

**DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
CHILDREN AND YOUTH GUIDE
2026 – 2027**

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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.

2026 – 2027 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

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 Chair. If you nominate a youth for either award, please contact the Department Chair 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 about 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

COLLABORATIONS

Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

Big Brother Big Sisters-Boys and Girls Clubs of America Give an Hour

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALACChildrenandYouth>

Contact Children and Youth Committee: ChildrenYouth@ALAforVeterans.org

YEAR-END REPORTING

Annual reports showcase the program work of Units in the Department. Units should submit their reports to their District Chair by April 30, 2027. District Chair should submit their report to the Department Chair by May15, 2027.

Key points to keep record of and assist with your year-end reports:

1. What events were held to support children and youth? This includes Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDHD). Please include how many children were helped, volunteer hours, funds raised and used, and online materials you used. Please separate programs for Veterans and military families from other children and youth activities.
2. What was the amount of money raised or donated for The American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation? How was the Child Well-Being Foundation promoted?
3. How did you celebrate the Month of the Military Child in April, including Purple Up! Day on April 15?
4. How did you promote the ALA’s Youth Hero and Good Deed awards?
5. Is there something your members accomplished this year for which you are exceptionally proud? Please give detailed information and include pictures of the event with your report.
6. When applying for an award, include a narrative stating:

7. How your unit participated in educating “Children and Youth” about the U.S. Constitution from the aspect of Patriotism and Americanism.
8. How did the unit promote the “Youth Hero” and/or “Good Deed” award?
9. Include any success stories regarding support for military or homeless veterans’ children, along with pictures.
10. For each award being applied for, an awards form must accompany the narrative. (found on michalaux.org/forms)
11. If applying for a National award, check the National website for all requirements.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Elva Pelham Award - 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 - for the largest contribution to the “Children and Youth” program. Send donations to the Department, earmarked for the C/Y project. The Helen Hodges citation is usually because the Chair has a special project for that year that they are encouraging donations for.

Louise Ferguson Award - 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 Chair's name and address. The winning entry from the District must be submitted to the Department Chair by the deadline. Entries must be signed by the District President or District “Children and Youth” Chair. Attach a green sheet to the entry.

Lynn D. Allen Citation - 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. You may submit pictures with identification written on the back of each photo, including the auxiliary member's name, unit name, and unit number. Children’s names are not needed. Each entry must contain the following: Unit name, Unit number, Chair's name, and address. The winning entry from the District must be signed by the District President or District “Children and Youth” Chair by the deadline.