



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas

Children & Youth [C&Y]

Program Engagement Plan 2025-2026

The purpose of Children & Youth committee is to work with The American Legion to promote programs that support and protect children & youth; especially those children of military and veterans families.

We are called upon to teach the children of veterans families to understand and cope with the special circumstances they face, and to help the family recognize when the help of professionals may be indicated.

ALA Department of Texas Children & Youth Committee

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Division 4: vacant

What is the C&Y programs?

The ALA C&Y program emphasizes

- Protecting
- Caring
- Rewarding

Our young people, particularly those of Veterans and Active military families are called upon to teach and guide, to recognize and reward, develop and grow ALL children.

Key Elements of our Program

- To assist young people in need in our communities in any way possible.
- To recognize and reward the positive actions of our young people,
- To honor our military children and to support them through their parent's deployment (The kids of Deployed parents are Heroes).
- To support and promote the Children & Youth programs of our American Legion.

Examples of what we can do

- Plan seasonal supply drives for Veterans in need such as Thanksgiving Dinners, Christmas Gifts, July 4 Celebration.
- Distribute Backpacks and school supplies at the beginning of school year.
- Search for candidates to receive our Youth Hero & Goods Awards.
- Seek out donations to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.
- Plan a special celebration of military children during April in honor of the Month of the Military Child-Purple up day April 15.
- Use the "Star Spangled Kids" program to educate children on the history of patriotism, Americanism, and the Constitution.

Protecting

- These are uncertain times for the safety of our children. Check with schools and First Responders in your community if there are specific programs we can support to help protect our children.
- Collect bears and soft toys for First Responders to give to children during times of tragedy or instability.

Caring

- Plan a special celebration of military children during April in honor of the Month of the Military Child. April is Purple Up Day.
- Donate \$1.00 per member to the ALA Child Welfare Foundation and receive a banner for your Unit.
- Adopt a needy Veteran's family with kids and provide food and gifts for the holiday season.

Rewarding

Youth Hero Award

Youth Hero Award winners receive a medal and a certificate. They may be a Junior Auxiliary member or someone eligible for membership Eligibility is not a criterion for consideration.

Good Deed Award

The nominee may be a junior Auxiliary member or someone eligible for membership but eligible is not necessary for consideration.

Possible goods deeds include spending time and/or money for a worthy cause (such as troop support, raising money to help homeless Veterans, or a food drive).

Youth Hero/Good Deeds Awards 2025-2026

What Awards Are Available?

Created in 2002 by the National Children & Youth Committee, these awards are presented annually throughout the year to recognize the heroism and helpfulness of young people under the age 18. In the past years alone, more than 1,000 Youth and Good Deed awards have been presented to serving young people.

Nominations are accepted through local ALA units. If you know of someone deserving of one of these awards, please go to the ALA Department of Texas C&Y program page download and fill out a [Nomination Form](#) and send it your Division's C&Y committee.

Youth Hero Award

- Youth Hero Award winners receive a medal and a certificate.
- They may be a junior Auxiliary member or someone eligible for membership but eligibility is not a criterion for consideration.
- They should have demonstrated a physical act of valor (Heimlick, CPR, first aid, rescuing from fire or water peril).
- They serve as an inspirational role model for the organization and the community

Good Deed Award

The nominee may be a Junior Auxiliary member or someone eligible for membership, but Eligibility is not necessary for consideration.

What is the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation?

Established in the 1954, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation was developed as a repository of funds from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children in this country.

They contribute to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children and youth through various programs and activities.

Not all-American children grow up inside the comfortable definition of normal childhood development. For thousands, each day is a challenge marked by pain, prayer, and perseverance. Many of these children require specialized care. To overcome obstacles, they need help from you and the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

To donate go to <http://cwf-inc-org>

What can we do?

“It is through the gift provided to this foundation that children’s lives are saved, their quality of life is improved, and they are taught traditional American values through your selfless actions and demonstration of integrity.”

“Children First” Gift Club

To qualify: Awarded to American Legion post, squadron, Auxiliary units, ALR chapters, and Eight & Forty salons for their cumulative donations made during the contribution year.

- Guardian (gold) \$1,500.
- Advocate (silver) \$1,000.

April	Children & Youth Month
May	Poppy Month
June	Girls State Month
July	Girls Nation Month
August	Auxiliary Emergency Fund Month
September	Music Month
October	Cancer Awareness Month
November	Membership Month
December	VA/R Month
January	Legislative
February	Americanism
March	Community Service Month