



Pod— Youth Development

- Children & Youth
- Liaison to Child Welfare Foundation
- Junior Activities
- ALA Girls State

Junior Activities

2011-2012 American Legion Auxiliary Plan of Action

Purpose: To interest eligible young women (under the age of 18) in adult membership through positive experiences of mission-based volunteer opportunities that instill the ideals of the organization.

Committee Contact Information

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

Junior Activities

National-level Objectives

1. **Objective:** To encourage participation in service projects that serve our military, veterans and their families.

Action Steps

- a. Juniors create and implement a service project centered around helping servicemembers and their families during the holidays such as veterans gift shop, adopt a deployed company, babysit for deployed soldier's spouse, etc.
 - b. Volunteer with your local Operation: Military Kids, VA or hold a mini-Kids Canteen at your Department or local level.
 - c. Invite friends and family to participate when you volunteer. You just might end up with a new member and new friend.
 - d. Participate in the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project by interviewing a veteran's family member or friend to help collect, preserve and make accessible personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from them and better understand the realities of war.
2. **Objective:** To promote the National President's Scholarship peer-to-peer, by raising awareness of the rules and application process in schools, communities and on military bases.

Action Steps

- a. Post information about the National President's Scholarship on your social networking sites and/or Department website.
 - b. Distribute scholarship information to your local high school counselors and/or school districts, youth organizations and churches.
 - c. Promote the scholarship to your friends and family members and get them to tell five of their friends or family members. Communicate!
3. **Objective:** To empower our Junior members by seeking their assistance to increase the use of technology (such as e-mail, Internet, Facebook and other social networking sites) in promoting Auxiliary programs.

Action Steps

- a. Have Junior members teach Unit and Department leaders the basics of e-mail and Internet.
- b. Junior members help create and educate Unit and Department leaders about social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- c. Have Junior members work with Unit and Department leaders to create and maintain ALA websites.
- d. Teach and actively practice Internet safety.

Programs and Activities

1. Junior Patch Program: Requirements, instructions and patch forms are available on the Junior Activities page at www.ALAforVeterans.org.
2. National Junior Meeting: Held each year in conjunction with national convention, the National Junior Meeting is an opportunity for Auxiliary Juniors to interact with each other, participate in service projects and elect honorary Junior officers.
3. Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members: Five four-year scholarships will be awarded in 2011-2012. One four-year scholarship will be awarded in each Division in the amount of \$1,000 per year. Requirements and applications are available at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

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Junior Activities

4. Scholarship for Honorary National Junior President: The Junior member elected as Honorary National Junior President is presented a \$2,000 scholarship.
5. Joint Action Projects:
 - a. Americanism Pocket Flag Project <http://pocketflagproject.com>
 - b. Operation: Military Kids www.operationmilitarykids.org
 - c. Veterans History Project <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>
 - d. VA&R VolunTeen Program www.ALAforVeterans.org
 - e. Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship www.ALAforVeterans.org

Junior Activities Awards:

1. Department Award

An engraved plaque presented to a Department reporting the Largest Increase of Junior Members participating in electronic social networking by June 1, 2012. Entries must be typewritten including the following information: name of members; name of social networking sites; and brief description of how Department is promoting the Junior program objectives through social networking. Please include pictures, either electronically or via postal mail. All entries must be verified by Department Junior Activities Chairman before submission. All entries must be postmarked by June 1, 2012, and sent by Department Junior Activities Chairman to national committee member Sharon Glassford at P.O. Box 87, Charles Town, WV 25414 or may be e-mailed to scoobysharon@frontiernet.net.
2. Unit Award

A citation presented to the Unit Chairman in each Division reporting the Best Junior Activities program with at least one action step from each of the three objectives as stated in the Plan of Action. Entry must be typewritten in narrative form not to exceed 1,000 words. Please include pictures, either electronically or via postal mail. All entries must be postmarked or e-mailed by June 1, 2012 by the Department Chairman to their Divisional Chairman.
3. National Plaque Award

An engraved plaque will be presented to a Unit reporting the Best Overall Junior Activities Program. Entry must be typewritten in narrative form that demonstrates superior execution of at least two action steps from each of the objectives in the Junior Activities Plan. Please include pictures, either electronically or via postal mail; narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. All entries must be postmarked by June 1, 2012, and sent by the Department Chairman to national committee member Vickie Thrower at 925 Pea Ridge Circle, Union Grove, AL 35175 or may be e-mailed to vickie.thrower@hilton.com.
4. Junior Member of the Year Award

An engraved plaque presented to the National Junior Member of the Year in recognition of her dedicated service, efforts and talents. Department chairmen are encouraged to form a selection committee and are responsible for notifying Units of their deadline and Department-specific evaluation criteria. At minimum, criteria should include the following:

 - Consideration of only Junior members in good standing for 2011-2012.
 - Each Unit is limited to one nomination.
 - Outstanding contribution the Junior has made through a program or project outlined in the Plan of Action and other than the office she may be holding (based on current year ONLY).
 - Her Junior group will select the Junior nominee with the assistance of the Unit Junior Activities advisor.

