



2018 – 2019
American Legion Auxiliary – Department of Texas
Children & Youth Programs Action Plan

Children & Youth and the 2014-2019 Centennial Strategic Plan state – By protecting, caring for, and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans and military families, ALA members fulfill our brand promise (Goal 5) of being community leaders and responsible American citizens while caring for military families. In doing so, we are building a future membership base (Goal 1) among our target demographic – military families.

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What is this program and why do we have it? What can we do?

SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Member

- ♥Offer to make a “Star Spangled” presentation to your local schools. Invite post members to help students learn how their military service was meaningful in defending the U.S. Constitution.
- ♥Contact local high schools to invite them to encourage their students to use their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution by participating in The American Legion Oratorical Contest. Refer to www.legion.org for information on the Oratorical Contest.
- ♥Monitor newspapers, TV and neighborhoods for children and youth who have performed a heroic act of physical valor, such as performing CPR, helping evacuate in the event of a fire, calling 911 for an emergency, etc. Work with your unit to nominate them for a Youth Hero/Good Deed Award. Contact local schools, churches, and youth groups to make them aware of the Youth Hero/Good Deed Awards. Make sure to leave unit contact information.
- ♥Identify children in your community who may be or are facing hospitalization for the first time and who may benefit from a Josh & Friends Dog and Book.

Unit

- ♥Create a Unit Citizenship Award for children and youth who have learned the ideals of the U.S. Constitution.

- ♥Share a constitutional fact each month in the unit newsletter, the newspaper editorial and/or on social media.
- ♥September 17 is Constitution Day (Citizenship Day). Host a party for children that revolves around the U.S. Constitution.
- ♥Print and distribute pocket constitutions to schoolchildren.
- ♥Once a child has been identified as a Youth Hero/Good Deed applicant, complete the nomination form. See the Youth Hero/Good Deed nomination form at the end of this Program Action Plan to submit the name of the child. Have the form signed by two unit members and then submit the form to your department secretary.
- ♥When a Youth Hero/Good Deed award is approved, contact local media, community school leaders and the child's parents, and plan for a public presentation of the award.
- ♥Plan a special celebration of children during the month of April in honor of Children and Youth Month.

SUPPORT MILITARY CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- ♥Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2): This is a recognition program for military children who experience extended separation from their military parent or parents.
- ♥GI Josh: An American Legion Family alliance, GI Josh is a plush dog and accompanying storybook used to help ease separation fears for the military children.
- ♥April is the Month of the Military Child

Member / Unit

- ♥Volunteer at a Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) camp program.
- ♥Volunteer at a Family Readiness Group event where KDHS "I'm a Hero 2" buttons/stickers can be distributed.
- ♥Give a GI Josh to the child of a deployed servicemember.
- ♥Wear purple on April 15 in honor of Purple Up! For Military Kids day.
- ♥Host a dinner, game night, community fair, etc., that will bring military and nonmilitary families together.
- ♥Plan a special celebration of military children during April in honor of the Month of the Military Child.

SUPPORT VETERANS' CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- ♥Some of our homeless veterans also have children living on the streets with them.
- ♥*Klinger, a Story of Honor and Hope* - Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) is affiliated with the American Legion family.

Member

- ♥Contact your local churches, homeless shelter and food pantries to identify homeless veterans' children. Ask what their specific needs are and offer them your services as an ALA member.
- ♥Contact your local news sources (newspaper, community television, community websites and social media accounts) and town council. Offer to give a presentation about you and your unit's work for homeless veterans and their children.
- ♥Contact your voluntary services representatives at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Offer to work with them to help meet the needs of children of homeless veterans who come to the VAMC.
- ♥Contact local schools to access their need for supplies and extra clothes for homeless children. Offer to supply items as needed. Volunteer at a TAPS camp program.

