



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan Junior Activities Guide 2025-2026



MISSION STATEMENT: The ALA Junior Activities program inspires active participation in American Legion Auxiliary members aged 17 and under so they will become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their ALA membership into adulthood. Enrollment in the Auxiliary of many daughters of American Legion members prompted the formation of Junior groups within many units.

OBJECTIVES: The goal of the ALA Junior Activities program is to develop our Junior members into leaders and connect with them. The purpose of the Junior Activities Committee is to interest eligible young women under the age of 18 in continuing their membership as senior members through the positive experience of mission-based volunteering that instills the ideals of the organization. Whether your group is small or large, older or younger, there is something for each age group. The success of the Junior Activities program is dependent on the leadership provided by the unit, district, or department. Juniors are not separate organizations but are guided by an adviser (or Junior Activities chair) and a committee of members. Juniors conduct their meetings and activities and are highly encouraged to participate in senior member meetings and activities. The Junior officers are honorary in title. Their work should be coordinated with the work of the seasoned officers in their unit, district, and department. Americanism should be a major focus to teach patriotism, citizenship, and loyalty to America. There are many teaching tools available to help instruct a variety of ages in Americanism. All member activities should encourage Junior participation.

JUNIOR OFFICERS: At the unit level, honorary Junior officers traditionally include president, vice president, chaplain, historian, secretary, treasurer, and sergeant-at-arms. Honorary Junior officers may vary by district and department and are likely to reflect the structure of the unit. Honorary Junior offices are solely honorary, courtesy positions without any formal duties or assignments.

YOUTH PROGRAMS: There are many ways to engage your Juniors. You will have Juniors of all ages, and you will need to be sure there is something for each

age level to do in whatever activity you choose. Juniors are encouraged to implement aspects from some or all the Auxiliary's programs into their projects throughout the year.

ALA Patch Program: The American Legion Auxiliary Junior Patch Program provides Junior members with the opportunity to expand their knowledge of patriotism, citizenship, leadership, health, and fitness. Juniors can be involved with the Patch Program as a group or as an individual. There are four levels in the Patch Program, grouped according to what grade the Junior is in school.

The Purple level for Pre-K ages 3 through kindergarten

The Red level for 1st through 4th grades

The Gold level for 5th-8th grades.

The Blue level for grades 9-12 (or high school graduation).

The requirements for each level can be found at www.ALAforVeterans.org on the Junior Activities page in the My Auxiliary member portal. When the Junior has completed the requirements for a patch, a senior must sign the form to verify the Junior has met the requirements for the patch. Orders for the completed patches may be submitted using the online order form found in the My Auxiliary member portal. Patch orders may be submitted at any time of year; however, orders turned in after June 1 will be reported on the following administrative year. It is recommended to keep a copy of all your paperwork before sending it on, should any questions arise. Young Sons of The American Legion are permitted to participate in the ALA Junior Patch Program. We encourage you to work with your squadron to involve their school-aged members.

Student Volunteers: A student volunteer is a volunteer under the age of 18 and a Junior member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, or may be unaffiliated with our organization. Participants can volunteer at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical center, community outpatient clinic, or nursing home. Guidelines for these volunteer opportunities, including the suggested age for a student volunteer, are outlined in the ALA Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Guide, available for free download at www.ALAforVeterans.org. You may also get a hard copy from your department headquarters. Student volunteers who meet the requirements can apply for the James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs awards this scholarship. The American Legion Auxiliary contributes to this scholarship. For more information on this scholarship, visit www.volunteer.va.gov/ParkeScholarship.asp.

ALA Girls State and ALA Girls Nation: The American Legion Auxiliary Junior Activities Handbook provides an opportunity for all young students, not just Auxiliary members, who have completed their junior year in high school or homeschool equivalent, to experience state government processes. A self-governing mock state, these "citizens" elect their leaders, write bills for debate, and run a legislative session. Each department's program is unique, while maintaining the same basic structure.

The following is a partial list of suggestions for activities. This is not all-inclusive. Be original and make whatever activity you choose a fun learning opportunity. Keep in mind you are working with a wide age range of girls. You need to incorporate activities for all ages. Be

sure to include breaks to get up, move around, and socialize. Reminder: Be sure to have the girls wear an American Legion Auxiliary-branded shirt or pin when they are out in the community.