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

Junior Activities

- Nominee should not be serving as honorary Department Junior president.
- Length of membership is not a criterion.
- Name, e-mail address and complete mailing address of nominee must accompany nomination.
- A narrative, typed essay not to exceed 500 words describing nominee's accomplishments during the current administrative year.
- Each Department shall establish its own judging procedure to determine who will represent them as the Department's Junior Member of the Year for 2011-2012.
- Each Department can determine the best way to acknowledge its Junior Member of the Year.
- Nomination must be signed by Unit Junior Activities advisor, the Junior group president and submitted to Department Junior Activities Chairman prior to deadline for the Junior Report.

Please include pictures, either electronically or via postal mail. All entries must be postmarked by June 1, 2012, and sent by the Department Chairman to National Vice Chairman Kathy Daudistel at 113 Washington Ave., Bellevue, KY 41073-1030 or may be e-mailed to bluekats@fuse.net.

Resources

1. Available on Junior Activities page of www.ALAforVeterans.org
 - a. Junior Chairman Guide (.pdf)
 - b. Junior Activities Handbook-free on the ALA website; printed copies for purchase through Emblem Sales at <http://emblem.legion.org>
 - c. Junior Leadership Course
 - d. Junior Patch Program-information by level (.pdf)
2. Available at www.ALAforVeterans.org
 - a. ALA Unit Handbook (under C&B on the Member Resources page)
 - b. ALA Annual Impact Report Form (part of the Plan of Action)
3. www.facebook.com/alajuniors

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

**Committee:**

Junior Activities

Submitted by:

National Junior Activities Chairman Lisa Williamson

Contact Information for Questions:

williamson@gci.net or junioractivities@ALAforVeterans.org

Objective:

#1 To encourage participation in service projects that serve our military, veterans and their families.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- Juniors create and implement a service project centered around helping servicemembers and their families during the holidays such as a veterans gift shop, adopt a deployed company, babysit for deployed soldier's spouse, etc.
- Volunteer with your local VA Medical Center. Contact your local VA facility and ask what you can do to help veterans who would specifically benefit that particular facility. Participate in the VA&R VolunTeen Program, open to youth 12-18 years of age, to volunteer in a VAMC or work with a senior volunteer in Field Service.
- Participate in the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project by interviewing a veteran's family member or friend to help collect, preserve and make accessible personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from them and better understand the realities of war. You can volunteer to conduct interviews and collect historical documents. You may also organize interviews. Go to <http://www.loc.gov/vets/> for details.
- Make, fold and distribute pocket flags to deployed servicemembers. More information can be obtained at the Pocket Flag Project's website at <http://pocketflagproject.com>.
- Contact the state headquarters of Operation: Military Kids at www.operationmilitarykids.org. There are several programs that encourage and enhance service projects such as 1) Hero Packs are filled by non-military youth and community organizations with mementos and items designed to help keep military kids connected with their deployed parent. They are a way to hand-deliver a salute to military children and youth for their strength and sacrifices while parents are deployed. 2) Speak Out for Military Kids is OMK's youth-driven community outreach program. Through participation in SOMK, military and non-military youth help generate community awareness of issues faced by military youth when a parent is deployed. 3) Mobile Tech Labs is a mobile, Internet-ready computer lab for use in a variety of settings. The lab provides access to technology for military youth to communicate with deployed loved ones, learn about technology, enhance educational experiences, or make videos/pictures, etc. to send deployed loved ones.
- Make and decorate ditty bags for toiletries for military/veterans at military/VA hospitals, clinics, veterans homes and other veterans facilities.
- Promote participation and donation opportunities for the wounded warriors participating in Ride 2 Recovery. Educate the community. Sponsor a R2R participant in his/her physical and mental rehabilitation efforts through adaptive cycling.
- Contact your local Fisher House, a place where wounded warriors' families can stay during medical treatment, and volunteer your time and resources.



Committee:

Junior Activities

Submitted by:

National Junior Activities Chairman Lisa Williamson

Contact Information for Questions:

williamson@gci.net or junioractivities@ALAforVeterans.org

Objective:

#2 To promote the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship peer-to-peer, by raising awareness of the rules and application process in schools, communities and on military bases.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- Post information about the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship on your social networking sites and/or Department website. Give details about eligibility and the application process.
- Distribute scholarship information to your local high school counselors and/or school districts, youth organizations and churches. Ask school administrators to publicize in school and/or district newsletters or mailings.
- Promote the scholarship to your friends and family members and get them to tell five of their friends or family members. Communicate!
- Junior members earn the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship patch by raising \$5 for each year of the individual's age.
- Post information on community bulletin boards, promoting the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship and where to get information online at www.ALAforVeterans.org.
- Contact your local military installation or active-duty servicemembers about getting scholarship information out to Family Readiness Groups and other family-based groups, informing them that most active-duty military children are eligible.
- Be familiar about the rules and application requirements to apply for the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship to be able to talk knowledgeably about it. If you don't know, know where to get the information.
- Know the eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion as they are critical for those applying for the scholarship. Membership is not a requirement, but the veteran the applicant is applying under must have served during The American Legion's eligibility period.



