college.
8. A brief statement of the military service of parent or grandparents, including the branch of service and dates of service, or a photocopy of parent's or grandparents' discharge papers.

EACH UNIT AND DEPARTMENT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR VERIFYING ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION IN THE APPLICANT'S PACKET.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
CHILDREN OF WARRIORS NATIONAL PRESIDENTS' SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION
2011-2012**

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Date of Birth _____ Phone _____

Name of father, stepfather or guardian _____

Address: _____

Veteran: Yes _____ No _____ Dates of Military Service _____

Occupation of father, stepfather or guardian: _____

Annual gross income _____

Name of mother, stepmother or guardian: _____

Address: _____

Veteran: Yes _____ No _____ Dates of Military Service _____

Occupation of mother, stepmother or guardian _____

Annual gross income _____

Number of dependent children under 18 years _____ Over 18 years _____ Grade levels _____

Total monthly compensation, pension or trust received by parent and/or children \$ _____

Are you eligible for or drawing Social Security payments? Yes _____ No _____

If so, monthly amount \$ _____ Time limit of benefits _____

Are you eligible for benefits under Survivors and Dependents Education? Yes _____ No _____

Proposed date of graduation from high school _____

Name of college or university you hope to attend _____

Print or Type Full Name

Signature of Applicant

NOTE: Please be sure to attach other required materials to this application and submit to the President of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit in the community in which you reside **NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2012.**

a. Why would receiving this scholarship be important to you? Please explain. _____

b. What course of study do you plan to pursue and why? _____

c. Describe your involvement in school, church and community activities. Use attachment if necessary. _____

d. Why do you think the United States' patriotic organizations such as the American Legion Auxiliary are important to the world today? _____

**2011-2012 CHILDREN OF WARRIORS NATIONAL PRESIDENTS' SCHOLARSHIP
THIS PORTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SPONSORING UNIT
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)**

The winning entry of each Unit shall be certified by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit President and Unit Secretary or Education Chairman and mailed to the Department Secretary to be received **ON OR BEFORE MARCH 15, 2012**. Should an entry be received and no Unit affiliation is available, then the application should be judged in the Department Headquarters Unit.

Unit Name and Number _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Signature of Unit President

*Signature of Unit Secretary or
Education Chairman*

THIS PORTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT/SECRETARY

The winning entry for each Department shall be certified by the Department President and/or Department Secretary/Education Chairman and forwarded with the completed application to the respective Division Education Chairman **ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2012**.

DEPARTMENT _____

DIVISION _____

Signature of Department President

*Signature of Department Secretary or
Education Chairman*

The Division Education Chairman and two qualified judges shall make the final decision on the first, second and third place winners in her Division. She shall certify the names of the winners and send their complete application packets to the National Education Chairman **ON OR BEFORE APRIL 15, 2012**. The National Education Chairman shall certify the names of the winners to National Headquarters.



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP
FOR NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS
2011-2012**

Five scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,000, will be awarded in the 2011-2012 Auxiliary year. One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded in each Division of the American Legion Auxiliary. All are gift scholarships and do not have to be repaid.

RULES

1. Applicant 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.
2. Applicant must be:
 - a. non-traditional student returning to the classroom after some period of time in which his/her formal education was interrupted
 - b. a non-traditional student who is just beginning his/her education at a later point in life
3. American Legion Auxiliary Spirit of Youth Scholarship recipients are not eligible.
4. Participation in this scholarship program shall be on a voluntary basis in all Units and Departments.
5. No Unit may enter more than one candidate in the Department competition. Each Department is restricted to submitting one candidate to the Divisional competition.
6. The scholarship must be used within 24 months of the date the winner is notified by American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters.
7. Applicant must present the completed application to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit President **on or before March 1, 2012.**
8. The winning entry for each Unit shall be certified by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit President and mailed to the Department Secretary to be received **on or before March 15, 2012.**
9. The winning entry for each Department shall be certified by the Department President and Department Secretary or Education Chairman and mailed to the respective Division Education Chairman to be received **on or before April 1, 2012.**
10. The scholarship award will be paid directly to the school upon receipt of certification of enrollment from the school. No payment will be made directly to the student.

JUDGING

Judging at each level will be based on the following criteria:

Need	- 25 pts.
Scholastic standing/academic achievement	- 25 pts.
Character/leadership	- 25 pts.
Initiative/goals	- 25 pts.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME OF APPLICANT _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

I AM A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF:

_____ AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

_____ THE AMERICAN LEGION

_____ SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

MEMBER NUMBER _____ DATE OF ENROLLMENT _____

UNIT, POST OR SQUADRON NAME _____

LOCATION (CITY & STATE) _____

NAME OF VETERAN THROUGH WHOM APPLICANT IS ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP:

RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN _____

ATTESTED: _____
(Post Adjutant/Unit Secretary)

SCHOLASTIC INFORMATION

DATE APPLICANT GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL _____
Attach copy of high school transcript (if graduated in the last 10 years).