Unit

- ♥Train members to be a resource for front-line agencies who receive requests for help.
- ♥Contact local schools to assess their need for supplies and extra clothes for homeless children. Offer to supply items as needed.
- ♥Contact your post service officer to offer help with the needs of children of veterans who need financial help (The American Legion – Temporary Financial Assistance).
- ♥Help raise awareness for the needs of homeless children in your community by sharing unit activities on the unit website, social media pages and newsletters.
- ♥Purchase the book, *Klinger, A Story of Honor and Hope*, from TAPS with the companion plush horse for children who are grieving the loss of a military parent or loved one.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH REPORTING

Mid-Year Reports:

Mid-year reports reflect the work of units in the department. Each Unit's Children & Youth chairman is requested to submit a narrative report by **December 5, 2018** to the Department Children & Youth chairman and to also submit a copy to your Division committee member via email or regular U.S. mail at the address found on the front page of this Program Action Plan.

Annual Reports:

Annual reports reflect the work of units in the department. It is requested that photos of select unit projects accompany these reports. Each Unit Children & Youth chairman should submit a narrative report by **April 15, 2019**, to Department Children & Youth chairman and a copy to your Division committee member via email or U.S. mail at the address on the front page of this Program Action Plan.

As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:

- 1) How did your units promote "Star Spangled Kids", educating children & youth about the U.S. Constitution from the aspect of patriotism and Americanism?
- 2) How did your unit promote the Youth Hero/Good Deed Award?
- 3) What success stories do you have regarding support for military or homeless veterans' children?

CHILDREN & YOUTH 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. There are 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 this Programs Action Plan.
- 2) Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the award's materials and guidelines section.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH AWARDS

Youth Hero Award

Type of Award: Youth Hero Medal and Citation

Presented to: Youth under 18 years of age who have performed a heroic act of physical valor.

Materials and Guidelines: Complete the Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination Form found at the end of this Program Action Plan and mail to your department secretary, who certifies, then mails the application to National Headquarters. **Please, members/units, do not mail applications directly to National Headquarters.** The award certificate, signed by the national president, and Youth Hero Award medal will be returned

to the unit to be presented on behalf of the national organization. The department Children & Youth chairman should be notified of the award.

Good Deed Award

Type of Award: Citation

Presented to: Youth under 18 years of age who are great examples of community service in action.

Materials and Guidelines: Complete the Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination Form found at the end of this Program Action Plan and mail to your department secretary, who certifies, then mails the application to National Headquarters.

****Please, members/units, do not mail applications directly to National Headquarters.****
The award certificate, signed by the national president, and Youth Hero Award medal will be returned to the unit to be presented on behalf of the national organization. The department Children & Youth chairman should be notified of the award.

Unit Award

Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program

Type of Award: Engraved Plaque

National Award: One Unit in each Division (5 overall awards)

Department Award: One Unit in Department

Materials and Guidelines: Awarded to the unit in each division (one overall in Department) with the most outstanding Children & Youth program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. Include specific examples of how your unit worked the Children & Youth program. May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc. Attach an award cover sheet found at the end of this Program Action Plan, including the name of the award, as well as the name and contact information for the Department and unit Children & Youth chairman.

Deadline is June 1, 2019.

Department Awards

♥Certificate to each Unit that submits a Mid-year report and Year-end report

♥Plaque Unit Overall Children & Youth Program

♥Certificate to each Unit participating in Star Spangle Kids

♥Plaque for Overall Star Spangle Kids Program

♥Certificate to each Unit participating in Children & Youth Month

♥Plaque for Overall Unit Children & Youth Month

♥Plaque for Unit with the largest donation to Child Welfare Foundation

Reporting:

♥Read the guidelines for reporting your Mid-year and Year-end report

♥Send original to Children & Youth chairman and a copy to your Division committee member so she can report at your Division convention

♥Double check deadlines for reporting

♥Send all narratives for National Award to chairman

♥Youth Hero & good Deed Award is the only narrative you submit to ALA Department of Texas secretary. Please send a copy to Children & Youth chairman

♥Make sure you answer all the questions on the cover sheet

♥Reporting period is April 01, 2018 to March 31, 2019

♥If you are claiming hours and monetary donations on another Program please do not include with the Children & Youth report (that is double reporting)

Additional Resources You Can Use

♥Go to the National website for supplemental resources.



