



Children & Youth Juniors



2015-2016

The Future of Our Family

President Pearl's theme this year is: "From the service of one comes the support of many" and she is using the palm tree to represent her theme. Did you know a wide variety of palm trees will produce offshoots that are commonly known as pups?

These palm pups are an excellent way to propagate the plant, but you need to know how to transplant a palm pup from the mother plant. Just as the palm pups need nurturing to flourish, so do our children and youth.

So as we continue "Keeping the Promise" of the American Legion Auxiliary by supporting our Veterans, Children and our Community remember to encourage, promote and strengthen the children & youth and junior members. After all they are the future of this great organization.

Included in this packet you will find tips to care for and promote the growth and development of our Children & Youth/ Junior Palm Pups.

I wish you a great year of fun and excitement. As always your committee members are here to assist in anyway.

For God & Country

Michele

Michele DeGennaro

Children & Youth / Juniors

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Children & Youth

2015-216

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

What can we do?

1. “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.

Ideas:

Unit

- Create a Unit Citizenship Award for children and youth who have learned the ideals of the U.S. Constitution.
- Share a constitutional fact each month in the unit newsletter, the newspaper editorial and/or in tweets.
- Schedule Auxiliary events on dates that are important in the history of the United States to raise awareness of our founding documents.
- September 17 is Constitution Day (Citizenship Day). Host a party that revolves around the Constitution for children.
- Print and distribute Pocket Constitutions to schoolchildren.

Member

- Dress up like the signers of the Constitution, and put on a skit about writing/signing the Constitution.
- Accompany veterans and service members as they share with students how their military service was meaningful in defending the Constitution.
- Encourage high school-aged students to use their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution by participating in The American Legion Oratorical Contest.

2. Protect, care for and support military children and youth.

Ideas:

Unit

- Plan a unit-hosted dinner, game night, community fair, etc. that will bring military and non-military families together.
- 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.
- Support Operation Give a Hug – This huggable doll provides a window for a picture of the military family member and supports the child during their parent's separation or deployment.
- Support G.I. Josh – Identify military children who may have a parent or sibling deploying. G.I. Josh, a plush dog, and the accompanying storybook will help the child through separation and deployment of their loved one.

- 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, etc.).

Member

- Identify military children who would benefit from something to help them cope, such as *Klinger*, G.I. Josh, Operation Give a Hug, or a Hero Pack.
- Volunteer at a TAPS camp program.

3. Protect, care for and support veterans’ children and youth.

Ideas:

Unit

- Increase community support and awareness of veterans’ children.
- Host events for children of veterans.
- Work with your post to identify the specific needs of children of veterans.
- Share information and ideas on the unit’s website, social media page and newsletters to help children of veterans.

Member

- Help identify homeless veterans’ children who could benefit from assistance.
- Bring a veteran’s child to a unit event to honor and recognize him/her.
- Share information and ideas to help children of veterans on your social media pages.

4. Protect, care for and support all children and youth in the community.

Ideas:

Unit

- Purchase and distribute Josh Dogs — Identify children who may be facing surgery. Help ease their fears by presenting them with a 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. Coordinate with the Public Relations and Membership chairmen.
- Nominate a child for the Good Deed Award – Recognize youth who are great examples of community service in action. Coordinate with the Public Relations and Membership chairmen.

Member

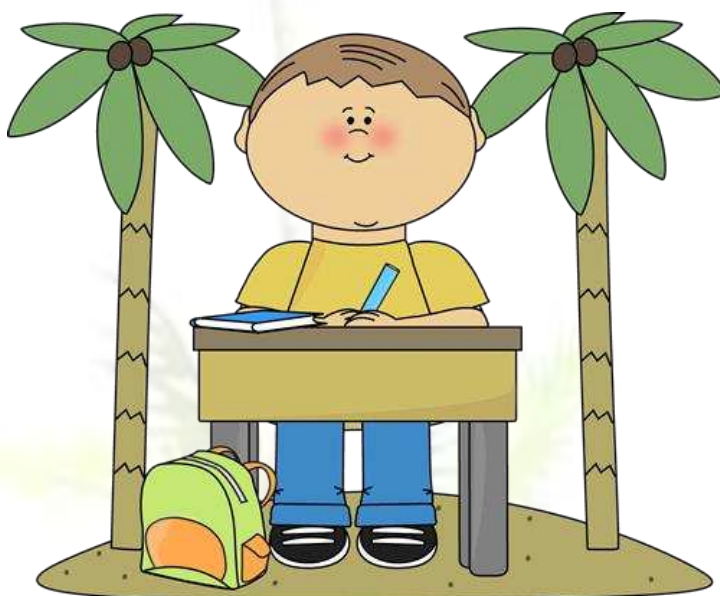
- Support children encountering special challenges who could benefit from assistance.
- Watch the newspapers and neighborhoods for children and youth who have performed acts of heroism or good deeds worthy of recognition with a Good Deed Award or Youth Hero Award.
- Approach teachers in local schools to discover and assist with the needs of kids in the community.

