

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM PLAN OF ACTION  
2015-2016  
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

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

There are four (4) objectives to promote the Children and Youth Program.

- ❖ "Star Spangled Kids" = Educate children and youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism and the U.S. Constitution.
- ❖ Protect, care for and support military children and youth.
- ❖ Protect, care for and support veterans' children and youth.
- ❖ Protect, care for and support all the children and youth in the Community.

**What can you do?**

**"Star Spangled Kids"** – *as a Member*, dress up like signers of the Constitution and put on a skit about writing/signing the Constitution. Encourage high school-aged student to use their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution by participating in the American Legion Oratorical Contest. (See the How to Sheet attached to this Plan for more information).

*As a Unit*, create a Unit Citizenship Award for children and youth who have learned the ideals of the U.S. Constitution. Schedule Auxiliary events on dates that are important in the history of the United States and the U.S. Constitution to raise awareness of our founding documents. September 17<sup>th</sup> is Constitution Day (Citizenship Day). Host a party that revolves around the Constitution for children. (See the How to Sheet at the end of this Plan for more information).

**Protect, care for and support military children and youth** - *as a Member*, Volunteer at a TAPS camp program. Identify military children who would benefit from something to help them cope, such as Klinger, G.I. Josh or a kid's hero pack. *As a Unit*, Plan a unit-hosted dinner, game night, community fair, etc, that will bring military and non-military families together. Assemble kids' or family hero packs at junior meetings and/or ALA Girls State sessions to give to military kids and families. Host a "kids of Deployed are Heroes 2" (KDH2) program with recognition buttons to let military kids know we appreciate their sacrifice too. (See the How to Sheet at the end of this Plan for more information). Purchase the book, *Klinger, a Story of Honor and Hope*, from TAPS with the companion plush horse for children who are grieving the loss of a military parent or loved one. Team up with other community groups that are also concerned with the special needs of military children (i.e. Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), Give an Hour, Military Parents, Guard/Reserve Family Readiness Group representatives).

**Protect, care for and support veterans' children and youth** – *As a Member*, Help identify homeless veterans' children who could benefit from assistance. Bring a veterans' child to a unit event to honor and recognize him/her. *As a Unit*, Host events for children of veterans. Work with your post to identify the specific needs of children of veterans.

**Protect, care for and support all children and youth in the community** –

*As a member*, Support children encountering special challenges who could benefit from assistance. Watch the local newspapers and neighborhoods for children and youth who have performed acts of heroism or good deeds worthy of recognition with a Good Deed Award or Youth Hero Award. Approach teachers in local schools to discover and assist with the needs of kids in the community. *As a Unit*, Purchase and distribute G.I. Josh Dogs – Identify children who may be facing surgery. Help ease their fears by presenting them with a G.I. Josh Dog and the accompanying storybook. Provide safe activities for the community's children and youth, such as a Christmas party, Easter egg hunt, or Trick or Treat. Host a picnic, baseball game or activity day so children can become acquainted with playmates their own age. Nominate a child for the Youth Hero Award – Recognize youth who demonstrate a heroic act of physical valor. Nominate a child for the Good Deed Award – Recognize youth who are great examples of community service in action.

**Children & Youth Reporting**

Mid-Year Reports

Each Unit Children and Youth Chairman is required to submit a narrative report no later than **December 15, 2015**, outlining the unit's accomplishments and/or activities to the Department's Children and Youth Chairman, Evelyn Lewis, 3304 Rockford Road, Durham, NC 27713 or by email: [EHL1309@AOL.COM](mailto:EHL1309@AOL.COM).

Please include a brief description of your Children & Youth activities and an explanation of any photos.

Annual Reports

Each Unit Children and Youth Chairman is required to submit a narrative report no later than **April 30, 2016**, outlining the Unit's accomplishments and/or activities to the Department's Children and Youth Chairman, Evelyn Lewis, 3304 Rockford Road, Durham, NC 27713 or by email: [EHL1309@AOL.COM](mailto:EHL1309@AOL.COM).