Committee:

Junior Activities

Submitted by:

National Junior Activities Chairman Lisa Williamson

Contact Information for Questions:

williamson@gci.net or junioractivities@ALAforVeterans.org

Objective:

#3 To empower our Junior members by seeking their assistance to increase the use of technology (such as e-mail, Internet, Facebook and other social networking sites) in promoting Auxiliary programs.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- Have Junior members teach Unit and Department leaders the basics of e-mail. Have them show senior members how to set up an e-mail account, details about an address book, how to attach files and send emails.
- Invite Junior members to teach Unit and Department leaders the basics of Internet. How to do a search, research information and even shop online can be some of the different uses where the Internet is helpful, and our Juniors understand this.
- Junior members help create and educate ALA members about social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- For those Junior members who are "techies," ask them to work with Unit and Department leaders to create and maintain ALA websites.
- Teach and actively practice Internet safety.
- Allow Juniors to create a Facebook page for your Unit and/or Department, with senior member supervision, that promotes your events and programs. Make sure to create a "list" or group that you can easily send information out to quickly in promotion of those activities.
- Ask a teenager to teach you how to text. Most everyone uses a cell phone now; texting can be used as a simple way to get the word out immediately, similar to what we used to know as a "telephone tree."
- Do you have a Junior member who is a camera buff? Use her abilities to capture history of your Unit/Department meetings, events and activities, and then publicize those photos on your website or social networking site.
- Submit your local Unit's meeting schedule to local newspapers/online calendars via email for online and print publication.
- Subscribe to the monthly *ALA e-News* at www.ALAforVeterans.org and disseminate the information to others.



Pod: Youth Development

Committees included: Children & Youth, Liaison to Child Welfare Foundation, Junior Activities, and ALA Girls State

Submitted by:

Janet Jefford, Lisa Williamson, Elsie Bailey-Comer, and Kathy Dungan

Contact Information for Questions:

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Elsie Bailey-Comer: lcnj@verizon.net or 732-350-1614

Lisa Williamson: williamson@gci.net or 907-388-3264

Kathy Dungan: kdungan@hughes.net or 601-643-2383

Objective:

Adopt a Military Kid Project

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- Choose one Unit member to lead the project.
 - Assemble a committee.
- Find a military family. Adopt their children.
 - Contact the Family Readiness Group or Family Support Group at your local armory or military installation.
 - Contact school counselors and churches.
 - Reach out to your Legion Family.
- Arrange a meeting with the child's family to explain what you want to do.
- Offer a Legion Family gift membership to all members of the family.
- Committee should brainstorm to find an activity they can do at least every month to support the child. Some examples:
 - Recognize birthdays and holidays with card and letters.
 - Invite the children and family to Unit and Post events.
 - Special trips or excursions to the mall, movies, bowling, etc.
 - Slumber parties with junior members.
 - Host holiday parties and invite the Legion Family.
 - Present a backpack filled with school supplies for start of school.
 - Celebrate an achievement – such as a school award the student might have received.
 - Have your Junior members act as mentors or tutors.
 - Bring the children with you to distribute poppies.
 - Bring the children to ALA Girls State. Maybe they can help the Girls Staters do an Operation: Military Kids project. They can also share their thoughts and feelings on what it means to be part of a military.
- Set up a monthly calendar of events. *See attached Suggested Calendar.*
- Assign a member to monitor each monthly activity.
- Perhaps you may consider doing things to support the entire family.
- Be sure to include your Public Relations chairmen on your committee. Submit articles and pictures to your local newspaper. Don't forget to obtain permission before releasing any photos. Junior members can help you use social networking tools.
- Keep a journal. Write down what works and what doesn't work. Send a mid-year report to your Department Chairmen.
- In May, report this project to your Department Chairmen and to your National Committees.



Pod: Youth Development

Committees included: Children & Youth, Liaison to Child Welfare Foundation, Junior Activities, and ALA Girls State

Objective:

Suggested Calendar, Every Month – remember family birthdays/events as well as TAL Family events.

August

- School supplies/backpacks
- Shopping for school clothes

September

- Labor Day
- Slumber party with Juniors

October

- Plan for Education Week
- Halloween

November

- Veterans Day
- Education Week
- Thanksgiving – food basket service project?

December

- Christmas - food basket service project?

January

- New Year's
- Make A Difference Day – MLK Day – Service project?

February

- Valentine's Day
- Presidents' Day

March

- St. Patrick's Day
- Legion Birthday

April

- Easter
- Children & Youth Month

May

- Recognize school awards
- Mother's Day
- Memorial Day ceremonies and poppy distribution
- Report this project to your Department Chairmen and to your National Committees

June

- Visit ALA Girls State
- Flag Day
- Father's Day

July

- Fourth of July – parades?
- Christmas in July