HAS APPLICANT ATTENDED COLLEGE? LAST ATTENDED _____
Attach copy of college transcript. (mo/yr)

If it has been more than five years since applicant has attended school, submit work history.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

APPLICANT'S ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME \$ _____
(AGI: Form 1010 – Line 31; 1040A – Line 6e; 1040EZ – Line 4.)

LIST SUPPORT OR INCOME FROM ANY OTHER SOURCES.

NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS _____

Describe any circumstances that may affect your or your family's ability to provide for your college education. (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

CHARACTER/LEADERSHIP

Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Describe any community service activities in which you have participated during high school, college or career.

List offices held and/or awards received:

INITIATIVE/GOALS

What major do you plan to pursue when you enter college? _____

Why have you selected this major? _____

What college or university do you plan to attend? _____

Why did you select this school? _____

Who or what inspired you to seek a college degree? _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

APPLICATION PACKET REQUIREMENTS:

1. Completed application
2. Copy of college transcript if applicable
3. Work history
4. Copy of FASFA (financial aid) Form submitted for college assistance
5. Answers to above questions

**2011-2012 NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP
THIS PORTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SPONSORING UNIT
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)**

The winning entry of each Unit shall be certified by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit President and Unit Secretary or Education Chairman and mailed to the Department Secretary to be received on or before March 15, 2012.

Unit Name and Number _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Signature of Unit President

*Signature of Unit Secretary or
Education Chairman*

**THIS PORTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE
DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT/EDUCATION CHAIRMAN**

The winning entry for each Department shall be certified by the Department President and Department Secretary or Education Chairman and mailed to the respective Division Education Chairman to be received on or before April 1, 2012.

DEPARTMENT _____

DIVISION _____

Signature of Department President

*Signature of Department Secretary or
Education Chairman*

The Division Education Chairman and two qualified judges shall make the final decision on the Division winner. She shall certify the name of the winner and send the winner's complete application packet to the National Education Chairman on or before April 15, 2012. The National Education Chairman shall certify the names of the winners to National Headquarters.



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
SPIRIT OF YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP
FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS
2011-2012**

Five four-year scholarships will be awarded for the 2011-2012 Auxiliary year. One four-year scholarship will be awarded in each Division of the American Legion Auxiliary. All are gift scholarships and are not loans.

RULES

1. Candidates for this award shall be/shall have been Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary; said member to have held Junior membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three years and must hold a membership card for the current (2012) year. Applicant must continue her membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the four-year-scholarship period.
2. Applicants must be in their senior year of an accredited high school.
3. This is a four-year scholarship to attend an accredited institution of higher education. Applicants must be of good character and have grades which meet entrance requirements at the institution of their choice. Applicant must have at least a 3.0 GPA using a 4.0 base.
4. Participation in this scholarship program shall be on a voluntary basis in all Units and Departments.
5. No Unit may enter more than one applicant in the Department competition. Each Department is restricted to submitting one applicant to the Divisional competition.
6. Applicant must present the completed application packet to the Unit President **ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2012.**
7. The winning entry for each Unit shall be certified by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit President and mailed to the Department Secretary to be received **ON OR BEFORE MARCH 15, 2012.**
8. The winning entry for each Department shall be certified by the Department President and Department Secretary or Department Education Chairman and mailed to the respective Division Education Chairman to be received **ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2012.**
9. Use of the scholarship must begin **within 24 months of the date the winner receives notification by National Headquarters.** Additionally, National Headquarters must receive certification from the college of the winner's enrollment within 12 months of notification.

10. Judging, at all levels, shall be on the following basis:

- a. Character/Leadership - 30%
- b. Essay/Application - 30%
- c. Scholarship - 40%

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.

The award will be paid directly to the school at the beginning of the first semester when the student enrolls. There shall be no money paid to the school for the ensuing years until notification of re-enrollment has been received from the school. Notification from the school must include verification of a B (3.0) average. If the winner discontinues his/her education or membership in the American Legion Auxiliary before completing four years of study (eight semesters), the balance of the scholarship will be forfeited. The winner will have six years from the date of high school graduation to utilize the scholarship funds.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
SPIRIT OF YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP
FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS 2011-2012**

APPLICATION PACKET REQUIREMENTS

1. Completed application form for Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members.
2. The following four letters of recommendation are required:
 - a. One letter from either the principal or guidance counselor of the school from which the applicant will graduate, to include size of class and student's position in class, and the cumulative grade point average.
 - b. One letter from a clergyman/clergywoman of the applicant's choice.
 - c. Two letters from adult citizens, other than relatives, attesting to the applicant's character in regard to conduct, citizenship and leadership.
3. An original essay consisting of no more than 1,000 words (typed, double-spaced). The title of the article/essay will be **“The Importance of Helping Military Families in your Community”**
4. A certified transcript or photocopy of the applicant's high school grades.
5. A copy of the FASFA (financial aid) form submitted for college financial assistance.
6. A copy of ACT or SAT test scores.

