

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Michigan
Children and Youth Program Guide 2021-2022

The Children and Youth mission is protecting, caring for, and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans and military families..

Jan Hafeman, Chairman

N13996 J-1 Rd.

Carney, MI 49812

Cell: 906 399 2947

jhafeman@alphacomm.net

National Contacts: (These EW 2020-21 chairmen0

National C&Y Chairman

Lisa Williamson

2616 Pacific Pl

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Phone: 907 388 3264

Email williamsonlisad@gmail.com

Central Division C&Y Chairman

Sue Hembrook

24215 60th St

Salem, WI 53168

Phone: 262 843 4791

Email: genesuiehem@wi.rr.com

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MISSION STATEMENT:

The Children and Youth program emphasizes protecting , caring for and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans and military families.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS:

What can you do?

1. Support Children and Youth in your community.

April is The American Legion's Children and Youth Month.

Youth Hero Awards/Good Deeds Awards. This is a way the ALA can recognize youth in our communities who demonstrate good citizenship, either through good deeds or brave physical acts.

Member Ideas:

- Monitor your newspapers, Local TV, radio or local police for children who have performed acts of physical valor such as performing CPR, helping evacuating buildings in the event of fire, calling 911 for emergency, etc. Work with your unit to nominate them for the Youth Hero/Good Deeds Award.
- Contact your local schools, churches and youth groups to make them aware of the Youth Hero/Good Deeds Awards. Make sure to leave your contact information.

Unit Ideas:

- 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 that revolves around the U.S. Constitution for children.
- Print and distribute pocket constitutions to children at school
- Once a child has been identified as a Youth Hero/Good Deeds applicant, complete the nomination form. See the Youth Hero/Good Deeds nomination form at the end of this program plan to submit the name of the child. Have the form signed by two unit members, then submit the form to the Department secretary.
- When a Youth Hero/Good Deed award has been processed by national headquarters, 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.

Department Ideas

- Share a constitutional fact each month in the department bulletin.
- Support the Children and youth programs of the American Legion by providing information to units and distributing TAL, pamphlets, coloring nbooks, comic books, and other information found on www.Legion.org and through Emblem Sales.

2. 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.
- April is the Month of the Military Child

Member Ideas:

- Volunteer at a Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) camp program.
- Volunteer at a Family Readiness Group event where KDH2 "I'm a Hero 2" buttons / stickers can be distributed.
- Wear purple on April 15 in honor of Purple UP! For Military Kids day

Unit Ideas:

- Host a dinner, game night, community fair, etc. that will bring military and non-military families together
- Host a KDH2 celebration with recognition buttons/stickers to let military kids we appreciate their sacrifice.
Refer to Howe to sheet at the end of this program plan for more information.
- Plan a special celebration of military children during April in honor of the Month of the Military Child.
- Encourage members to wear purple on Purple DUP! for military Kids day (April 15) Children & Youth 2

Department Ideas:

- Promote KDH2 program.
- Collaborate with ALA Girls State by recognizing citizens who are the daughters of servicemembers with "I'm a Hero 2 buttons or stickers.
- Team up with other community groups that are also concerned with the special needs of military children (i.e. Give an Hour, Military Parents, Guard/Reserve Family Readiness Group representatives, etc.
- Plan a special celebration of military children during April in honor of the Month of the Military Child.
- Encourage members to wear purple on April 125 in honor of Purple Up! For military Kids day.

3. 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 Ideas:

- Contact your local churches, homeless shelters and food pantries to identify homeless veterans' children. Ask what their specific needs are and offer them your service as an ALA member.
- Contact your local news sources (newspaper, community television, community websites, 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 our 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.

Unit Ideas:

- Train members to be a resource for front-line agencies who receive requests for help.
- Contact local school to assess their needs for supplies and extra clothes for homeless children. Offer to supply items as needed.
- Contact your post service officer to 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"*, form TAPS with the companion horse for children who are grieving the loss of a military parent or loved one.

