

Junior Activities Committee Plan of Action for 2016-2017

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The Junior Activities Program inspires active participation in members age 17 and under so that they will become engaged; productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood.

Goals

1. Increase Junior membership in all units.
2. Engage Juniors in programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.
3. Promote and encourage participation in service projects for Legionnaires, as well as other veterans, military and their families in your community.
4. Promote and encourage Junior participation in the Patch Program.
5. Increase awareness of the Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship to Junior members, Legion Family members, schools and community partners.
6. Increase awareness of the Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior members.
7. Encourage units to select a Junior Member of the Year.
8. Promote and encourage participating in the "Veterans' History Project."
9. Promote and encourage all Juniors to participate in the Department Honorary Junior President's Project "Blessing Bags"

These bags are going to be distributed at the Stand Downs held in Salisbury and Durham. Honorary Junior President, Aubree is asking each unit to start collecting items for these bags and bring them to the Junior Camp Meeting. These can also be brought to Fall Conference or Mid-Winter Conference. We will keep track of what each unit has contributed. Her Main Focus for this project is to give back to the homeless and needy vets. She is asking for items such as: Shampoos, conditioner, soaps, peanut butter crackers/cookies, tooth brushes, razors, shaving cream, tissues, socks, etc. be collected for her project. Basically any toiletry item and small packaged snack will work.

Junior Activities Committee Awards

Best Overall Unit Junior Activities Award

Materials and Guidelines:

- Entries must include the award cover sheet located in the program Plan.
- Awarded to the unit with the most outstanding Junior Activities program.
- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. Include specific examples of how your Juniors worked the ALA mission.
- May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.
- Send entries to department chairman by date department sets.
- All entries must be sent by the department chairman postmarked by May 15, 2017, or emailed by 5:00 p.m. EST May 15, 2017.

Junior Member of the Year

Presented to: One Junior member; selected from the department Junior Members of the Year, in recognition of her dedicated service, efforts and talents.

Materials and Guidelines:

- * Entries must include the award cover sheet located in this program Plan.
- * Entries must be typewritten and include the following information:
- * Consideration of only Junior members in good standing for 2016-2017.
- * Outstanding contribution the Junior has made through an ALA program or project.
- * Nominee should not be serving as an honorary department Junior president.
- * Length of membership is not a criterion.
- * The Junior that recruits the most new Juniors
- * The Unit that has the most Juniors participate in the Junior Patch Program
- * The Junior that completes the most Junior Patch Program categories for patches
- * A certificate to each Junior completing the Junior American Legion Auxiliary Course, The ALA: "My Organization and What I Need to Know to Grow as a Member."
- * Name, email address and complete mailing address of nominee must accompany nomination.
- * A narrative, typed essay not to exceed 500 words summarizing the nominee's accomplishments during the current administrative year.
- * Please include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc., either electronically or via postal mail.
- * Nomination must be signed by the candidate's unit Junior Activities advisor.

Junior Public Relations Award: Best Media Coverage of Activity or Project

Presented to: One Junior group (department, district or unit)

Materials and guidelines:

- * Entries must include the award cover sheet located in the program Plan.
- * Awarded to the Junior group with the best media coverage of their activities or a project.
- * Narrative not to exceed 500 words. Include specific examples of media coverage, including news articles, news releases, newsletters, pictures of displays, ALA events, speeches, social media activity, etc.
- * All entries must be sent to the Department Chairman postmarked by May 15, 2017, or emailed by 5:00 p.m. EST May 15, 2017.

Junior Completing Most Activity Sheets

Please complete award cover sheet with list of completed activity sheets

Resources

1. www.ALAforVeterans.org
 - a. Junior Activities Chairman Guide
 - b. Junior Activities Handbook- free on the ALA website; printed copies for purchase through Emblem Sales at emblem.legion.org
 - c. Junior Leadership Course
 - d. Junior Patch Program- information by level
 - e. ALA Unit Handbook (free on the ALA website; printed copies for purchase)
 - f. ALA Annual Impact Report Form (part of the Plan of Action)
 - g. Veteran Affairs & rehabilitation: A Guide for Volunteers
2. U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs information on student volunteers: www.volunteer.va.gov/StudentProgram.asp
3. American Legion Auxiliary Junior Activities Face book page: www.facebook.com/alajuniors
4. Your national Junior Committee members (see list on front of the National Junior Activities Plan of Action)
5. Junior Activities "How to" sheets