



Mary Petrie, Department Chairman
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mmrtpetrie@charter.net ♦ 920-261-8161

Purpose:

To protect, care for and support children and youth, particularly those of veteran and military families.

Objectives: Believe We Can Make a Difference in the Life of a Child!

- 1. Develop, implement and monitor programs and activities that contribute to the physical, mental and wellness of children and youth of military and non-military children.**
 - A. Numerous programs already exist. Involve others, working to identify and address children's needs.
 - a) Legion Family, Children's Miracle Network, Boys & Girls Clubs, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Operation: Military Kids, 4-H, TAPS, Guard Reserve Family Readiness Group, Operation Give a Hug, churches, individuals, and other organizations.
 - B. Implement public awareness events to increase community support:
 - a) Host story hours, dinners, game or movie nights, fairs, walks/runs, holiday baking sessions, Easter Egg Hunts, Christmas/seasonal parties, coloring contests, art fairs, bowling parties, Constitution Day party (September 17th), help with proms (tuxes, dresses, hair, make-up, transportation, prizes, etc.)...Use your imagination. The sky's the limit!
 - C. Encourage celebration of Children & Youth Month in April (www.legion.org) and National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day in May (www.samhsa.gov/children/liveevent.asp).
- 2. Support the Child Welfare Foundation and the Children & Youth programs of The American Legion: Anti-Bullying Campaign, ALA KIDDs: Kids In Danger of Depression and Suicide, Gateway Drugs, Suicide Warning Signs, Halloween Safety, Missing Child, and child safety:**
 - A. Child Welfare Foundation (CWF): www.csf-in.org
 - a) Donations: Given in Honor of or In Memory of
 - b) Become a CAT – a member of the Children's Action Team
 - B. Order and distribute brochures:
 - a) Visit www.legion.org/youth/publications for information on Gateway Drugs, Halloween Safety, Suicide Warning Signs, Missing Children, child safety (all free), and Anti-Bullying Comic Books, purchased through Legion Flag & Emblem catalog: www.emblem.legion.org
- 3. Promote Operation A.L.F. (American Legion Family) WI's S.A.L. stuffed animal and Klinger the horse stuffed animal and book from the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)**
 - A. Purchase/donate A.L.F. and/or Klinger
 - a) A.L.F. is a great way to support military children when a parent deploys, providing comfort: Contact Bob Sirovina for more information: www.wisalcmrdbob@att.net
 - b) Klinger can be purchased by himself or with the book as a set: www.taps.org

- 4. Promote Youth Awards year ‘round.** (Youth must be under 18): Check the local newspaper, TV, and other media for children and youth eligible for these awards. Share award details and Unit contact info with schools, churches, and youth groups so they can alert you of a nominee. Juniors and non-members are eligible.
- A. Youth Hero Award: National award presented for a physical act of valor
 - B. Good Deed Award: Presented to those who don’t meet the Youth Hero Award criteria but who donate time and/or money for a worthy cause, such as troop support, raising funds for homeless veterans, etc.
 - C. Youth Caregiver Award: Recognizes youth providing help, care, and comfort to someone without being paid to do so.

When a nominee for one of these awards is identified, complete the nomination form (found at the end of this program plan) and submit to the Department Secretary, Bonnie Dorniak, not to National.

5. Support military children and youth

- A. Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2): This initiative honors military children who may be experiencing a separation from one or both parents: www.legion-aux.org>kdh2
 - a) Recognition buttons or stickers with “I’m a Hero 2” can be distributed to these children.
 - b) KDH2 buttons can be ordered through a vendor or made yourself. Visit the website to download the instruction file or for an order form for Proud Parents/Grandparents buttons.
 - c) Host a KDH2 celebration to show military children they also serving and that their sacrifices are appreciated. *See info at the end of the program plan.*
- B. Celebrate April’s Month of the Military Child: Host a special event or a relaxed get together to honor military children.
- C. Get involved!
 - a) The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) offers a camp program. Consider volunteering if there’s one near you: www.taps.org
 - b) Get involved at a Boys & Girls Club. A club offers a safe atmosphere for children and teens during out-of-school hours. The programs and services help young people succeed in school, develop confidence and leadership skills, and maintain healthy lifestyles while having fun. Check out the website at www.bbbs.org. There’s also an “Operation Bigs” program for mentoring military children.
- D. Plan a Purple Up event to celebrate April’s Month of the Military Child (MOMC). Consider making it a Legion Family event: www.militarychild.org/MOMC Toolkit
 - a) The toolkit includes templates to download yard signs, Certificates of Recognition, stickers, and a T-Shirt design.
 - b) Wear purple or hand out purple ribbons to celebrate military children. Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard shades of blue, Army green, and Marine red produce purple. Purple Up!

