

# 2018-2019 American Legion Auxiliary Programs Action Plan

## Junior Activities

### What is this program, and why do we have it?

The Junior Activities program inspires active participation in members age 17 and under so that they will become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood. Junior Activities and the 2017-2022 ALA Centennial Strategic Plan: Inspiring active participation by ALA members age 17 and under, the Junior Activities program builds a strong future for the ALA by engaging productive members to carry on its mission for life. (Goals 1 and 3)

### Committee Contact Information – [juniors@alateexas.org](mailto:juniors@alateexas.org)

**Department Chairman** – Nicole Ebner – Div III

600 CR 504 – Flatonia, TX 78941

[nicolerebner@yahoo.com](mailto:nicolerebner@yahoo.com) – 361-798-8703

### Committee Members:

Div I – Traci Crawford – [tracilea1968@gmail.com](mailto:tracilea1968@gmail.com) – 214-552-1258

Div II – Kimberly Palasota – [kimpalasota1@gmail.com](mailto:kimpalasota1@gmail.com) – 936-890-8875

Div IV – Kay Raynel – [kayrayop@gmail.com](mailto:kayrayop@gmail.com) - 915-433-8510

### What can you do?

#### 1. Increase Junior membership.

##### Ideas:

##### Member

- Ask to speak at your post's monthly meeting. Bring Junior members and membership applications with you. Personally invite Legion members to sign up their daughter, granddaughters and great-granddaughters. Older Junior members could speak about the value of their membership to the post.
- Sign up your own eligible daughters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters.
- "Like" the national Junior Activities Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/alajuniors/>). Share the posts to your friends and encourage them to sign up their eligible Juniors.
- "Like" the Department of Texas Junior Activities Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/alajuniorsdeptoftx/>) Share the posts to your friends and encourage them to sign up their eligible Juniors.
- Teach your Juniors about The American Legion Family's eligibility requirements.
- Encourage your Juniors to invite their friends to attend ALA functions and volunteering opportunities, even if they are not eligible to join.
- If you don't have Junior members of your own, be sure to support them anyway. Offer to help the Junior Activities chairman and participate in their fundraisers.
- If you are a unit officer or chairman, offer to mentor one of your unit's Juniors. Teach her about your role with the ALA.

##### Unit

- Organize an active Juniors group. Give the Junior Activities chairman a budget to work with and space to hold meetings and fundraisers.
- Continually ask members to sign up their eligible daughters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters.
- Include information on Junior membership and activities in monthly newsletters.

- Include information on Junior membership in renewal notices.

## **2. Engage Juniors in programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.**

### **Ideas:**

#### **Member**

- Bring your Junior(s) to a meeting with you. Ask your unit president if the Junior(s) can lead the Pledge.
- Mentor a Junior in your unit. Teach them about your role as an officer and chairman. Help them understand what we do and why it matters.
- Present any patches your Junior(s) earn at a unit meeting. They will be proud of their achievement and your fellow members will see what great work their Juniors are doing.
- Bring your Junior(s) to all appropriate ALA activities in which you participate. They can help distribute poppies, clean tables after dinners, etc.
- Older Junior members can mentor younger members by encouraging them to participate in Junior meetings, teaching them what they have learned about the ALA and our mission, and helping them earn their patches.

#### **Unit**

- Support and assist your Junior Activities chairman. Give her a budget to work with, space for meetings and fundraisers and be flexible with your activities so that Juniors can be involved. Provide her with an updated copy of the Junior Activities Handbook, which can be purchased from Emblem Sales or downloaded from the Junior Member Activities page in the Members Only section at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).
- Post Junior activities on your unit department Facebook page with approval from parents and Junior member.
- Encourage older Juniors to become mentors to younger Juniors.

## **3. Make Junior meetings fun and informative.**

### **Ideas:**

#### **Member**

- Junior members can help plan and lead the meeting to make it more fun and informative to their age group.
- Be flexible during your meetings. *Robert's Rules* can be intimidating and boring for Juniors; there will be plenty of time for them to learn. Keep an orderly meeting, but don't put too much emphasis on protocol.
- Plan activities that are fun, yet teach about the mission of the ALA. Remember, they are kids with short attention spans. Activities that involve light exercise are helpful to burn off their youthful energy. Have a service project relay race where the Juniors prepare buddy baskets or socks of love, do the cheers they learned at one of the national meetings, etc. If you need ideas, ask a teacher; it might end up being a great win/win as you share ideas.
- Crafts are another good activity for Juniors. They can make poppy crafts for a fundraiser, patriotic decorations for your post or local veterans home, handmade cards to send to veterans at your local VA, etc.
- Have snacks and drinks on hand. Juniors could even make poppy cookies to snack on.

