

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
CHILDREN AND YOUTH GUIDE
2025 – 2026**

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2025 – 2026 Goals

- One Youth Hero Award per Unit
- Two Good Deed Awards per Unit
- 100% Unit Participation in Month of the Military Child activities
- 100% Participation in “Purple Up!” for Military Kids on April 15
- Hold an event to celebrate children and youth in your unit

Special Project

This years Special Project recipient will be Miss Sawyer Kids with a Cause. She is a Junior member of the American Legion Auxiliary and she joined under her brother. More information will be announced during fall conference. Please checkout her website at www.missawyer.com to learn more about her and the activities she participates in.

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.

What can we do to support the Children and Youth program

1. Support Children and Youth in your community by monitoring your local newspaper, local TV and radio stations, local police and fire reports for children who have performed acts of physical valor such as administering CPR, helping evacuate buildings in the event of a fire or emergency and calling 911 for emergencies. Nominate them for the “Youth Hero” / “Good Deed” Award. This award is presented to youths under the age of 18 who have performed acts of physical valor or good deeds. Membership in the American Legion Family is not required. The “Youth Hero” and “Good Deed” nomination form can be found on the National website under “forms”. The award will be signed by the National President and National Children and Youth chairman. If you nominate a youth for either award, please contact the Department Chairman so they are aware of the award.
2. Contact schools, churches, and youth groups to make them aware of the “Youth Hero” and “Good Deed” Awards.
3. Have your unit create a “Unit Citizenship” Award for Children and Youth who have learned the ideals of the U.S Constitution. September 17th is Constitution Day, so host a party that revolves around the U.S. Constitution for children.
4. Print and distribute pocket U.S Constitution booklets to school children.

5. April is “Children and Youth” month. Plan a celebration to honor children and youth in your community.

Support Military Children and Youth

1. Promote the KDH2 (Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2) program. This program recognizes military children who experience extended separation from their military parent or parents.

2. Volunteer at a “Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors” camp. (TAPS)

3. Volunteer at a “Family Readiness” group event and distribute “I’m a hero too” buttons or stickers.

4. April 15th is “Military Kids Day”; wear purple to support them.

Support Veterans’ Children and Youth

Some homeless veterans also have children living on the streets with them. Contact local churches, homeless shelters, and food pantries to identify these homeless veterans’ children. Ask for their specific needs and have your unit offer them your services.

Contact local schools to assess their need for supplies and clothing for homeless children. Supply these items as needed.

The following “Children and Youth” information can be found on the National website: www.ALAforVeterans.org

1. How to conduct a “Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2” program

2. How to reach out to military children and youth

3. “I’m a Hero 2” stickers

4. American Legion Child Welfare Foundation www.legion.org/cwf

Mid-Year Reporting

Mid-year reports show the progress your unit has made. Each department Children and Youth chairperson is required to submit a narrative report by January 5th to Division Children and Youth chairperson. Send in a unit mid-year report to the Department Children and Youth chairperson by December 15th, 2025, highlighting the activities your unit has done.

Year-end Reporting

Annual reports showcase the program work of units in the department. Units should submit their reports to their District “Children and Youth” chairperson by March 30, 2026. District “Children and Youth” chairperson should submit their report to the Department chairperson by April 15, 2026.

When applying for an award, include a narrative stating:

How your unit participated in the education “Children and Youth” about the U.S. Constitution from the aspect of Patriotism and Americanism.

How did the unit promote the “Youth Hero” and/or “Good Deed” award?

Include any success stories regarding support for military or homeless veterans’ children, along with pictures.

For each award being applied for, a “green sheet” must accompany the narrative.

If applying for a national award, check the National website for all requirements.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

ELVA PELHAM AWARD

This award will go to the first district with 100% reporting on “Children and Youth”. Named for the Past President, Eva Pelham, who was from Jackson.

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 project. The Helen Hodges citation is usually because the Chairman has a special project for that year, she is encouraging donations for.

LOUISE FERGUSON AWARD

This award is for the best “Children and Youth” program for the month of April. The report must be typed in a 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 and chairperson’s name and address. The winning entry from the district must be submitted to the Department Chairperson by the deadline. Entries must be signed by the District President or District “Children and Youth” chairperson. Attach a green sheet to the entry.

LYNN D. ALLEN CITATION

This citation is for the unit with the best all-around program. Report must be typed in a 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 each photo, auxiliary member's name in each picture, and unit name and number. Children’s names are not needed. Each entry must contain the following: unit name, unit number, chairperson’s name, and address. The winning entry from the District must be signed by the District President or District “Children and Youth” Chairperson by the deadline.