6. Support veterans’ children and youth.

- a) Identify the needs of homeless veterans’ children by connecting with churches, homeless shelters, and food pantries; then lend a hand.
- b) Connect these families with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS).
- c) Participate in The American Legion’s Government Testing Scholarship Program.
- d) Contact the Volunteer Services Rep at a VA Medical Center so see how you can help the children of homeless veterans.
- e) Contact local schools to check if there are homeless veterans’ children who could use supplies of any kind. Anonymity is key, but the principle or a teacher can be the go-between.
- f) Work with your Post’s Service Officer to help with the needs of veterans’ children who need financial help. (The American Legion – Temporary Financial Assistance.)

Contact local schools to inquire about needed supplies and extra clothes for homeless children and work with them to meet those needs.

Help raise awareness for the needs of homeless children in your community by sharing unit activities on the unit website, local newspapers, unit newsletters and social media

7. Additional Opportunities

- A. National Family Week:** The American Legion Family supports National Family Week, celebrated during Thanksgiving week. What can you do?
- B. Facebook:** Join the **ALA Children & Youth group:** Share activities and events, ask questions, obtain info, and promote Children & Youth: www.facebook.com/groups/ALAChildrenandYouth/
- C. Flying Flags for Heroes:** Join an SAL Squadron to get youth involved in placing flags on veterans' graves. Join the crusade to place 1.5 million flags to honor our veterans: www.flyingflagsforheroes.org
- D. Partner** with your local high school to encourage student participation in the American Legion Oratorical Contest Scholarship Program. Participants learn about the U.S. Constitution and can earn scholarship money. Visit www.legion.org for specifics.
- E. Work** with your local high school in selecting students to attend Badger Girls State and Badger Boys State and to promote The American Legion's Government Scholarship Testing Program: www.legion.org.
- F. Give an Hour** provides free access to mental health care for active duty, National Guard, Reserve and Veterans, strengthening the entire family; promoting emotional wellbeing of their children. www.giveanhour.org
- G. Create** a Unit Citizenship Award for children and youth who have learned the ideals of the U.S. Constitution, and/or host a program where they can learn.

Children and Youth Reporting

Mid-Year Reports

If you'd like to furnish a Mid-Year Report, feel free to do so. Please share a story and a picture or two of your events and activities as they happen. Doing to as you go, rather than waiting till the end of the year makes reporting easier and you'll be less likely to forget something.

Annual Reports

Let's make Wisconsin a 100% reporting state by having each District C&Y Chairman submit a narrative report by **April 15, 2023**, to the Department C&Y Chairman listed on the front page of this Program Plan. Either a paper copy via USPS or e-mail is perfectly fine – whichever is easier for you.

As part of your narrative report, please note how your Unit, County, or District promoted the Youth Hero, Good Deed, and Youth Caregiver Awards, as well as sharing a success story regarding support for military and/or homeless veterans' children.

National Children & Youth Chairman

Pam Ray, 6410 Wind Hill Drive, Springfield, IL 62711
Phone: (217) 741-6849 ♦ Email: sparkle1979@hotmail.com

Central Division Committee Chairman

Sue Verville, 112 Playground Road, Iron River, MI 49935
Phone: (906) 265-9848 ♦ Email: sverville11@hotmail.com

National Children & Youth Committee Contact Information

children&youth@ALAforVeterans.org

Children and Youth Awards

1. **Youth Hero Award** - A national award for youth under 18 years of age who perform a heroic act of physical valor. The Youth Hero & Good Deed Nomination Form is to be completed and mailed to your Department Secretary (Bonnie Dorniak - PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901), who certifies and mails the application to National Headquarters *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 and Youth chairman should be notified of the award by the Unit. Coordinate your efforts with your Department's Public Relations and Membership Chairmen.
2. **New!! Youth Caregiver Award** – This is given to a youth who provides care, comfort, assistance and support to loved ones, friends or family members without being paid. The certificate will be available for download from the ALA National website for Units to present.
3. **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. The Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination Form is to be completed and mailed to the Department Secretary (Bonnie Dorniak -PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901), who certifies and mails the application to National Headquarters. *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 by the Unit. Coordinate with your Department's Public Relations and Membership Chairmen.
4. **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 for a list of available brochures.

Please be sure to note if the narrative you submit for the Department award is also to be used as your Department year-end report.