#### **Unit**

- Give your Juniors a place to display their crafts or artwork.
- Help your Junior Activities Chairman find places to distribute the cards and crafts made by Juniors.
- Offer to help during Junior meetings.

#### **4. Promote and encourage Junior participation in the Patch Program.**

##### **Ideas:**

##### **Member**

- Mentor Juniors and help them to acquire patches. The Patch Program activities can be found on the Junior Member Activities page in the Members Only section at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).
- Hold a special meeting to help Juniors earn patches.
- Older Juniors can help the younger Juniors earn patches.

##### **Unit**

- Encourage Juniors to participate in the Patch Program.
- Encourage use of electronic patches on Juniors' social media sites.
- Give Junior members the opportunity to work on requirements for patches at unit functions.
- Remember to include younger SAL members for the NEW Patch.

##### **Programs and Activities**

1. Requirements, instructions and patch forms for the Junior Patch Program are available at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).
2. A national Junior meeting will be held at the same time as Mission Training. Dates and meeting sites for the one-day training will be announced at a later date.
3. Department Junior meetings are held at Mid-Winter Conference and at the Department Convention.
4. Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior members: Five scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 each will be awarded for the 2018-2019 Auxiliary year; one scholarship will be awarded in each division of the American Legion Auxiliary. Requirements and applications are available at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) and in the Education Program Action Plan.
5. Junior Projects:
  - Veterans History Project: [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets)
  - VA Student Volunteer Program: [www.volunteer.va.gov/StudentProgram.asp](http://www.volunteer.va.gov/StudentProgram.asp)  
[www.volunteer.va.gov/ParkeScholarship.asp](http://www.volunteer.va.gov/ParkeScholarship.asp)
  - Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship:  
[www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)
  - Mean Stinks: [www.meanstinks.com](http://www.meanstinks.com)

## **JUNIOR ACTIVITIES REPORTING**

### **Mid-Year Reports**

Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of units in the department, and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction. Each Unit Junior Activities chairman is asked to submit a narrative report by December 15, 2019 to the Junior Activities chairman,

### **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 1, 2019** 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 1, 2019. Please also send all PATCH PROGRAM SHEETS to Nicole as well.

**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 2018-2019.
  - 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 1, 2019.
  - 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 1, 2019.

**C. Award: Best Media Coverage of Activity or Project**

- Entries must include the award cover sheet located in the program Plan.
- Awarded to the unit with the most outstanding media coverage Junior Activities project or activity.
- Narrative not to exceed 500 words. Include specific examples of how your Juniors worked the ALA mission.
- **MUST** include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.
- Send entries to department chairman by May 1, 2019.

**REMEMBER AWARDS CANNOT BE PRESENTED IF THERE ARE NOT ANY ENTRIES!!!!**

**Additional Resources You Can Use**

1. [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org):
  - a. Junior Activities Handbook - free on the ALA website; printed copies for purchase through Emblem Sales at [emblem.legion.org](http://emblem.legion.org)
  - b. Junior Leadership Course
  - c. Junior Patch Program - information by level
  - d. ALA Unit Handbook (free on the ALA website; printed copies for purchase through Emblem Sales at <http://emblem.legion.org>)
  - e. ALA Annual Impact Report Form (part of the Programs Action Plan)
  - f. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation: A Guide for Volunteers
2. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs information on student volunteers: [www.volunteer.va.gov/StudentProgram.asp](http://www.volunteer.va.gov/StudentProgram.asp)
3. American Legion Auxiliary Junior Activities Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/alajuniors](http://www.facebook.com/alajuniors)
4. Your national Junior Activities Committee members (see list on front page of this program Plan).

PLEASE contact the chairman or committee members if you have any questions....let's grow our junior membership and keep these girls STEPPING ACROSS TEXAS FOR FAMILIES AND VETERANS!!!!