

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of North Carolina Junior
Activities
2024-2025

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. The mission of the Jr. Activities committee is to promote volunteerism through communitybased programs and services that involve veterans and to teach the principles of loyalty to God & Country, justice, freedom and democracy to our young members.

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The charm of the Junior Activities Committee is that our Junior can assist in every committee that we have, allow them to be Artists ~ to paint the town for our Veterans and Military Children - **What can we do?**

1. MEMBERSHIP - Build your Junior Activities program! Get all eligible Girls to become Junior members. Just because most Juniors activities require girls to be 5 years of age - please allow them to become members, **even at birth**. Ask Legion members to sign up their daughters and granddaughters. They don't have to live in North Carolina to be members here, sign-up your relatives as long as they are

eligible. You can always find things for them to do, and if you offer to pay for their membership (annual fee which is cheaper than adult membership) you can make your membership goals quickly. Organize your own Juniors Group within your Unit or District - It only takes 1! If your Unit still has bank accounts set aside for juniors, utilize them to pay for members still on your roster.

2. AMERICANISM - Ask your Junior Members to assist at a meeting or event to say the Pledge of Allegiance or Sing the National Anthem. Value them as members! Juniors can also participate in the Star Spangled Kids program which educates youth on the US Constitution and History of the United States, this year there is an award specifically for Juniors. Teach these young members to memorize and learn to recite the ALA Preamble, Children have great memories and once they learn it, they can help adult members say it. Don't forget the Oratorical Contest, Flag Etiquette or the Americanism Essay Contest - Juniors from 3rd - 12th Grades, as well as ALA Girls State candidates can participate and could win the National Essay Contest. This year's Essay is: ***What does freedom mean to me?*** Follow the PAP under Americanism for information, awards, deadline dates and specifics.
3. CHILDREN & YOUTH - Your Juniors can help set-up the Military Child's Table - and have it accessible so that your juniors can perform each part and help to educate the rest of your Legion family about the sacrifices that children of military must go through. Wear Purple on April 15th or have Juniors participate in making crafts to celebrate the Month of Military kids day and month. September 11th is Patriots Day and September 17th is Citizenship Day Make our Juniors feel Special with certificates to acknowledge or honor themes being Great American's! You can also purchase or download the coloring books for Juniors. Follow the PAP under Children & Youth for more information, awards, deadline dates and specifics.
4. COMMUNITY SERVICE - Juniors can help in any activities including at the Legion Post home or going outside the Legion Family. Encourage them to wear their ALA Branded apparel and participate in Legion, SAL & Riders events, dinners, walks, nursing home visits, volunteering at a dog shelter and local events including other children organizations like Scouting, Children's Miracle Network, Special Olympics or Rotary Club Kids. Follow the PAP under Community Service for more information, deadline dates and specifics.
5. EDUCATION - Check out scholarships especially for junior members that are graduating or heading to college, trade school or even the Military. Some include: Spirit of Youth Scholarship, James H. Parke Memorial, Children of Warriors and Samsung for ALA Girls State attendees. Juniors can also partner with schools and donate for: Give 10 to Education, Box Tops or School Supply Drives, you can also ask the schools to see what community service projects they can assist with

perhaps volunteer to read to younger students. Follow the PAP under Education for more details, awards, deadline dates and specifics.

6. ALA GIRLS STATE - Make it a point to tell your Junior members that have completed their 11th grade to apply to attend ALA Tarheel Girls State. The 2024 session at Campbell University will be in June 2024. Juniors can also assist the program by having a fundraiser to support meals or supplies needed at ALA North Carolina Girls State. Follow the Girls State PAP for more info.
7. HISTORY - Ask your Juniors to either put together a Pictorial History book (scrapbook) or submit a written History on your Unit or District and submit to the Department Historian. They can also start writing the veterans history Project by interviewing veterans; either family members or neighbors. Follow the PAP under Historian for awards, deadlines, dates and specifics.
8. ALA JUNIOR LEADERSHIP COURSE - Juniors can take the leadership course online through the ALAforVeterans.org website. Mentor them or be a Senior Sponsor to guide them through a committee or office. Allow them to have their own Junior meeting and teach them to use Robert's Rules of Order, but make it fun for them so it's orderly but not too much emphasis on protocol. There is also a Junior Activities Handbook available to use as a guide at www.ALAforVeterans.org
9. NATIONAL SECURITY - Juniors can participate or apply for: Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program, CERT Civilian Emergency Response Training, Welcome Home ceremonies at Military Installations, Airports or at Legion Posts. If they participate in their schools JROTC program there are awards that they are eligible for. Follow the PAP under National Security for awards, deadlines, dates and specifics.
10. PRESIDENT'S PROJECT – Protective Red Shoe Program: The Protective Red Shoe Program stands as a symbol of hope, safety, and empowerment for women who have served and sacrificed for our nation. This season, your support can brighten the lives of women veterans in need. Whether through a donation or spreading awareness, every act of kindness makes a difference.
11. JUNIOR PRESIDENT'S PROJECT - donations to Levine and Jeff Gordon Children's Hospitals.
12. POPPY - Encourage Juniors to apply for Little Miss Poppy Contest (ages 6-12) on the Department and National level. Ask the girls to make table favors or wreaths and participate in the Poppy Poster Contest. Juniors can also be great helpers when you host your "poppy days" they can distribute poppies and collect donations. Juniors can also learn the story of the Poppy, recite In Flanders Fields Poem or learn about Moina Michaels; the Poppy Lady. Follow the PAP under Poppy for awards, deadlines, dates and specifics.

13. PUBLIC RELATIONS – Please make sure when using our youths photos a Media Release form has been filled out and is on hand. Utilize PR and different media sources by promoting what your Junior Members are doing - Newspapers & TV Stations love children, call your local radio stations, many have to give free PSA's (Public Service Announcements.) Also allow your Juniors to assist you in setting up a Facebook page, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter or other Social Media accounts as well as websites. Juniors are very tech savvy and can help you set things up for your Unit or a separate Juniors Group or page. Follow the PAP under Public Relations for awards, deadlines, dates and specifics and check out the National Awards for submissions.

Social Media pages includes Facebook: ALA NC Juniors- just remember to post where you've been, not where you're going! We are also on Instagram = NCalajuniors and you can use hashtags **#NCALAJuniors #ALAJuniors or #ALARockStars**

14. Participate and donate in supporting the Junior Activities Committee. Fundraisers are a way that the Juniors learn to budget and work towards a goal as well as manage their money and help raise funds for Veterans Programs, Military Families or Community Service projects.

15. Don't forget to Celebrate our Juniors - make it a point to Congratulate them on any accomplishment, be it a certificate, plaque, award, patch, celebration, or something at school to honor them. Offer them snacks or drinks or even host a pizza party, prom or girls tea.

16. **AND Finally the PATCH PROGRAM** - All Juniors, as well as young SAL Members (17 and younger) can participate in this program. Not only will they be rewarded for their good deeds they will also be recognized at Department Convention for earning patches. The Patch Program activities can be found on the Junior Member Activities page on the Department of North Carolina website www.alafl.org attachments or in the Members Only section at www.ALAforVeterans.org There are 3 different age groups: Red, Gold & Blue and 11 different categories that can be earned.