Please include a brief description of your Children & Youth activities and an explanation of any photos.

**Recognitions:**

1. **Youth Hero Award** – A national award for youth under 18 years of age who perform a heroic act of physical valor.
2. **Good Deed Award** – A national award for youth under 18 years of age who do not meet the Youth Hero Award Criteria, but who are great examples of community service in action.
3. **April is Children & Youth Month** – During the month of April, The American Legion Family emphasizes its commitment to our nation's children. Search "April Children" at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) for a list of all brochures that are available.

**National Children & Youth Awards: (All entries must be postmarked or in no later than April 30, 2016).**

**Million Member Award**

**Type of Award:** Citation Plaque

**Presented to:** One Unit in each division (5 overall awards)

**Materials and Guidelines:**

- Entries must include the award cover sheet located in this Plan.
- Entries must be typewritten and include the following information:
  - Demonstrate how working the mission of the Children & Youth Program engaged, retained and attracted members to grow membership.
  - Please include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc., either electronically or via postal mail.
- All entries must be postmarked or emailed no later than April 30, 2016.

**Unit Award:** Outstanding Unit Promotion of Children & Youth Activities

**Type of Award:** Citation Plaque

**Presented to:** One Unit Chairman in each division (5 overall awards)

**Materials and guidelines:**

- Awarded to the unit chairman in each division for the most outstanding program promoting the Children & Youth program activities.
- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.
- May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.
- Attach an award cover sheet, including the name of the award, as well as the name and contact information for the department Children and Youth Chairman.
- All entries must be postmarked or emailed no later than April 30, 2016.

**Unit Award:** Supporting Military Children Unit Award

**Type of Award:** Citation Plaque

**Present to:** One unit chairman in each division (5 overall awards)

**Materials and guidelines:**

- Awarded to the unit chairman in each division with the best program supporting military children.
- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.
- May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.
- Attach an award cover sheet, including the name of the award, as well as the name and contact information for the department C&Y Chairman.
- All entries must be postmarked or emailed no later than April 30, 2016.

**Unit Award:** Star Spangled Kids Unit Award

**Type of Award:** Citation Plaque

**Presented:** One unit chairman in each division (5 overall awards)

**Materials and guidelines:**

- Awarded to the unit chairman in each division for the most outstanding program promoting “Star Spangled Kids.”
- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.
- May include pictures, new articles, news releases, etc.
- Attach an award cover sheet, including the name of the award, as well as the name and contact information for the department C&Y chairman.
- All entries must be postmarked or emailed no later than April 30, 2016.

**Personal Awards:**

- 1) Certificate to all units who submit a mid-year Children & Youth report.
- 2) Small gift to the unit that report best “Star Spangled Kids” report.
- 3) Small gift to all units that recognizes a Youth Hero Award or Good Deed Award.

**Additional Resources You Can Use:**

1. The American Legion Children and Youth Programs: [www.legion.org/programs](http://www.legion.org/programs)
2. The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation: [www.legion.org/cwf](http://www.legion.org/cwf)
3. Josh and Friends (American Legion Family national partner): [www.joshandfriends.com](http://www.joshandfriends.com)
4. Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (an American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant recipient for Klinger): [www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org)
5. Print Pocket Constitution for school children: [www.constitutionbooklet.com](http://www.constitutionbooklet.com)
6. See Children and Youth program page at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) for additional resources.
7. Your national Children & Youth committee members (see front page of this Plan).

Committee Members:

Emily Cayton - Unit 013 Wilson

[emcayton@gmail.com](mailto:emcayton@gmail.com)

Marlene Short – Unit 011 Goldsboro

[Marlene.short@hotmail.com](mailto:Marlene.short@hotmail.com)

Chairman

Evelyn Lewis – Unit 175 Durham – [ehl1309@aol.com](mailto:ehl1309@aol.com)

