



DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

2024-2025 Children & Youth Program Engagement Plan

Joyce Endres, Department Chairman
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PURPOSE

The Children and Youth Program is to work collaboratively with The American Legion to promote programs that protect, care for, and support children and youth, especially those of our military and veterans.

DEADLINES/IMPORTANT DATES

Year-round: Units submit Youth Hero/Good Deed Award entries to the national organization using the [online nomination form](#) and notify the Department Chairman of the submission via email.

- April 1st: Submit Children & Youth Award Cover Sheet with narrative for judging as Most Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program to the Department Chairman.
- To be considered for a national award, the unit must submit their entry with a National Award Cover sheet to the Department Chairman. The National Award Cover sheet is included in this packet.

GET INVOLVED

1. Wear purple on April 15 in honor of Purple Up! Day for Military Kids.
2. Perform the Military Child Table [[Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony](#)] ceremony at a unit meeting or in your community.
3. Contact your local churches, homeless shelters, and food pantries to identify homeless veteran children. Ask what their specific needs are and offer them your services as an ALA member.
4. Contact local news sources and social media accounts and town council with an offer to give presentations about ALA and your units work for veterans and military children.
5. Plan a special celebration for children during the month of April in honor of Children & Youth Month and Month of the Military Child.
6. Host a dinner, game night, or community fair, etc. that will bring military and non-military families together.
7. Recognize and reward the positive actions of children and youth through the Youth Hero and Good Deed awards.
 - Watch your social media and local news sources for possible nomination of students.
 - Submit nominations using the online form [www.amlegionauxwi.org/childrenandyouth] and notify the department chairman of the submission via email.
 - Invite your winners to a unit meeting to present the award to them.
 - Contact your local media and submit a press release [www.amlegionauxwi.org/childrenandyouth] regarding the award presentation,
 - For more information and resources, visit [www.amlegionauxwi.org/childrenandyouth].
8. Promote Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2) – an initiative honoring military children who may be experiencing a separation from one or both parents, whether deployed to a war zone, having a short tour, or an extended temporary duty assignment.
9. Work with your post to organize celebrations for youth in your community (i.e. holiday parties, family nights).
10. Cross promote youth programs. Invite Legionnaires to speak at a unit meeting about Legion Boys State, Baseball, Oratorical Contest. etc. Ask to speak at a Post meeting to promote ALA Girls State. Juniors, etc.
11. Support The American Legion's Child Welfare Foundation [www.legion.org/childwelfare].
12. Ensure that children with disabilities are included in activities with their non-disabled peers.

Resources:

- For suggestions on how to implement this program, please contact the Department Chairman listed at the beginning of this Program Engagement Plan.
- Halloween Coloring Book [www.amlegionauxwi.org/childrenandyouth]
- Poppy Coloring Book [www.amlegionauxwi.org/poppyprogram]
- Citizen's Flag Alliance [www.citizensflagalliance.org]
- The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation: www.legion.org/cwf/
- ALA's Children & Youth Facebook Group [www.facebook.com/groups/ALAChildrenandYouth].



**Department of Wisconsin
2024-2025 Children & Youth Award Cover Sheet**

Send completed form to:

Joyce Endres, Department Chairman
1147 Fleetwood Avenue, Madison WI 53716-1417
ljendres@charter.net

Committee sponsoring award: **Children & Youth**

Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. Unit award certificates will be completed using the information given on this sheet, so please print legibly.

Provide the following, including the complete name of your unit, if you are applying for a Unit award at the Department and/or National level. Due April 1, 2025.

Unit # _____ District # _____ City Location: _____

Full official unit name: _____

Unit president/chairman (circle one) name: _____

Phone number: _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Email address: _____