5. Child Organ Transplant Association (COTA)

- Throughout the country, people just like you have become a **COTA Miracle Maker** by organizing fundraisers in honor of COTA families, advocating COTA's mission on behalf of transplant patients, participating in COTA fundraising events or by making a gift to further COTA's life-saving mission.
- No matter how you get involved, becoming a **COTA Miracle Maker** is a fun, easy and rewarding experience that will make a significant difference in a transplant family's journey.

Additional Resources You Can Use:

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



National Awards:

1. **Youth Hero Award** –For youth under 18 years of age who perform a heroic act of physical valor. The Youth Hero & Good Deed Award Nomination Form is to be completed and mailed to your department secretary, who certifies and mails the application to National Headquarters. (*Please **do not** mail applications directly to National Headquarters.*) The award certificate, signed by the national president, will then be returned, along with a Youth Hero Award medal, to the Unit to be presented on behalf of the national organization. The Department Children & Youth Chairman should be notified of the award. Coordinate your efforts with your department’s Public Relations and Membership chairmen.

2. **Good Deed 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. The Youth Hero & Good Deed Award Nomination Form is to be completed and mailed to the department secretary, who certifies and mails the application to National Headquarters. (*Please **do not** mail applications directly to National Headquarters.*) The award certificate, signed by the national president, will then be returned to the unit to be presented on behalf of the national organization. The Department Children & Youth Chairman should be notified of the award. Coordinate with your Department’s Public Relations and Membership chairmen.

3. **Million Member Award**- Awarded to one Unit in each division demonstrating how working the mission of the Children & Youth Program engaged, retained and attracted members to grow membership. Please include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc. All entries must be received by **May 1, 2016** to the Department Chairman.

4. **Outstanding Unit Promotion of Children & Youth Activities** - Awarded to the unit chairman in each division for the most outstanding program promoting the Children & Youth program activities. Narrative is not to exceed 1,000 words. All entries must be received by **May 1, 2016** to the Department Chairman.

5. **Supporting Military Children Unit Award**- Awarded to the unit chairman in each division with the best program supporting military children. Narrative is not to exceed 1,000 words and may include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc. All entries must be received by **May 1, 2016** to the Department Chairman

6. **Star Spangled Kids Unit Award** - Awarded to the unit chairman in each division for the most outstanding program promoting “Star Spangled Kids.” Narrative is not to exceed 1,000 words and may include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc. All entries must be received by **May 1, 2016** to the Department Chairman

*****All Above Awards MUST Include 2015-2016 National Awards Cover Sheet *****

If submitting a National Award please be sure to make arrangements for the return of materials in advance.

Department Awards:

1. Peggy Miller Award - Awarded to the Junior Auxiliary member who shows outstanding participation in one or more programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. Narrative is to be typed and submitted by a senior member of the Junior's Unit on 8½" x 11" white paper. Entry to be received by the Department Children and Youth Chairman thirty (**30 days prior to Department Convention and will be presented at Department Convention**).