Unit Award: Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program

Type of Award: Engraved Plaque

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

Materials and guidelines:

- Awarded to the unit in each Division with the most outstanding Children & Youth program.
- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. Include specific examples of how your unit worked the Children & Youth Program.
- May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.
- Attach an award cover sheet found at the end of this program plan, including the name of the award, as well as the name and contact information for the Unit Children & Youth Chairman.
- Send to Mary Petrie, 808 E Cady Street, Watertown WI 53094 by May 1, 2023.

Unit Award: Supporting Military Children Unit Award

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 with the best program supporting military children
- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.
- May include pictures, news article, news releases, etc.
- Attach an award cover sheet found at the end of this program plan, including the name of the award as well as the name and contact information for the Unit Children & Youth Chairman.
- Send to Mary Petrie, 808 E Cady Street, Watertown WI 53094 by May 1, 2023.

Overview of Resources

4-H

www.4h.org

A.L.F. S.A.L program: Contact Bob Sirovina

www.wisalcmdrbob@att.net

Big Brothers Big Sister (BBBS)

www.bbbs.org

Boys and Girls Club of America (BGCA)

www.bgca.org

Child Welfare Foundation (CWF)

www.cwf-inc.org or www.legion.org/cwf

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation -

Bob Caudell, Deputy Director rcaudell@legion.org Phone: 317-630-1202

The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

Children's Miracle Network

www.childrensmiracletnetworkhospitals.org

Folds of Honor Foundation (FHF)

www.foldsofhonor.org

Provides scholarships to families of America's fallen or disabled military and first responders.

Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2)

www.alaforveterans.org

Military Child Education Coalition

www.militarychild.org

Supports all military-connected children by educating, advocating, and collaborating to resolve education challenges associated with the military lifestyle.

Operation Give a Hug

www.giveahug.org

Operation Military Kids (OMK)

www.operationmilitarykids.org

OMK was founded as a resource for teens and young adults interested in joining the military.

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

www.taps.org

Visit www.constitutionbooklet.com to print a pocket Constitution booklet for school children.

The "I'm a Hero 2" stickers template can be found on the Department website on the Programs page.

To be considered for The American Legion Temporary Assistance Fund, all other forms of possible assistance must be applied for and exhausted.

www.american-legion-temporary-financial-form.pdfFiller.com



The American Legion

Wisconsin: www.wilegion.org

National: www.legion.org

American Legion Auxiliary

Wisconsin: www.amlegioauxwi.org

National: www.legion-aux.org

Sons of the American Legion

Wisconsin: www.wisal.org

National: www.legion.org/sons

HOW TO CONDUCT A “KIDS OF DEPLOYED ARE HEROES 2” PROGRAM

Submitted by:

Mary Petrie, Department Children & Youth Chairman

Contact information for questions:

mmrtpetrie@charter.net ♦ 920-261-8161

Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2): Honoring military children who may experience a separation from one or both parents, whether deploying to a war zone, having a short tour or extended TDY (temporary duty assignment).

1. Prepare a supply of “recognition buttons” for distribution. Visit the Children & Youth page of the members only section at www.ALAforVeterans.org for more information. Buttons may be ordered through the Auxiliary, a commercial vendor or made locally with the following content:
 - I’m a Hero 2
 - Proud Parent of a Military Child with a picture
 - Proud Grandparent of a Military Child with a picture

2. Call a planning meeting: include the Legion Family, especially Junior members. Consider the following ideas to recognize military kids:
 - Make or purchase and distribute ‘I’m a Hero 2’ buttons.
 - Make or purchase and distribute ‘Proud Parent/Grandparent of a Military Child’ with picture button.
 - Can’t afford buttons? Make or purchase and distribute stickers.

3. Decide the best location for recognition of military kids:
 - Coordinate with Family Readiness Groups for button distribution during family days.
 - Coordinate with Legion Family members for local community days/fairs etc.
 - Consider having an activity day/dinner for military families at your post home.
 - If your unit is in close vicinity to a military installation, contact Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) for a listing of activities in which you might have a concession or table.
 - Make buttons available for ALA Girls State and The American Legion Boys State programs and Junior members.
 - Consider suggestions from Junior members for school activities and locations.

No matter what you decide to do, plan a public relations campaign around your event. Consider having Auxiliary membership applications available. Community events provide the best opportunity to sign up new members.