Department Ideas:

- Team up with other community groups that are also concerned with the special needs of veteran's children (i.e. TAPS)
- Share information and ideas, including activities units are providing, on the department's website, social media pages and newsletters to help children of veterans.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH AWARDS AND DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS.

Share what you are doing for our children and youth, telling who we are, what we do and why we matter. This takes only a short time and shows National what a success we are!

There are two steps:

1. Follow instructions as you fill out your National Report and Awards Cover sheet, found in the awards section of the Annual Supplement to the Program Action Plan,
2. Add details and examples of the activities outlined in the Program Action Plan.
3. Submit as indicated in the Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan

National Report and Awards Cover sheet, deadlines, and children & Youth Committee contact may be found on the children and Youth committee page on the National Website, www.ALAforVeterans.org.

National Reporting:

A. **Award:** Youth Hero

Award: Youth Hero Medal and Citation

Present to: Youth under 18 years of age who have performed heroic acts of physical valor: membership in the American Legion Family is not required.

Materials and Guidelines

- Complete the Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination Form and mail to your department secretary, who certifies, then mails the application to National Headquarters (Please do not mail application directly to National Headquarters).
- The award certificate, signed by the National President and National Children and Youth chairman, and Youth Hero Award medal will be returned to the unit or department to be presented on behalf of the National Organization.
- The Department children and Youth chairman should be notified of the award.

B. **Unit Award:** Most Outstanding Unit Children and Youth Program

Award: Citation Plaque

Presented to: One unit in each division (5)

Materials and Guidelines

- Narrative no to exceed 1,000 words. Include specific examples of how your unit worked the Children & Youth program, including supporting Military children
- May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.

C. **Department Award:** Best Department children & Youth Program

Award: Citation Plaque

Presented to: One unit in each division (5)

Materials and Guidelines

Narrative no 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.

Send to National Division Chairman postmarked or emailed by 5:00 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above.

How to Sheets

- How to Promote “Star Spangled Kids”
- How to Conduct a “Kids of Deployed Are Heroes 2” Program
- How to Reach Out to Military Children and Youth

Additional Resource You Can Use

1. I’m a Hero 2” stickers,template and instructions can be found on the Children & Youth program at www.A:AforVeterans.org
2. Your National Children and Youth committee members (See Children and Youth Program page on the national website or Annual Supplement for contact information
3. The National Children & Youth programs: www.legion.org/programs
4. The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation: www.legion.org/cwf
5. The national Children & Youth Committee Facebook group, sderarch “ALA Children & Youth”
6. Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (an American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant recipient for *Klinger*): www.taps.org

Department Reporting:

Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year reports show the progress your unit has made and are an opportunity for mid-year corrections. Each department Children and Youth chairman is required to submit a narrative report by January 5, to the division Children and Youth chairman. Please send in a mid-year report to Jan Hafeman by December 15, 2021.

End of Year Reports:

Annual reports show the program work of units in the department and may result in national awards for participants if award requirements are met. Members and units should follow their department’s protocol and submit their report to Jan Hafeman by April 30,2022.

Your narrative should include the following:

1. How did your unit and department participate in educating children and youth about the U.S. Constitution from the aspect of patriotism and Americanism?
2. How dd your units and department promote the Youth Hero/Good Deed Award?
3. What success stories do you have regarding support for military or homeless veterans’ children?

HOW TO CONDUCT A "KIDS OF DEPLOYED ARE HEROES 2" PROGRAM

Contact Information for Questions:

Children & Youth@[ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:Youth@ALAforVeterans.org)

Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2): honoring military children who may experience a separation from one or both parents, whether deploying to a war zone, having a short tour or extended TDY (temporary duty assignment).

