



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Michigan
Junior Activities Guide
2026-2027**

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PURPOSE: The purpose of the Junior Activities Committee is to inspire active participation in members aged 17 and under so they become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood. Standing Rule 6, National Committees – Mission Outreach

**ENGAGE JUNIOR MEMBERS IN ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT THE
ALA MISSION:**

1. Engage in poppy activities that may include making poppy posters, telling the poppy story, and distributing poppies with the assistance of senior members.
2. Promote Americanism through practicing correct flag etiquette and respect.
3. Organize and participate in service projects.
4. Offer help to military families and help military kids entering a new school.
5. Involve Junior members in helping support the needs of Veterans in VA hospitals and outreach facilities with handwritten cards, thank-you cards, mementoes, and supplies.

ENGAGE JUNIOR MEMBERS IN LEADERSHIP TRAINING:

1. Shadow senior member officers at meetings and hold an appropriate Unit office.
2. Post colors at senior meetings, conferences, and conventions.
3. Lead opening ceremonies (the Pledge, prayers, National Anthem, ALA Preamble).
4. Shadow senior committee chairs and assist with their program plans.
5. Promote the ALA scholarship benefits of remaining a member.
6. Encourage Juniors to attend their ALA Girls State program the summer between their junior and senior years of high school.

BUILD THE JUNIOR ACTIVITIES PROGRAM ONE MEMBER AT A TIME BY GIVING JUNIOR MEMBERS A VOICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE:

1. Plan mission-related activities that are interesting and inspiring to Juniors.
2. Participate in Wreaths Across America Day by volunteering to lay wreaths at local cemeteries.
3. Hold graduation ceremonies to recognize Juniors who will move to ALA senior membership status.
4. Pay first year of senior membership to encourage retention.
5. Share information about the ALA's scholarship programs
6. Member Loyalty Scholarship
7. Spirit of Youth Scholarship
8. Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship
9. Samsung Scholarships
10. Pair older Juniors with less experienced Juniors to promote mentorship.

PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE JUNIOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ALA'S NATIONAL JUNIOR MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD:

There will be five division Junior Members of the Year (ages 14-17). Of those five division winners, a National Junior Member of the Year will be chosen. Four division winners will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The National winner will receive a \$5,000 scholarship, plus invited to the ALA's National Convention. All five division winners will receive a citation plaque, plus an authorization to attend a National Junior meeting. This scholarship is to reward ALA Junior members who are contributing to the organization and our mission, with a long-term goal of increasing Junior participation.

PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE JUNIOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ALA'S NATIONAL RISING STAR JUNIOR AWARD:

There will be five division Rising Star Juniors for members ages 8-13. All five division winners will receive a citation plaque, plus an authorization to attend a national Junior meeting. This award is to recognize younger ALA Junior members who are contributing to the organization and our mission, with a long-term goal of increasing Junior participation.

PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE JUNIOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ALA PATCH PROGRAM TO TEACH THEM ABOUT THE MISSION OF THE ALA:

Work on the Patch Program at Unit meetings. Include senior members to educate Juniors about the importance of participation in the Patch Program and to learn about ALA programs. Encourage Juniors who are unable to attend Unit meetings to work on the Patch Program at home. Work with Sons of The American Legion (SAL) squadron leaders to inform them of the opportunity for young SAL members to participate in the ALA Patch Program. All Juniors and SAL members attending a National Junior meeting will earn a National Junior Meeting Patch to acknowledge what they have learned at the meeting.

MAKE JUNIOR MEETINGS FUN AND INFORMATION:

1. Explore mission service and how they can impact our mission at each meeting.
2. Encourage friendships and mentoring by planning fun team-building activities (games, learning Junior songs, etc.) and/or provide age-appropriate crafts.

3. Highlight the numerous ALA learning opportunities available to members in the ALA Academy, including the ALA Juniors eLearning Course.

NATIONAL DEADLINES/IMPORTANT DATES

April 15: Purple Up! Day for Military Children

May 15: Department Chair reports due to Division Chair with a copy to the National Chair

June 1: Awards submissions due, including Junior Member of the Year and Rising Star Juniors

2026-2027 National Junior Meetings dates and locations are listed on the ALA National website at alaforvets.org.

CITATIONS AND AWARDS

Amelia Muth Citation (Unit Award)

1. Presented to the Unit Chair 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 chair's name, address, and Department name.

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.
6. This nominee should not be an active Honorary Department Junior President

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.

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

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

Leona Puckett Department Leadership Award

1. This award is given to the Junior member 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 ME AS THE DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSON NO LATER THAN APRIL 15, 2027.