HOW TO REACH OUT TO MILITARY CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Submitted by:

Mary Petrie, Department Children & Youth Chairman

Contact information for questions:

mmrtpetrie@charter.net ♦ 920-261-8161

www.ALAforVeterans.org (Members Only – Children & Youth)

Some ideas for reaching out to military children and youth:

1. Sponsor a "You're My Hero" event, similar to the Hero Award, but for military children.
 - Present them with certificates and medals.
 - Be creative.
 - Ask your Junior members to participate.
 - Use your public relations tools to inform the community. Refer to the Public Relations Toolkit at www.ALAforVeterans.org.
2. Host a movie and popcorn night or a board game night for teens.
3. Many military kids can't afford new prom dresses. Get the community involved in collecting and distributing gently used prom dresses.
 - Ask local radio stations and newspapers to donate time and space to help advertise your initiative.
 - Get local bridal shops involved.
 - Involve your high school counselors.
 - Your unit may also want to help with transportation expense, flowers, etc.
4. Contact your local homeless shelter. Ask if there are any veterans there with children.
 - Since one in five homeless are veterans, there is a good chance they will be living in local shelters. Find out what your unit can do to help the children.
 - VA hospitals have homeless coordinators and/or directors of voluntary services. Meet with them to establish a method in which the coordinator/director will coordinate with your unit whenever a homeless veteran with children is identified. Offer to provide school supplies for the child, through the homeless coordinator or director of voluntary services.
5. Get your Legion Family together and brainstorm ideas that might work in your community. Sometimes, school-aged children are your best link to finding military children in the community. Be creative.

No matter what you decide to do, plan a public relations campaign around your event.

Consider having Auxiliary membership applications available.

Community events provide the best opportunity to sign up new members.



American Legion Auxiliary

Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination Form

NAME OF YOUTH _____

Youth's Age _____ Male Female Date of deed _____

Submitted by Unit # _____ Dept. of Wisconsin

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

- **Good Deed Award** – Youth should demonstrate leadership role in community service, specific deed should be present
- **Youth Hero Award** - Youth should demonstrate a physical act of valor

Attach extra pages as need. Please attach news clippings or include website to verify the deed being recognized.

UNIT CERTIFICATION (MUST BE CERTIFIED BY TWO UNIT MEMBERS)

Unit Member _____ Date _____

Unit Member _____ Date _____

Units should send completed applications Department Secretary, ALA-Wisconsin, PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY CERTIFICATION

Name _____ Date _____

Department secretary mail nomination to ALA National Headquarters, 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268 or email to Children&Youth@ALAforVeterans.org. Awards will be shipped at no cost.

Please ship to:

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 Youth Hero Award Good Deed Award

Date received _____ Date shipped _____



**American Legion Auxiliary
2022-2023 National Award Cover Sheet**

Send completed form to:

Mary Petrie, Department Chairman
808 E Cady Street, Watertown WI 53094
Email: mmrtpetrie@charter.net • Phone: 920-261-8161

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: **CHILDREN & YOUTH**

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: _____

Name of department: _____

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: _____

Name of department: _____

Member Name: _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Nominating Member (if different from above): _____

Nominator's Phone number: (____) _____

Nominator's Email address: _____

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Support Badger Girls/Boys State
Oratorical Scholarship Program
Family Readiness Group Activities
Blue Star Banner Service
Eagle Scout Scholarships
Poppy Contests
Operation Military Kids
Read & Donate a book to your school
Shooting Sports Program
Kids Against Hunger
National Family Week
Gateway Drugs Program
Missing Children
Big Brothers/Big Sisters Programs
Kinship Care Program
Camp Yellow Ribbon
Partner with local Readiness Group
Soldiers At-Home Movie Night for Families of Deployed
Promote April as Children & Youth Month

County Youth Government Day
Legacy Run Scholarship
Child Safety Programs
Veterans in the Classroom
Legion Baseball Program
Child Welfare Foundation
Flag Folding
TAPS Camp Program
Troop & Family Support
Hunter Safety
Essay Contest
Family Support Network
Fire Safety Programs
Temporary Financial Assistance
Boys/Girls Clubs of America
Write Letters to Deployed
Halloween Safety
Government Scholarship Testing

Opportunities such as these exist across the state. Brainstorm ideas with other members of the American Legion Family. Select one or two that your members feel they can work on and involve your Juniors if possible. They might be aware of other youth-supporting organizations; then consider partnering with the American Legion Family and other organizations. There is strength in numbers, and this will also provide visibility in your community. Wear your branded clothing with pride and be prepared to share your story of “Who we are, what we do, and why it matters.” Be proud to be a member of the world’s largest patriotic organization.



The American Legion Family