

2024-2025 Junior Activities Program

Jersey & Leona Somerfeld, Co-Chairmen

The Junior Activities Program is designed to actively engage our members age 17 and under to become productive members who want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood. If we do the groundwork now with our Junior members it makes a strong foundation for our organization by having a knowledgeable, dedicated and capable leaders. The future of our American Legion Auxiliary is in our Junior members to carry on the Auxiliary's mission for life. Anything worthwhile takes time, our juniors are a valuable asset.

Things you can do:

1. Build your Junior Activities program one member at a time by giving them a voice and an opportunity to participate.

Ideas:

- Ask to speak at your post's meeting. Bring junior members and membership applications with you and personally invite Legion members to sign up their daughters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters. Older Junior members can speak about the value of their membership.
- Sign up your own eligible daughters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters.
- "Like" the National Junior Activities Facebook page. <http://facebook.com/alajuniors/> share posts to your friends and encourage them to sign up their eligible juniors.
- Teach your Juniors about the American Legion Family's eligibility requirements.
- Encourage your Juniors to invite their friends to attend ALA functions and volunteering opportunities, even if they are not eligible to join.
- Offer to help the Junior Activities chairman and participate in their functions and fundraisers.
- Organize an active Junior group. Give the juniors your support.
- Even if you only have one Junior member, encourage her/him to organize a service project that your unit can participate in, it may attract more juniors to join.
- Try to include information on Junior membership and activities in monthly newsletters, highlighting what your juniors did.
- Bring your Junior(s) to ALA meetings and activities.
- Mentor a Junior in your Unit, teach them about the role as an officer and chairman. Help them understand what we do and why it is important. The rewards are worth it.
- Be positive and promote our programs.
- All children are curious, make things interesting and engaging. Ask your Juniors for help with projects and programs. They learn a lot by following you around. Make time, be present.
- We can learn a lot from each other, utilize their youth and energy.
- **Let's have a wonderful and productive year with getting our Juniors ready to take over the world!**

2. Promote and Encourage the Junior Patch Program. The Junior Activity Patch Program is a valuable tool for ALA Junior and SAL members to learn and become more involved with their community and veterans.

Ideas:

- Encourage Juniors to participate in the Patch Program, there are 4 levels
Purple Level 1: Pre-K, age 3 through K
Red Level 2: 1st through 4th grade
Gold Level 2: 5th grade through 8th grade
Blue Level 3: 9th grade through 12th grade (or 18 years old)

You can find the Patch Program at www.ALAforveterans.org Sign in, click on Members Only, click on Junior Activities, then Patch Program. Find your grade group and print. There are patches available for each Auxiliary program. With your Junior(s) go thru and work on the activities. You do not have to finish all of them in one year but to earn a patch you need to complete the required number of activities listed. There are also special patches that can be earned.

Ideas: Make sure you report the activities of your Juniors, here are a few ideas to get involvement.

- Donate Comic Books found in the Emblem Catalog to the school library.
- Collect old eye glasses and donate to the nearest Lion's Club.
- Collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Billings.
- Adopt a Veteran in your community, help them with chores and/or run errands.
- Visit veterans and send cards.
- Try to have at least one special meeting with the Juniors,
- Purple Up Day, wear purple on April 15th.
- Good Deed Awards
- Youth Hero Awards
- Organize a food drive or school supply drive.
- Socks of Love

Send the Junior Patch Program sheets in with your report so we can submit them to get the patches by April 15, 2025.

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Jersey & Leona Somerfeld, co-chairman lsomerfeld@gmail.com
550-15th Lane NE Power, MT 59468 J: 406-868-2418/L: 406-788-1967

Unit Year End Report

Due: Postmarked no later than May 1, 2024

Name of Unit _____ Unit # _____

City _____ District _____

Junior Activities Chairman _____

How many Junior members did Unit have? Renewals _____ New _____

Did you have Junior meetings? _____ How many? _____

Did you implement the Junior Patch Program? _____ How many? _____

Write what your Unit did with your Juniors and how you implemented the Junior Activities Program. What worked and what didn't work? What could be done differently? Send pictures of activities. Let's have a great year! Thank You!