1. Make preparations for a supply of "recognition buttons" for distribution. Visit the Children & Youth page of the Members Only section at www.ALAforVeterans.org for more information. Buttons may be ordered through a commercial vendor or made locally with the following content:
 - I'm a Hero 2.
 - Proud Parent of a Military Child with a picture.
 - Proud Grandparent of a Military Child with a picture.
2. Call a planning meeting: include the Legion Family, especially Junior members. Consider the following ideas to recognize military kids:
 - Make or purchase and distribute 'I'm a Hero 2' buttons.
 - Make or purchase and distribute 'Proud Parent/Grandparent of a Military Child' with picture button .
 - ' Can't afford buttons? Make or purchase and distribute stickers.
3. Decide the best location for recognition of military kids:
 - Coordinate with Family Readiness Groups for button distribution during family days.
 - Coordinate with Legion Family members for local community days/fairs etc.
 - Consider having an activity day/dinner for military families at your post home.
 - If your unit is in close vicinity to a military installation, contact Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) for a listing of activities in which you might have a concession or table.
 - Make buttons available for ALA Girls State and The American Legion Boys State programs and Junior members.
 - Consider suggestions from Junior members for school activities and locations. No matter what you decide to do, plan a public relations campaign around your event. Consider having Auxiliary membership applications available. Community events provide the best opportunity to sign up new members .

HOW TO REACH OUT TO MILITARY CHILDREN AND YOUTH Children & Youth

Contact Information for Questions:
children&youth@ALAforVeterans.org

Some ideas for reaching out to military children and youth:

1. Sponsor a "You're My Hero" event, similar to the Youth Hero Award, but for military children.
 - Present them with certificates and medals.
 - Be creative.
 - Ask your Junior members to participate.

- Use your public relations tools to inform the community. Refer to the Public Relations Toolkit at www.ALAforVeterans.org.
2. Host a movie and popcorn night for teens or a board game night.
 3. Many military kids can't afford new prom dresses. Get the community involved in collecting and distributing gently used prom dresses.
 - Ask local radio stations and newspapers to donate time and space to help advertise your initiative.
 - Get local bridal shops involved.
 - Involve your high school counselors.
 - Your unit may also want to help with transportation expenses, flowers, etc.
 4. Contact your local homeless shelter. Ask if there are any veterans there with children.
 - Since one in five homeless are veterans, there is a good chance they will be living in local shelters. Find out what your unit can do to help the children.
 - VA hospitals have homeless coordinators and/or directors of voluntary services. Meet with them to establish a method in which the coordinator/director will coordinate with your unit whenever a homeless veteran with children is identified. Offer to provide school supplies for the child, through the homeless coordinator or director of voluntary services.
 5. Maybe the best thing you can do is get your Legion Family together and brainstorm ideas that might work in your community. Sometimes, school-aged children might be your best link to finding military children in your community. Be creative.

No matter what you decide to do, plan a public relations campaign around your event. Consider having Auxiliary membership applications available. Community events provide the best opportunity to sign up new members.

American Legion Auxiliary

Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination Form

NAME OF YOUTH First _____ Middle Initial _____ Last _____

Youth's date of birth ___ / ___ ' ___ Age _____ O Male O 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@ALAforVeterans.org or (317) 569-4500.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY

Date received _____ Date shipped _____ Youth Hero Award
 Good Deed Award By _____

PLEASE BE AWARE THE AWARDS AND REPORTING PROCESSES HAVE CHANGED. READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CLOSELY TO ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE SUPPLIED ALL NEEDED INFORMATION.

Member: The National Report and Award Cover Sheet should be attached if you are reporting. Submission may make you or your unit/department eligible for a national award.

Department Chairman and Unit Chairman: This cover sheet should be attached to each narrative submitted as a year-end report or if you are applying for a department or unit national award.

- Send all award entries/year-end narrative reports to the appropriate program's division chairman unless otherwise noted in the Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan.
- All year-end narratives will be judged as award entries.
- Award winners are announced in the respective committee "pre-con" meeting prior to the

start of ALA National Convention. All awards will be mailed to the winners' department headquarters at the close of ALA National Convention.

