

**Department of Michigan
Junior Activities Guide
2020-2021**

Mission Statement: The Junior Activities Committee promotes Volunteerism and principles of the American Legion Auxiliary. This is accomplished by participation in various programs and services that are community-based and involve our Veterans. Junior members are taught the principles of loyalty to God and Country, Justice, Freedom and Democracy with guidance from the American Legion Family.



**Honorary Junior President 2020-2021
Leah Daniels**

**Special Project “Mended Hearts”
“Minnie Mouse will mend your Heart”**

Junior Activities Committee

Objectives:

1. **Objective: To participate in projects that serves our military, veterans and families. This includes active duty and retired service members.**
 - a. Sending holiday and thank you cards to active duty servicemen and women.
 - b. Volunteer to assist members of active duty families by babysitting, helping with everyday things.
 - c. Contact a veteran and encourage them to tell you their story. Write it down. Tell the story at your unit meeting, some are at the Post you belong to and others are at the local Veterans Hospitals and Homes.
 - d. Attend and help out at as many Veterans Homes and or Hospitals events as possible, including Christmas gift shops and monthly bingo.

2. **Objective: To encourage Juniors to assist the Units and Posts with their knowledge of the social media and getting the word out.**
 - a. Assisting the Legion and Auxiliary in the use of email and the internet. Explain how easy it is to use.
 - b. Help create a website for your Post. Spread the word about activities and events at your Post.
 - c. Via Facebook and Twitter (with permission from parents), spread the word about what you are involved in as an Auxiliary Junior.

3. **Objective: To promote and spread the word about Honorary Junior President Leah's Project this year, Mended Hearts, Pontiac Chapter**
 - a. Go to the website **www.mendedhearts.org** for all information connected with the organization.
 - b. Please help us help Minnie mend as many hearts as possible.

Goals:

To encourage and promote the following Programs:

- 1. The Patch Program:**
Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary may earn both physical and electronic patches for prescribed activities in Americanism, Community Service, Education, Field Service, Leadership, Membership, National Security, Physical Fitness, Poppy, Technology and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. In all age groups there is different information and activities to accomplish.
- 2. Pocket Flag Program:**
Folding pocket size flags received from the Pocket Flag Program and sending to our troops.
- 3. Guiding and assisting Michigan Juniors to learn about and participate in all of the Auxiliary Activities, including but not limited to the following:**

Americanism, Community Service, Girls State, History, Membership, Music, National Security, Poppy, Public Relations, V A & R, Education, Leadership, Children and Youth and Auxiliary Emergency Fund.
- 4. Fundraising Ideas: ways to raise funds for your Projects and Programs.**
 - a. Bake Sales at the post
 - b. Special dinners at the post (such as Spaghetti)
 - c. Raffles (with adult help) at the post
- 5. Available Scholarships for Juniors and recently graduated Seniors. Go to alaforveterans.org to locate information on the following:**
 - a. Spirit of Youth Scholarship
 - b. Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship

Certificates and Awards

Department:

Unit Award (Amelia Muth Citation)

A citation presented to the unit chairman reporting the best overall Junior Activities program, including accomplishments in the Auxiliary Program

1. Narrative Form
2. 1000 words or less
3. Typed Double Space
4. Unit Name, number, Junior Activities Chairman's name and address, Department Name

Junior Member of the Year

An award presented to a Junior member in recognition of her dedicated service efforts and talents.

1. A narrative, typed essay not to exceed 500 words describing nominee's accomplishments during the current administrative year.
2. Nomination must be signed by unit **Junior Activities advisor, the senior unit president**
3. Each unit is limited to one nomination.

The Nominee should not be an Active Honorary Department Junior President

*** Winning entry to be forwarded to National for both of the above**

Tina Sutherland Citation

(Runner up for Junior Member of the Year)

An award presented to a Junior for her dedicated service, efforts and talents. This Junior member has worked hard for the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Not to exceed 500 words

Victoria Betz Spirit Citation

Awarded to the Junior who has held an office either on District or Unit Level for her outstanding work in the Auxiliary programs as an officer.

1. Narrative Form
2. Double spaced.
3. Written in her own words
4. No more than 5000 words
5. Pictures allowed

Ada Samgster-Patricia Kwiakowski Citation

To the Junior Unit Reporting the most complete Junior participation in Civil Preparedness and National Security

1. Narrative form
2. Double spaced
3. 1000 words
4. Pictures allowed

Leona Puckett Department Leadership Award

This award is given to the Junior Member who exemplifies leadership within the Junior Group. "Purpose" to develop and prepare capable and knowledgeable leaders to carry on the growth and success of the Auxiliary by promoting activities and resources that educate, motivate and mentor members of all ages and levels of the organization.

1. Narrative Form
2. 500 Words
3. Pictures and examples encouraged

All award submissions should be sent to the Department Chairman, no later than April 15, 2021. Be sure to attach the Green Slip!!!!

**Christine Merlington
17259 Pringle St.
Sand Lake, MI 49343**

Junior Information

**Department of Michigan Honorary Junior President:
“Leah Daniels”**

Special Project “Mended Hearts”

Honorary Department Junior officers

**President: Leah Daniels
1st Vice: Mackenzie Townes
2nd Vice: Aleigha Houghton
Secretary: Emma Damouth
Chaplain: Katherine Vandam
Historian: Abigail Jones
Sgt@Arms: Charlie Fadeyi**

**Christine Merlington,
Junior Activities Chairman**

**Phone: 616-570-2830
Email: chrismu63@yahoo.com**

Committee Members

Kim VanDam

**Phone: 616-644-7388
Email: vandamfamily5@gmail.com**

Susan Hilgris

**Phone: 810-686-6906
Email: shilgris@yahoo.com**

Alexus Champion

**Phone: 248-464-9172
Email: ajchampion@oakland.edu**

Mid-Year reports with any and all accomplishments from your Units and or Districts need to be submitted to Christine by December 30, 2020, please as she will send report into National by January 5, 2021. Please send as much as you can and we can show them how busy our Michigan Juniors are.

Junior Convention will take place at the Department Convention in Sault Ste. Marie being held July 8-11,2021 Activities and Agenda for Junior Convention to come in Unit Mail and posted on Michalaux.org site.

The Juniors in the state of Michigan are more active than the reports we receive each year. This year there will be a special donation of \$100 given to a Junior Unit at Department Convention. The Unit that reports and shows the most detailed utilization of Auxiliary Programs will receive this. So, Michigan show us what you got this year. With everything going on you will have to think hard, but we know you can do it.

Leah and the committee, are in the process of setting up multiple functions for the upcoming year. We are hoping to have multiple Junior information seminars around the state.

All dates for any and all functions, once they are finalized, will be posted on the Michalaux.org (Department) website, and emailed to District Presidents.

ALA Mission Training dates for Juniors 2020-2021:

Dates & Locations:

We are hoping to have some dates and locations for dates in the Spring, at this time there are no dates set up. As soon as National lets us know if there are some training dates, we will share the news accordingly. You can also continue to check www.alaforveterans.org/meetings for any updated information.

It is our goal to encourage as many Juniors from the state of Michigan to join in, and be a part of, all planned events. Please check the Michalaux.org website regularly for all updates.