EACH UNIT AND DEPARTMENT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR VERIFYING ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION IN THE APPLICANT'S PACKET.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
SPIRIT OF YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS
APPLICATION 2011-2012**

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone No. _____

Date of Birth _____ Membership # _____

Date of Enrollment in American Legion Auxiliary _____

Name of veteran through whom applicant is eligible for membership in American Legion Auxiliary:

Relationship to Veteran _____

Proposed date of graduation from high school _____

Name of college or university you hope to attend:

a. Why would receiving this scholarship be important to you? Please explain. _____

b. What course of study do you plan to pursue and why? _____

c. Describe your involvement in school, church, and community activities. Use attachment if necessary.

d. Why do you think the United States' patriotic organizations, such as the American Legion Auxiliary, are important to the world today?

I certify that the information provided in this application is correct.

Print or Type Full Name

Signature of Applicant

Date

NOTE: Please be sure to attach other required materials to this application and submit to the President of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit in which your membership is recorded **NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2012.**

**THIS PORTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SPONSORING UNIT
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)**

The winning entry of each Unit shall be certified by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit President and Unit Secretary or Education Chairman and mailed to the Department Secretary to be received **ON OR BEFORE MARCH 15, 2012.**

Unit Name and Number

*Signature of Unit Secretary or
Unit Education Chairman*

Address

City, State, ZIP

Signature of Unit President

THIS PORTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SPONSORING DEPARTMENT

The winning entry for each Department shall be certified by the Department President and the Department Secretary or Department Education Chairman and forwarded with completed application to the respective Division Education Chairman **ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2012.**

DEPARTMENT _____

DIVISION _____

Signature of Department President

*Signature of Department Secretary
or Department Education Chairman*

The Division Education Chairman and two qualified judges shall make the final decision on the winner in her Division. She shall certify the name of the winner and send her complete application packet to the National Education Chairman **ON OR BEFORE APRIL 15, 2012.** The National Education Chairman shall certify the names of the winners to National Headquarters.



Committee:

Education

Submitted by:

Coral May Grout, National Education Chairman

Contact Information for Questions:

cmgrout@comcast.net; 978-297-0329; education@ALAforVeterans.org

Objective:

#1 To focus attention on educational and scholarship opportunities for military children, whether their parent(s) are active-duty or reserve.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- Each member can donate one item toward the Give 10 to Education program.
- Place a poster and collection box at local sites (i.e., grocery store, bank, senior center, post office) and invite local residents to donate to the Give 10 program.
- One member of the Unit can take the 10 items (pens, pencils, labels, box tops, books, reams of paper, flags, dictionaries, thumb drives, etc.) and deliver them to either a military base school or local classroom.
- Unit members can copy and deliver copies of both the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion scholarship applications to local schools and military schools with follow-up. The Unit needs to have a working communication system with the school administration and/or guidance.
- Prepare a news release about scholarships that are available through the Auxiliary and send it to your local media, making sure that the member has a working communication mechanism with someone at the local media office.
- Collaborate with your local American Legion, Sons, and/or other small, local organizations to hold a fundraiser for the benefit of a scholarship for a descendant of a veteran.
- Form a committee to select scholarship winners from applications submitted.
- Publicize the winners at a school presentation, in the media, etc.
- One or more unit members can mentor a student (e.g., bring a student to your job to shadow for a day, tutoring, test prep help, etc.), particularly a military child if possible.
- Make a donation to one of the scholarships (Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship, Foundation, Department, District, or local SAL/Post).



Committee:

Education

Submitted by:

Coral May Grout, National Education Chairman

Contact Information for Questions:

cmgrout@comcast.net; 978-297-0329; education@ALAforVeterans.org

Objective:

#2 To educate school administrators about unique mental health issues facing children of our military.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- One or more members can arrange to meet with the administrators of local schools to deliver and discuss ALA KIDDS materials.
- Provide the name of a contact within the Unit for school/local social workers, guidance and other staff to contact for help with Gateway to Services and other opportunities to help military kids and their families.
- Establish a contact with someone from your state Operation: Military Kids team, as they have a plethora of information to assist the military child, and schools could take advantage of this resource.



