



# JUNIOR JOURNAL



Military mom and *Guideposts* blogger Edie Melson reminds all to pray for the families of those deployed for our country.

Dear Lord,

I'm praying for all those who have a loved one on deployment around the globe. I know this time of year can be a challenge, even if the deployment isn't necessarily in a war zone. Being separated from those we care about is always hard.

I'm asking that you give these families a special peace this holiday season. Give them lots of opportunities to spend time in communication with their loved ones—through whatever means available. Thank you for all the different ways we have now to communicate around the world. Make sure packages and letters arrive in a timely fashion. Keep the digital and telephone lines clear and free from static.

Fill the days with activities to take their minds from the emptiness they feel. Surround them with friends and family who understand their struggles and can support them in ways that provide just what they need. Put people in their lives to be your hands and feet during this stressful holiday season.

Remind them of the blessings that still surround them. Don't let them withdraw. Instead help them to take part in the joy of this season.

Most of all, give them tangible proof that you are there with them and with their loved one. Remind them of Your great love and all the ways You watch over the entire family, those at home and deployed.

Amen.



# JUNIOR JOURNAL

## OPPORTUNITIES

The prayer on the preceding page reminds all of us of the opportunities available to make a difference in the lives of others.

Do your Junior members help provide activities for children? Do you have a fun activity afternoon with snacks for youth of military families or the children in your community planned while school is on holiday?

Holiday booth pictures, crafts and games entertain children of all ages.

Juniors can babysit while military spouses return items and shop.

Making treats for families is another way to help.

Invite families to take part in holiday activities and let your older

Junior members be that second pair of hands to help.

Look around your community and offer to help as needed. Some of the activities may fulfill a requirement for a patch so double check.



# JUNIOR JOURNAL

## JUNIOR PATCHES



**JR ACTIVITY PATCH RESOURCES**  
[Junior Activities Patch Order Form](#)  
**PURPLE LEVEL: Pre-School Age 3 - K**  
**RED LEVEL: 1st – 4th Grades**  
**GOLD LEVEL: 5th – 8th Grades**  
**BLUE LEVEL: 9th – 12th**



Junior members along with young Sons of the American Legion can earn patches for activities. This year the Junior Committee will be highlighting activities and patches. Patches have activities designed for the age of the Junior to provide learning and involvement in the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. Members from age 3 through grade 12 can earn patches in 15 programs.

Patch activities are divided by age groups with members from ages 3 through kindergarten earned **PURPLE** patches. **Red** patches are for members in Grades 1 through 4 and **GOLD** patches are for members in grades 5 through 8. Older Juniors in grades 9 through 12 earn patches with **BLUE** borders. Besides the 35 program patches there are special patches for events or activities.

One patch is for attending a Division Junior meeting so register for your meeting Juniors and receive a patch for attending. This year Junior members attending their Girl State program will receive a Junior patch.

**DO NOT forget the CHILDREN OF WARRIORS NATIONAL PRESIDENTS' PATCH.** This patch can be earned by any Junior or SAL youth if they raise at least \$5 for each year old. For example, a 17-year-old would raise a minimum of \$85 (17 x \$5 = \$85.) and send this in to ALA National to support this scholarship using the form created for this patch.



# JUNIOR JOURNAL

## NATIONAL SECURITY

Cathie Goth, Central Division Junior Activities Chairman



This month we are focusing on the National Security Patch from the ALA Patch Program. This National Security Patch is available for Juniors and Young SAL members to earn and focuses on Care Packages, Armed Services Food Pantries, POW/MIA Ceremonies, and support of military families. If your unit is near a military base there are many ways to support active military and their families. You can assist in preparing care packages and send thinking of you cards to “any soldier.” Reach out to the Family Readiness Group on base and ask what you can do. Not all units are located near military installations, but care packages and cards are welcome from anywhere and everywhere.

Check your community for food pantries, assistance is always needed at these locations. Junior Activities Chairs, teach you Juniors the meaning of the POW/MIA Ceremony and have your Juniors and/or SAL hold this ceremony at an upcoming Post/Unit meeting.

Junior Activities Chairs teaching and helping our Juniors and Young SAL members to become aware of the ALA Programs and the ALA’s mission of service not self is of foremost importance. These are our young leaders, the awarding of these patches for their hard work helps to create a culture of pride of accomplishment.

Activities can be worked on individually, as a Junior group or in other activities in the Junior’s life. Check out the patch program by clicking on this link: [Patch Program \(legion-aux.org\)](https://legion-aux.org/PatchProgram)



# JUNIOR JOURNAL

## DIGITAL MEDIA - RED LEVEL

Jeanne Haas, National Junior Activities Chairman



The Digital Media Patch is for students in Grades first through fourth. Students may have completed some of the activities in school or after school programs. Their teachers may sign off on the requirement. Researching internet safety and writing a safety pledge is a required activity. Optional activities include emailing the

National President or the National Commander and telling why you are excited to be a member of this American Legion family. Check out the Digital Media Patch – Red Level and use some of the time of the holiday break to earn this patch. [Patch Program \(legion-aux.org\)](http://legion-aux.org)

Registration for your Junior members to National Junior meeting makes the perfect holiday gift. With three more sessions yet to come paying for a Junior or

youth SAL to attend one of these gives them the gift of knowledge of ways to serve Veterans, our military, their families & the community, plus allows them to make memories and friendships that last a lifetime!





