



2021-2022 CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM ACTION PLAN

Department of Wisconsin

Mary Krutz, Department Chairman
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What is this program and why do we have it?

The purpose of the Children and Youth program is to protect, care for and support children and youth, particularly those of veteran and military families. The program includes developing, implementing and monitoring programs and activities that contribute to the physical, mental and emotional health and wellness of children and youth.

What can we do?

1. Support the children and youth in your community.

- **Youth Hero Awards/Good Deed Awards:** This is an ALA program to recognize youth who demonstrate a heroic act of physical valor or who exemplify community service in action.
- **NEW!! Youth Caregiver Award:** This ALA program recognizes youth who provides help, care, and comfort to someone without being paid.
- **Badger Girls State/Badger Boys State:** Support sending youth to Badger Girls State and Badger Boys State
- **April is The American Legion's Children and Youth Month:** Partner with your local American Legion Post. They often have events to honor children & youth in April.
- **National Family Week:** The American Legion Family supports National Family Week during the week of Thanksgiving.
- **Facebook:** Join the **ALA Children & Youth** This is a place to share activities and events, ask questions, obtain information and promote Children & Youth Activities.
- **Flying Flags for Heroes:** Join the SAL Squadron in their program to get youth involved in placing flags on veterans' graves. For more information see www.flyingflagsforheroes.org
- **Operation A.L.F. (American Legion Family) Plush Comfort Pups:** Can be presented to a child hospitalized for a serious medical issue or the to the children of deploying parents, the Wisconsin Sons of the American Legion are proud to provide this cuddly companion to help them cope with difficult times in their life. For more information or to order contact alf@wisal.org

Ideas:

Member:

- Contact your local High School and ask them to encourage students to participate in the American Legion Oratorical Contest Scholarship Program to learn more about the U.S. Constitution and earn scholarship money.
 - Refer to www.legion.org for more information about the Oratorical Contest.
 - Check newspapers, TV and other local media for stories on children and youth who have performed a heroic act of physical valor, such as performing CPR, Heimlich, first aid, rescue from peril such as fire or water, help to evacuate, call 911 to help others in an emergency.

- Contact local schools, churches and youth groups to inform them about the Youth Hero and Good Deed Awards. Provide them with unit contact information.
- Work with local high schools and encourage them to select students to attend Badger Girls State and Badger Boys State.
- Work with local schools to promote the “Government Scholarship Testing Program” with the American Legion (more information at www.legion.org).
- Become familiar with the “Give an Hour” program to give help to the mental health and emotional wellbeing of our children. www.giveanhour.org
- When a child has been identified as a Youth Hero/Good Deed or Youth Caregiver applicant, complete the nomination form. See a copy of the form at the end of this program plan for more information. Application must be submitted to Department Secretary.
- Create a Unit Citizenship Award for children and youth who have learned the ideals of the U.S. Constitution.
- Plan a celebration of children during the month of April to honor Children and Youth along with the American Legion.
- Host a party to celebrate Constitution Day (Citizenship Day) on September 17. Involve the Local American Legion/Sons of the American Legion/Legion Riders to help plan and execute.
- Create and award a Unit Citizenship Award for children and youth who have participated in and learned about the U.S. Constitution.
- Donate funds and support sending youth to Badger Girls State and Badger Boys State.
- Use the local paper, unit newsletter and social media to share facts about the U.S. Constitution.

2. Support military children and youth

- **Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2):** This is a recognition program for military children who experience extended separation from their military parent or parents.
- **April is the Month of the Military Child**

Ideas:

Member:

- Volunteer at a Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) camp program.
- Volunteer at a local Boys & Girls Club to support children in your community. Clubs provide a fun, safe and constructive environment for kids and teens during out-of-school hours. They offer programs and services to help young people succeed in school, develop leadership skills, and maintain healthy lifestyles.
- Find out more about local Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program. They have “Operation Bigs”, a program for mentoring Military Children.

Unit:

- Host a KDH2 celebration with recognition buttons/stickers to let military children know we appreciate their sacrifices.
 - Refer to “How to conduct a ‘Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2’ Program” at the end of this program plan for more information.
- Host an event to bring military and non-military families together, for example, a dinner, game night or event about a particular program.
 - Include a “Military Child’s Table Setting Ceremony
- Plan a “Purple UP” event in April to celebrate “Month of the Military Child” along with American Legion Family. More info at www.militarychild.org/MOMC_Toolkit

3. Support veterans' children and youth.

- Homeless veterans' children
- Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) is affiliated with the American Legion Family.
- Along with the American Legion, participate in the Government Testing Scholarship Program.