Committee:

Education

Submitted by:

Coral May Grout

Contact Information for Questions:

cmgrout@comcast.net; 978-297-0329; education@ALAforVeterans.org

Objective:

#3 To enhance respect for the sacrifices of our military heroes among school children by scheduling Veterans in the Classroom programs at your local school.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- As Memorial Day, Veterans Day, or another patriotic holiday approaches, collaborate with one or more members of the local Post to schedule a Veterans in the Classroom program.
- Sponsor an essay contest (e.g., why the student feels that veterans and the military should be taught in the schools or use the Americanism question). Have the winners read their essays either at Memorial Day exercises at their school, Memorial Day exercises in the community, or on the local cable station. Offer prizes (American flag, certificate, a book, etc.).
- Work with your local high school to have a student record a video interview with a veteran and submit it to the Veterans History Project.
- Extend an invitation to history/social studies teachers to come to the Post/Unit and learn about the programs of the Auxiliary, Legion, and Sons.
- Visit schools during American Education Week with apples, cards, etc. Make sure schools recognize that you are doing this on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary and the foundations upon which it exists.



Pod: Family Support

Committees included: Americanism, Education, Community Service, and National Chaplain

Submitted by:

Melanie Taylor, Coral May Grout, and Martha Corriher

Contact Information for Questions:

Melanie Taylor: chfslove@aol.com or 707-894-0857

Coral May Grout: cmgrout@comcast.net or 978-297-0329

Martha Corriher: ncusa1993@hotmail.com or 704-857-8825

The American Legion Auxiliary is a hands-on organization to serve veterans, their families, active-duty servicemembers, their families and homeless veterans with their needs, such as:

- meals
- babysitting
- being a sounding board for their concerns
- helping local assistance with needs they might have
- using media of all kinds to help explain their needs and how the public can help assist them

Proposed schedule of activity:

September:

- Gather up team and identify what each members' strengths and weaknesses are.
- Identify the military population in your area with the Family Readiness Group, Post or Base Commander, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Community Based Outreach Clinic or local Service Officer.
- Develop a relationship with the local media by making an appointment to meet with reporters, providing Auxiliary materials at the meeting, determining ways in which the media and local Auxiliary can collaborate, and determining what the media will use vs. what they will not. Be sure to check with the responsible adult in the family before contacting any media. Families may have reasons to protect their privacy, and we don't want to add to their stress during a difficult time.

October:

- Select the veteran's family you will be working with. The selection should be based upon the strengths of Unit members who are involved with the projects (e.g., time restraints, fundraising capabilities to provide financial assistance, and/or cooking ability).
- Don't forget to present a Blue Star Banner if active-duty servicemember.
- Meet with the selected family to identify yourselves and inquire as to their needs and let them know who we are and what we can do to help. Be sure to find out birthdays and anniversary in order to remember them on these days.
- Team meets to discuss one of the needs and their Plan of Action and how they are going to implement it.

November:

- Review progress and add/change needs as appropriate.
- Recognize the family at Veterans Day, and invite them to attend your meeting and ceremonies.
- Make sure family is taken care of on Thanksgiving Day by providing a meal or a food basket for the family. If your Unit is cooking a meal at the Post home, invite the family to attend.

continued



Pod: Family Support and Advocacy continued

December:

- Assist the family with Christmas gifts for each member, store coupons and food basket.
- Ask your local merchants if they will offer merchandise or products for needy families.
- Give the family memberships into the Post, Unit or Squadron.

January:

- Continue with immediate family needs as identified within your demographics, weather and location (e.g., provide shoveling assistance in cold climates or lawnmowing assistance in warmer areas).

February:

- Invite the family to the Post for the Legion birthday celebration honoring all past leadership.
- Offer to take them to a job interview, appointments, doctor appointments, etc.
- Offer to babysit the children and pay for a "Pamper Me Day."

April:

- Offer to provide Easter/Passover meal.
- Sponsor a community egg hunt at your Post and invite your adopted family to participate.

May:

- Invite family to help with poppy distribution during your Unit's Poppy Week.
- Invite your family to the Post for Memorial Day ceremony and celebrations. Offer to pick family up.
- Remember Mother's Day by sending a flower arrangement and card.
- If your Unit is visiting nursing homes or a nearby VAMC, invite the family to join your members.

June:

- Invite your adopted family to help in a flag disposal/retirement ceremony.
- Stay in communication with the family throughout the month to ascertain if they have any special needs.
- Remember to send a Father's Day card.

July:

- Invite the family to your Post and have a BBQ.
- Present an American flag to the family and install pole mount if necessary.
- Don't forget to present a Blue Star Banner if active-duty servicemember.

August:

- Meet with the family to see if you provided the necessary needs and your mission was accomplished.