2. Addie McGuire Children and Youth Trophy Rules

1. Children & Youth Form must be submitted and include all required statistical information, i.e., money expended, number of children and families assisted, etc.
2. **Cash contributions must be made through Department Office to each of the following:**
 - a) **All Children's Hospital**
 - b) **Mailman Center for Child Development**
 - c) **Northview Community Center (Pensacola)**
 - d) **American Legion Child Welfare Foundation**
3. **One special meeting on Children and Youth during the year, preferably in April.**
 - . A narrative of all Children and Youth projects and activities, not to exceed 1,000 words must be submitted. (Narrative will not contain statistical information since this is reported on the Children & Youth form.)
 - a) Unusual community projects for Children and Youth along with any service rendered in this area may be included.
 - b) Programs and cooperation with Post are very important and should be included.
 - c) Unit participation in community Children and Youth programs sponsored by other organizations may also be included.
 - d) General
 1. Margins will be 1" on all sides. Pages will be numbered ½" from the bottom in the middle of the page. Narrative will be secured with a staple in upper left hand corner.
 2. Cover page will include Unit name and number, location, District, year, Unit Chairman and Unit President's name, address and signatures. This information will be centered on cover page.
 3. Heading will be used on first page only and will be 1" from the top with narrative beginning two spaces below heading. Heading will read Narrative-Children and Youth Program (All Capital letters).
 4. Narrative will be typed on white bond, 8½" x 11", double spaced in upper/lower case type.
 5. Narrative to be received by the Department Chairman no later than thirty (30) days prior to Department Convention. Department Chairman will be assisted in judging by committee members or, at her discretion, other individuals she deems appropriate.
 6. To qualify, statistical report (Unit Year End Report) form must accompany narrative being submitted.
 7. Special emphasis in judging will be given as to size of Unit and accomplishments accordingly.
 8. Judging will be based on the following:
 - i. Conciseness
 - ii. Originality of Content

- iii. Neatness
- iv. Correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- v. Compliance with all above rules.

NOTE: In the interest of postage, no special cover or binder, special artistic designs or extras such as pictures will count in judging nor be required. These, in fact, are discouraged.

Chairman Award

1. **Palm Pup Award** - Awarded to one Unit in each membership grouping with the Best all-around C&Y Program Narrative. Not to exceed 1, 000 words and may include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc. **All entries must be submitted to the Department Children & Youth Chairman no later than May 1, 2016**

*****A Certificate will be presented to ALL Units that submit a Narrative*****





American Legion Auxiliary Children & Youth Reporting



Mid-Year Reports

Each Unit Children & Youth Chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **November 15, 2015**, to the District Children & Youth Chairman.

Each District Children & Youth Chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **December 1, 2015**, to the Department Children & Youth Chairman's home address listed in the Unit Guide.

Annual Reports

Each Unit Children & Youth Chairman is required to submit a narrative report in addition to the yearend reporting sheet by **April 15, 2016**

Each District Children & Youth Chairman is required to submit a narrative report in addition to the yearend reporting sheet by **May 1, 2016**, to the Department Children & Youth Chairman's home address listed in the Unit Guide.

As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:

- How did your Units and District promote "Star Spangled Kids," educating children and youth about the U.S. Constitution from the aspect of patriotism and Americanism?
- How did your Units and District promote the "Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2" (KDH2) program?
- What success stories do you have regarding support for military and veterans' children?
- What success stories do you have regarding **All** children in your community?

Narrative
Writing
tells a
story.





*American Legion Auxiliary
Unit Year-End Report*



Unit # _____, Unit Name _____

Chairman's or Presidents Name _____

Here is what our Unit did in the 12 months from 4/15/2015-4/15/2016:

1. How many "Star Spangled Kids" did your Unit promote? _____

Hours volunteered: _____ Dollars spent: \$ _____

Description of how Unit promoted the program: (use additional pages) _____

2. Service for military families: include programs specifically for military and veterans' children: *(examples include organizing and delivering hero packs, helping with service projects, providing child care, tutoring at school, adopting a military family, providing military G.I. Josh dogs, Klinger Books and Stuffed Horse.)*

Hours volunteered: _____ Dollars spent: \$ _____

Military Children served: _____ Veteran's Children served: _____

Number of Klinger Books: _____ Number of Klinger Horses: _____

Number of Operation Give a Hug Dolls: _____ Number of GI Josh Dogs: _____

Description of how Unit promoted the program: (use additional pages) _____

3. Service to our Children & Youth:

(Note: Some of this information will also be reported to The American Legion, so please be as accurate as possible)

Number of volunteer hours served for ALL children: _____

Total dollars raised to benefit ALL children: \$ _____

(Do not include dollars raised for Child Welfare Foundation)

Total dollars given in direct aid to children: \$ _____

Number of children served: _____

Did your Unit nominate a child for the Good Deed Award? _____

Did your Unit nominate a child for the Youth Hero Award? _____

4. Child Organ Transplant Association (COTA):

Hours volunteered: _____ Dollars donated: \$ _____

Description of how you promoted the program: *so please be as accurate as possible* _____