1. Conduct a workshop on flag etiquette.
2. Take the ALA Juniors E-Learning Course (with more details in the Junior handbook).
3. Present programs at schools on the American flag or the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Partner with a school to conduct an ALA Star Spangled Kids program. For information on Star Spangled Kids, visit the Americanism page in the My Auxiliary member portal at www.ALAforVeterans.org.
5. Participate in Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (January).
6. Collect school supplies for local schools or military kids.
7. Collect items for members of the community who are in need (i.e., food drive or clothing drive for homeless veterans, buddy baskets for transitional veterans' facility, etc.).
8. Reach out to military children in schools. With the help of a school counselor or principal, pair up with a military child who might be struggling or needs a friend.
9. Learn the history of the poppy and its significance to The American Legion Family and veterans.
10. Distribute poppies.
11. Conduct a weekend campout that focuses on teambuilding and learning more about the ALA and its programs.
12. Volunteer in VA medical centers, VA homes, nursing homes, or transition facilities.
13. Participate in send-off and welcome-home events for servicemembers.
14. Adopt a veteran or military family and volunteer to run errands, babysit, mow the lawn, or clean the house.
15. Fundraise/collect items to assemble care packages to be sent to deployed servicemembers.
16. Make and distribute holiday cards to veterans.
17. Participate in ALA holiday gift shops at the local VA medical center.

CONTESTS AND AWARDS: Contests American Legion Auxiliary contests include the Americanism Essay Contest, Poppy Poster Contest, and Little Miss Poppy. Contest guidelines, themes, and applications for the current year can be found in the relevant program section at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS: American Legion Auxiliary scholarship opportunities, guidelines, and requirements can be found at www.ALAforVeterans.org. Scholarships available to Junior members include the following:

1. Spirit of Youth Scholarship
2. James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship for VAVS Student Volunteers
3. Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship Scholarships available to Junior members and other high school students include the following:

- a. Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship
- b. The American Legion Samsung Scholarship (ALA Girls State and American Legion Boys State alumni)

Citations & Awards:

1. Amelia Muth Citation (Unit Award)

- 1. Presented to the Unit chairperson reporting the best overall Junior activities program, including accomplishments in the Auxiliary program.**
- 2. Narrative form**
- 3. 1000 words or less**
- 4. Typed double-spaced**
- 5. Unit name, number, Junior activities chairperson's name, address, and Dept name.**

2. Junior Member of the Year

- 1. Award presented to a junior member in recognition of her dedicated service efforts and talents.**
- 2. Written in narrative form, typed essay not to exceed 500 words describing nominee's accomplishments during the current administrative year.**
- 3. Nomination must be signed by the Unit junior activities advisor or the senior Unit President.**
- 4. Each Unit is limited to one nomination.**
- 5. This nominee should not be an active Honorary Department Junior President**

WINNING ENTRY TO BE FORWARDED TO NATIONAL FOR BOTH OF THE ABOVE

3. Tina Sutherland Citation

- 1. 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. (Runner-up for Junior Member of the Year)**
- 2. Written in narrative form, typed essay not to exceed 500 words describing nominee's accomplishments during the current administrative year.**
- 3. Nomination must be signed by the Unit junior activities advisor or the senior Unit President.**
- 4. Each Unit is limited to one nomination.**

4. Victoria Betz Spirit Citation

- 1. Awarded to the junior who has held an office either on a Unit or District level for her outstanding work in the Auxiliary programs as an officer.**
- 2. Narrative form**
- 3. Double-space**

4. Written in her own words
5. No more than 5000 words
6. Pictures allowed

5. Ada Samgster-Patricia Kwiakowski Citation

1. To the junior Unit reporting the most complete junior participation in Civil Preparedness and National Security.
2. Narrative form
3. Double-spaced
4. 1000 words
5. Pictures allowed

6. Leona Puckett Department Leadership Award

1. This award is given to the junior members who exemplify leadership within the junior group. The purpose is to develop and prepare capable and knowledgeable leaders to continue 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.
2. Narrative form
3. 500 words
4. Pictures and examples encouraged

ALL AWARD SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSON NO LATER THAN APRIL 15, 2026. BE SURE TO ATTACH THE GREEN SLIP!

WE ARE ASKING FOR ANY MID-YEAR REPORTS WITH ANY AND ALL ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM YOUR UNITS AND OR DISTRICTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO SUE VERVILLE BY DECEMBER 30, 2025.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRPERSON

SUE VERVILLE

112 PLAYGROUND RD.

IRON RIVER, MI. 49935

Email sverville11@hotmail.com

906-265-9848 (home)

906-367-4149 (cell)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEMBER

SHEILA MAXWELL

914 PANORAMA DRIVE

MILFORD, MI. 48381

Email smaxwell2403@gmail.com

248-255-2344 (cell)