To all submitting this form:

Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters. Through submission of reports and award entries, the submitter grants nonexclusive reproduction and publication rights to the materials submitted, and agrees to have their names and submission published for ALA use or commercial use without additional compensation or permission.

Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. Award certificates will be completed using the information given on this sheet, so please be sure to complete the form in its entirety. For your convenience, a fillable version of this form is available online at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

For the award for which you wish to be considered, please refer to the 2017-2022 Programs Action Plan at www.ALAforVeterans.org for the specific criteria such as photographs, narrative length, submission deadline, and point of contact. Please include all required documentation along with your submission of the National Report and Award Cover Sheet. All awards will be mailed to the department office after ALA National Convention. Department presidents may wish to recognize award recipients by presenting them with the award at a department function.



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.

Reporting

Mid-Year

Unit mid-year report is due to your District Chairman by December 1, 2019 and your District chairman's report is due to me by December 15, 2019. Please include everything after the March 2019 reporting to the end of November 2019.

Year- End

Unit year-end report is due to your District Chairman by April 15, 2020, your District Chairman needs to submit it to the Department Chairman by April 30, 2020. Please submit a narrative, and include pictures.

Remember the Military Child

Please use this ceremony as often as you can as a reminder and in honor of the sacrifices and contributions by the child/children.

As we honor our veterans and our service members, it is important that we remember to honor those at home as well. In 1986 Secretary Of Defense Caspar Weinberger recognized the importance of military -connected children

and their role in military families when he established the "Month of the Military Child," underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community.

In honor of these children, the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will have the "Military Child's Table

Setting" on display in the rotunda of the Soldiers and Sailors Building during April.



The Display contains:

The potted flowering plant-symbolizing that the children of our deployed may flower and flourish where they are planted.

The hand spade-recognizing that the military children may be transplanted to a new location. They must acclimate themselves to a new school, new friends and perhaps new culture.

The birthday cake and unlit candles symbolize birthdays and special events that their soldier will miss while they are away.

The baseball and glove represent the games they have without the cheering from their deployed loved one.

The ballet slippers signify there are many special occasions that go with-out the deployed loved one sharing in the joys of that day.

The family photo depicting a child with their uniformed parents represents the foundation of our country's strength

of families united in their commitment to national service and their sacrifices.

Remember the Department Awards

Eva Pelham Award:

This Award will go to the first district with 100 reporting. Named for Past President Eva Pelham, Detroit
Unit#
291922-24

Helen Hodges Citation:

This Citation is for the largest contribution to the Children and Youth Program. Donations are to be sent to Department, earmarked for C&Y projects. The Helen Hodges Citation is usually because the Chairman has a special project for that year she is encouraging donations for.

***** 2019-2020 Administrative year, your Chairman/committee will not have a special project to seek funding to support it. *****

We encourage our Units to have fundraising activities to support a good, strong and successful Children and Youth program.

Louise Ferguson Award:

This Award is for the best Children and Youth program for the month of April.

The report must be typed in narrative form and contain no more than 500 words. Entries must be submitted in a folder. Pictures can be submitted with identification written on the back. Children's names are not needed. Each entry must contain the Unit name, Unit number, chairman's name and address. The winning entry from the District must be submitted to the Department Chairman by the deadline. Entries must be signed by the District President or District C&Y Chairman. Remember to fill out the green sheet correctly.

Lynn D. Allen Citation:

A Citation to the Unit with the best all-around program.

Report must be typed in narrative form and contain no more than 500 words. Entries must be submitted in a folder. Pictures can be submitted with identification written on the back of photos, Auxiliary members name in picture, Unit name and number. Children's names are not needed. Each entry must contain the following: Unit name, Unit number, Chairman's name and address. The winning entry from the District must have a green slip attached that has been properly filled out. Entries must be signed by the District President or District C&Y Chairman by the deadline.