When completed, send two (2) copies to: District Chairman no later than 4/15/2016



American Legion Auxiliary
District Year-End Report

District # _____ Unit Name _____

Chairman's or Presidents Name _____

Here is what our Unit did in the 12 months from 4/15/2015-4/15/2016:

1. How many "Star Spangled Kids" did your Unit promote? _____

Hours volunteered: _____ Dollars spent: \$ _____

Description of how you promoted the program: (use additional pages) _____

2. Service for military families: include programs specifically for military and veterans' children: (examples include organizing and delivering hero packs, helping with service projects, providing child care, tutoring at school, adopting a military family, providing military G.I. Josh dogs, Klinger Books and Stuffed Horse.)

Hours volunteered: _____ Dollars spent: \$ _____

Military Children served: _____ Veteran's Children served: _____

Number of Klinger Books purchased: _____

Number of Klinger Horses purchased: _____

Number of Operation Give a Hug Dolls purchased: _____

Number of GI Josh Dogs purchased: _____

Description of how you promoted the program: (use additional pages) _____

3. Service to our Children & Youth: (Note: Some of this information will also be reported to The American Legion, so please be as accurate as possible)

Number of volunteer hours served for ALL children: _____

Total dollars raised to benefit ALL children: \$ _____

(Do not include dollars raised for Child Welfare Foundation)

Total dollars given in direct aid to children: \$ _____

Number of children served: _____

How many Units nominated a child for the Good Deed Award? _____

How many Units nominated a child for the Youth Hero Award? _____

4. Child Organ Transplant Association (COTA):

Hours volunteered: _____ Dollars donated: \$ _____

Description of how Units promoted the program: (use additional pages) _____

When completed, send this and all Unit reports to: Department Chairman by 5/1/2016. Mail to: Michele DeGennaro, 9401 Sunshine Blvd, New Port Richey, 34654



American Legion Auxiliary

Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination Form

NAME OF YOUTH _____

First

Middle Initial

Last

Youth's date of birth ____ / ____ / ____ Age _____ Male Female

Date of bravery or community service performed _____

Submitted by Unit # _____ Department of _____

Description of bravery and/or deed performed by youth (to be completed by unit)

Please attach news clippings to verify the deed being recognized. Clippings will not be returned unless a self-addressed stamped envelope is provided. If news clippings are not available, please provide a link to a website verifying the deed being recognized.

UNIT CERTIFICATION (MUST BE CERTIFIED BY TWO UNIT MEMBERS)

Unit Member _____ Date _____

Unit Member _____ Date _____

Units should send completed applications to their department secretary.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY CERTIFICATION

Name _____ Date _____

Department secretary mails request for medallion and/or certificate to National Headquarters, 8945 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46260, who will ship at no cost to unit or department.

Please ship medallion/certificate to: Unit Department

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please use this form for all Youth Hero and Good Deed Award nominations. For more information, contact National Headquarters at children&youth@ALAforVeterans.org or (317) 569-4500.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY

Date received _____

Date shipped _____

Youth Hero Award Good Deed Award

By _____



**American Legion Auxiliary
2015-2016 National Award Cover Sheet**

This cover sheet should be attached to each narrative submitted for a national award. Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible.

Award certificates will be completed using the information given on this sheet, so please write carefully. All awards will be mailed to the department office after national convention. Department presidents may wish to recognize award recipients by presenting them at a department function.

National committee sponsoring award: _____

Type of Award: Department Unit Member

Name of the award you are applying for: _____

Complete the following if you are applying for a department award:

Name of department: _____

Name of department chairman: _____

Chairman's phone number: (_____) _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Chairman's email address: _____

Please complete the following if you are applying for a unit award. Be sure to give the complete name of your unit. The award certificate will be prepared using the information you include below.

Unit #: _____ Full official unit name: _____

Unit president/chairman (circle one) name: _____

Phone number: (_____) _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Email address: _____

Please complete the following if you are applying for a member award. Be sure to give the complete name of the member. The award certificate will be prepared using the information you include below.

Unit #: _____ Full official unit name: _____

Member Name: _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Nominating Member (if different from above): _____

Nominator's Phone number: (_____) _____

Nominator's Email address: _____