

# **JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2027**

**Purpose:** 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*

Engage Junior members in activities that support the American Legion Auxiliary mission:

- Engage in poppy activities that may include making poppy posters, telling the poppy story, and distributing poppies with the assistance of senior members.
- Promote Americanism through practicing correct flag etiquette and respect.
- Organize and participate in service projects.
- Offer help to military families and help military kids entering a new school.
- Involve Junior members in helping support the needs of veterans in VA hospitals and outreach facilities with handwritten cards, thank-you cards, mementoes, and supplies.
- Engage Junior members in leadership training:
  - Shadow senior member officers at meetings and hold an appropriate unit office.
  - Post colors at senior meetings, conferences, and conventions.
  - Lead opening ceremonies (the Pledge, prayers, National Anthem, ALA Preamble).
  - Shadow senior committee chairs and assist with their program plans.
  - Promote the ALA scholarship benefits of remaining a member.
  - Encourage Juniors to attend their ALA Girls State program the summer between their junior and senior years of high school.

**Build the Junior Activities program one member at a time by giving Junior members a voice and opportunity to participate.**

- Plan mission-related activities that are interesting and inspiring to Juniors.
- Participate in Wreaths Across America Day by volunteering to lay wreaths at local cemeteries.
- Hold graduation ceremonies to recognize Juniors who will move to ALA senior membership status.
- Pay first year of senior membership to encourage retention.
- Pair older Juniors with less experienced Juniors to promote mentorship.

**Promote and encourage Junior participation in the ALA Patch Program to teach them about the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.**

- Work on the Patch Program at unit meetings. Include senior members to educate Juniors about the importance of participation in the Patch Program and to learn about ALA programs.
- Encourage Juniors who are unable to attend unit meetings to work on the Patch Program at home.
- Work with Sons of The American Legion (SAL) squadron leaders to inform them of the opportunity for young SAL members to participate in the ALA Patch Program.
- Patches may be ordered directly from National. All forms are found on the National Website.

**Make Junior meetings fun and informative.**

- Explore mission service and how they can impact our mission at each meeting.
- Encourage friendships and mentoring by planning fun team-building activities (games, learning Junior songs, etc.) and/or provide age-appropriate crafts.
- Highlight the numerous ALA learning opportunities available to members in the ALA Academy, including the ALA Juniors eLearning Course.

### **Scholarships:**

*Spirit of Youth Scholarship*

*Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship*

*Department Education Committee Scholarship*

*Department Past President's Parley Medical Scholarship*

## **JUNIOR ACTIVITIES REPORTING**

### **Year-End Reports**

Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the department, and may result in a department award for participants if award requirements are met. Each Unit Junior Activities chairman is required to submit a narrative report by May 15, 2027 to the Junior Activities chairman.

As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:  
How has participation in the Patch Program increased enthusiasm among the Juniors?  
What are the various service projects in which Juniors were involved?  
Has participation in the service projects increased as the year has progressed?  
What type of volunteer hours did Junior members perform?  
What ways did your senior members mentor the Junior members?  
How does your unit plan to increase Junior member participation in meetings and activities?  
Please include pictures and news articles showing Juniors involved in their 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 success story:

- 1) Please follow instructions as you fill out the Department 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 all reports and award entries to Department Junior Activities Chairman – Nicole Ebner – 600 CR 504 – Flatonia, TX 78941 or email to [nicolerebner@yahoo.com](mailto:nicolerebner@yahoo.com) by May 15, 2027

#### **A. Member Award: Junior Member of the Year**

Entries must include the award cover sheet located in this program Plan.

Entries must be typewritten and include the following information:

Consideration of only Junior members in good standing for 2026-2027.

Outstanding contribution the Junior has made through an ALA program or project.

Nominee should not be serving as an honorary department Junior president.

Length of membership is not a criterion.

Name, email address and complete mailing address of nominee must accompany nomination.

A narrative, typed essay not to exceed 500 words summarizing the nominee's accomplishments during the current administrative year.

Please include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc., either electronically or via postal mail.

Nomination must be signed by the candidate's unit Junior Activities advisor or Unit President.

Attach an award cover sheet, including the name of the award, as well as the name and contact information for the department Junior Activities chairman

All entries must be sent by the unit chairman to junior activities chairman by May 15, 2027.

Junior Member of the year may be nominated by an organized Junior Unit or by any senior unit where there is not an organized Junior Unit.

#### **B. Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program**

Entries must include the award cover sheet located in the program Plan.

Awarded to the unit with the most outstanding Junior Activities program.

Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. Include specific examples of how your Juniors worked the ALA mission.

May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.

Send entries to department chairman by May 15, 2027.

Junior Activities Committee:

|                      |              |                                                                    |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nicole Ebner - Chair | 361-798-8703 | <a href="mailto:nicolerebner@yahoo.com">nicolerebner@yahoo.com</a> |
| Karli Trahan - Asst  | 469-751-0391 |                                                                    |
| Zoe Colson           | 938-520-8803 | <a href="mailto:zrw1413@yahoo.com">zrw1413@yahoo.com</a>           |
| Bonnie Widener       | 936-827-4087 | <a href="mailto:cbw309923@gmail.com">cbw309923@gmail.com</a>       |