



Purple Up the April Military Child Month



The children of our deployed are Heroes also. April is the month that we honor the sacrifices that they make for us. They make many sacrifices so that their parent or parents can protect our country and keep us safe and free. They give up hugs, snuggles bedtime stories and kisses. They give up playing catch with dad or mom. The Dandelion is the symbol. Most of us as remember as kids picking them and blowing their seeds away while making a wish. Those seeds were carried near and far. They landed and took root just as our military children do, no matter where they land. They are strong and resilient.

What will you and your unit do this month to honor a military child? National would like you to share your event on social media.

As a proud grandparent of a child who was a military kid for the 1st 7 years of his life , I know how important the Legion Family is to him.

April 15 is Purple up day. Don't forget to wear your purple to show our support for these children.

Purchase a youth hero badge (see attached form in the email)

Spotlight on Children and Youth CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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Key Program Statements

- The Children & Youth program emphasizes protecting, caring for, and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans' and military families.
- To recognize and reward the positive actions of our children and youth, the American Legion Auxiliary has two special national awards bestowed to youth nominated by units: the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award.
- Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2) is an initiative honoring military children who may be experiencing a separation from one or both parents, whether deployed to a war zone, having a short tour or on an extended temporary duty assignment.
- The American Legion Auxiliary Children & Youth program strives to support and promote the [Children & Youth program](#) of The American Legion.
- **Unit Award:** Most Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program (per division) Deadline June 1
- **Department Award:** Best Department Children & Youth Program (per division) Deadline June 1

<https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/children-and-youth>

**Send In those Reports.
Reports are due April 15**

Why does it matter if you and your unit send in your reports? My Top 3 Reasons for Reporting

- 1. These numbers are what congress uses to decide how much money to give to support our veterans.**
- 2. President Mary will need your report so she can do her Impact Report for National.**
- 3. It is ok to brag a little on the work your unit has done this year. This can encourage other units and can give them ideas of activities they may want to do.**

Please submit reports to your department chairs. The Department Chair will then select a winner and send to their National Southern Division Chair who will select winners from the Southern Division. You or your unit could be a National Winner.

National Convention

Remember the National Convention is in Charlotte this year. Many of you who have never been able to attend a National convention may be able to do so. If you live close enough to Charlotte, you could drive in for a day. I encourage everyone to try to come to at least one day of the Convention. You can register as a guest.

National Poppy Poster Contest

Kids in grades 2-12 are eligible to participate. All department entries are due to the division chairmen by June 1.

<https://www.legion-aux.org/national-poppy-poster-contest>

Don't forget to order your poppies. National Poppy Day is Friday, May 26. Only 8 weeks away. See attached order form. National wants you to post your event on social media