Ideas:

Member

- Contact local churches, homeless shelters and food pantries to identify homeless veterans' children. Find out specific needs and offer your services as an ALA member.
- Contact your volunteer services representative at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Offer to help them meet the needs of children of homeless veterans who come to VAMC.
- Contact local schools to access their needs for supplies and extra clothes for homeless children and work with them to meet their needs.
- Volunteer at a TAPS camp program.

Unit:

- Work with your local American Legion post service officer to help with the needs of children of veterans who need financial help. (The American Legion – Temporary Financial Assistance.)
- Contact local schools to access their needs for supplies and extra clothes for homeless children and work with them to meet their 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.
- 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.

Children and Youth Reporting

Mid-Year Reports

We will not be asking for mid-year reports this year. Instead, we are asking that all units share the story and pictures of their events as they happen. When details are fresh in your mind it is much easier to present a clear picture of your event.

Annual Reports

Each District Children & Youth Chairman is requested to submit a narrative report by **April 15, 2022**, to the Department Children & Youth Chairman listed on the front page of this Program Plan. It may be submitted by paper copy via USPS or by email.

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

- How did your units and district promote the Youth Hero/Good Deed Award?
- What success stories do you have regarding support for military and/or homeless veterans' children?

National Children & Youth Chairman

Trish Ward 2633 Shasten St. Grove, OK 74344

Phone: (913) 238-1520 ♦ Email: tbw_ksaux@yahoo.com

Central Division Committee Chairman

Debra Lewis P.O. Box 152 Cisco, IL 61830

Phone: (217) 898-6788 ♦ Email: lewisdebbie@yahoo.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. (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 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** is given to a youth that 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. (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 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 brochures that are available.

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.

Youth Hero Award

Type of Award: Youth Hero Medal and Citation

Presented to: Youth under 18 years of age who have performed a heroic act of physical valor

Materials and guidelines:

- Complete the Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination form and mail it to the department headquarters office, attention Bonnie Dorniak (PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901), who will certify and then mail the application to National Headquarters. (Please, members/units, **do not** mail applications directly to National Headquarters.)
- The award certificate, signed by the National President and Youth Hero Award medal will be returned to the unit to be presented on behalf of the national organization.

New!! Youth Caregiver Award

Type of Award: Citation

Presented to: Youth under 18 years of age who acts as a caregiver to someone without receiving pay.

Materials and guidelines:

- The award certificate is signed by the National Children & Youth Committee Chairman and the National President. It is available online for the Unit to fill in details of the recipient, printed and then awarded to the youth.
- Units should track the awards presented and include them on the Unit reports to Department.

Good Deed Award

Type of Award: Citation

Presented to: Youth under 18 years of age who are great examples of community service in action

Materials and guidelines:

- Complete the Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination form and mail it to the department headquarters office, attention Bonnie Dorniak (PO Box 140, Portage WI 53901), who will certify and then mail the application to National Headquarters. (Please, members/units **do not** mail applications directly to National Headquarters.)
- The award certificate, signed by the national president, will be returned to the unit to be presented on behalf of the national organization.

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 E. Krutz 2254 Deer Trail, Green Bay WI 54302 by May 1, 2022.

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 E. Krutz 2254 Deer Trail, Green Bay WI 54302 by May 1, 2022

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. Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (an American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant recipient for *Klinger*): www.taps.org
4. Print Pocket Constitution for school children: www.constitutionbooklet.com
5. Military Child Education Coalition: www.militarychild.org
6. “I’m a Hero 2” stickers template and instructions can be found on the department website on the Programs page.
7. See Children & Youth program page at: www.ALAforVeterans.org for additional resources.

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

Submitted by:

Mary E. Krutz, Department Children & Youth Chairman

Contact information for questions:

wkruz@new.rr.com ♦ 920-680-7938

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 E. Krutz, Department Children & Youth Chairman

Contact information for questions:

wkruz@new.rr.com ♦ 920-680-7938

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 for teens or a board game night.
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. Maybe the best thing you can do is get your Legion Family together and brainstorm ideas that might work in your community. Sometimes, school-aged children might be your best link to finding military children in your 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
2021-2022 National Award Cover Sheet**

Send completed form to:

Mary E. Krutz, Department Chairman
2254 Deer Trail, Green Bay WI 54301
Email: wkrutz@new.rr.com ♦ Phone: 920-680-7938

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 ideas your members feel they can work on. Involve your Juniors. They are often aware of activities planned by other organizations which support youth. Partner with the American Legion Family and other organizations. There is strength in numbers, and this will also provide you with visibility in your community. Wear your branded clothing with pride. 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 women’s patriotic organization.



The American Legion Family