American Legion Auxiliary

Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination Form

NAME OF YOUTH _____

First

Middle Initial

Last

Youth's date of birth ____ / ____ / ____ Age ____ Male Female

Date _____ Submitted by Unit # _____ Dept. of _____

Description of bravery and/or deed performed by youth (to be completed by unit)

- **Good Deed Award** - Youth should demonstrate leadership role in community service, specific deed should be present
- **Youth Hero Award** - Youth should demonstrate a physical act of valor

Please attach news clippings or include website to verify the deed being recognized.

UNIT CERTIFICATION (MUST BE CERTIFIED BY TWO UNIT MEMBERS)

Unit Member _____ Date _____

Unit Member _____ Date _____

Units should send completed applications to their department secretary.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY CERTIFICATION

Name _____ Date: _____

Department secretary mails nomination to National Headquarters, 8945 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46260. Awards will be shipped at no cost to unit or department.

Please ship to:

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please use this form for all Youth Hero and Good Deed Award nominations. For more information, contact National Headquarters at children&youth@ALAFforVeterans.org or (317) 589-4500.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY

Date received _____

Date shipped _____

Youth Hero Award Good Deed Award

By _____



American Legion Auxiliary
National Report and Award Cover Sheet

Please note, your report will also be viewed as an award entry.

Complete the following if you are applying for a member award. Be sure to give the complete name of the member. The award certificate will be prepared using the information you include below.

Unit #: _____ Full official unit name: _____

Name of state where you are a member: _____

Member Name: _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Nominating Member (if different from above): _____

Nominator's Phone number: (____) _____

Nominator's Email address: _____

National committee sponsoring award: _____

Type of Award: Department Unit Member

Name of the award you are applying for: _____

For a unit award or to submit a year-end unit narrative report, please complete this section.
Be sure to give the complete name of your unit. The award certificate will be prepared using the information you include below.

Unit #: _____ Full official unit name: _____

Name of department: _____

Unit president/chairman (circle one) name: _____

Above listed person's ALA member ID#: _____ Phone number: (____) _____

Email address: _____

For a department award or to submit a year-end department narrative report, please complete this section:

Name of department: _____

Name of department chairman: _____

Chairman's phone number: (____) _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Chairman's email address: _____

Please see your committee's Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan to determine where to send this form.

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Texas
Children & Youth Cover Sheet
2018 - 2019

****Please send this Cover Sheet with your Year-End Report****

Please complete the following:

Unit # _____ Unit Name _____ District # _____ Division # _____

President/Chairman Name _____ Phone # _____
Please circle one

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Please answer the following questions:

Did your unit submit a youth for the "Youth Hero Award" ____Yes ____No
If yes, did you receive an award from National? ____Yes ____No

Did your unit submit for a "Good Deed Award" ____Yes ____No
If yes, did your unit receive an award from National? ____Yes ____No

Is your unit submitting a narrative for "Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program" ____Yes ____No
Is your unit submitting a narrative for "Supporting Military Children" ____Yes ____No
Is your unit submitting a narrative for "Star Spangled Kids" ____Yes ____No
Is your unit submitting a narrative for "Best overall unit Children & Youth Program" ____Yes ____No

Did your unit submit a Mid-year report ____Yes ____No
Did your unit participate in "Star Spangled Kids" ____Yes ____No
If yes, total volunteer hours _____ # of Children _____
Money Spent \$ _____ In-Kind Donations \$ _____

Did your unit participate in Children & Youth Month ____Yes ____No
If yes, how much was donated \$ _____ volunteer hours _____

Total children & Youth volunteer Hours _____
Total Children & Youth Money Spent \$ _____
Total In-Kind Donations \$ _____
Total # Children _____
Total # Military Children _____