# JUNIOR JOURNAL

## Holiday Junior Involvement

The holidays are the perfect time to get those Junior members and youth SAL involved in the mission of Service Not Self. There are many opportunities to provide those teaching moments to those young members to help them understand the purpose of our mission and instill in them the desire to honor those who have fought to ensure we have our freedom.

1. Wreaths Across America is just one program designed to educate our youth about the sacrifices of service. After recently attending a WAA event at our Veterans Ceremony I was left with the knowledge that this will be an incredible event for our Junior Members.
2. Care packages for deployed military is another activity that Juniors can assist with. Many states have programs to send care packages to their deployed men & woman & allowing your Junior members to be involved in packing these parcels to mail teaches them to honor our military.
3. Sponsoring military family Christmas' is a great way to get your Juniors involved, especially when one or both parents are deployed. Juniors enjoy participating as Santa's helpers to deliver holiday presents dressed as elves to add a fun touch for the family and our Junior members.
4. Learning about how to serve the homeless during the holidays is another great way to provide an example for your young members. Allowing them to serve a holiday meal at a homeless shelter or for your community teaches them compassion for others less fortunate.

These are a few ways to involve our young members during the holidays, can you think of others?



# JUNIOR JOURNAL

## NEW YEARS EVE CRAFT IDEAS

This month's Junior craft idea is focused around New Years Eve as the new year is just around the corner. One of the patches featured in this Journal was about digital media and therefore the links for these craft ideas will bring you to YouTube tutorials to provide instruction for these great NYE crafts!

### NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH KIDS!



Many of our Junior members may be military kids and some have parents who may have been deployed in a combat zone and suffer from PTSD. Not all enjoy celebrations especially with the booming of fireworks, so our first craft will allow the family to celebrate at home with [Confetti Poppers](#). These easy to make confetti shooters allow for individual creativity from decorating the

tube to the choice of confetti, making your NYE celebration FUN!

The second craft idea is fun for even our youngest members and may require some help from an adult. [NYE Slime](#), allows for the confetti fun contained in a wonderful ball of slime, for hours of enjoyment! What better way to celebrate the new year than with confetti!

**REMEMBER YOUTUBE IS A GREAT WAY TO USE DIGITAL MEDIA TO LEARN CRAFTS IDEAS TO SERVE OUR VETERANS & MILITARY!**



# JUNIOR JOURNAL

## MEET THE COMMITTEE

### Chairman



Jeanne Haas  
620-364-5893

[debra.j.haas@gmail.com](mailto:debra.j.haas@gmail.com)

### Vice Chairman



Corrinna Colson  
802-274-8333

[colson.alavt@gmail.com](mailto:colson.alavt@gmail.com)

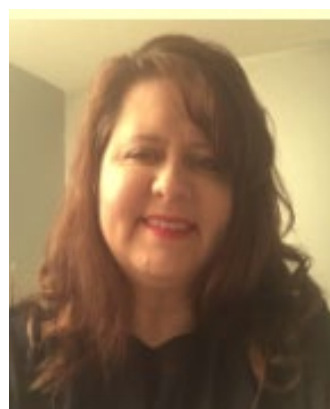
### Committee Member



Lynda Lancaster Loyd  
304-676-3979

[lancasterl@aol.com](mailto:lancasterl@aol.com)

### Committee Member



Tamara Martin  
218-390-7134

[tamaramatin1104@gmail.com](mailto:tamaramatin1104@gmail.com)





# JUNIOR JOURNAL

## Central Division



Cathie Goth  
660.351.1816  
[cgoth1@charter.net](mailto:cgoth1@charter.net)

## Eastern Division



Doreen Gallagher  
732.685.9541  
[doreengal@hotmail.com](mailto:doreengal@hotmail.com)

## Northwestern Division



Deborah McBride  
720-320-5463  
[dashissler@att.net](mailto:dashissler@att.net)

## Southern Division



Karen Toll  
859.512.5462  
[kktoll@yahoo.com](mailto:kktoll@yahoo.com)

## Western Division



Teresa Nunez  
562.201.1279  
[terrynun@hotmail.com](mailto:terrynun@hotmail.com)



# JUNIOR JOURNAL



## National JUNIOR MEETING



**Success!!** NOV 16: NASHVILLE, TN  
**Success!!** NOV 16: DENVER, CO  
 JAN 25: DES MOINES, IA  
 FEB 1: LAS VEGAS, NV  
 FEB 1: BOSTON, MA

8:30am - 4pm  
**SATURDAY**

REGISTRATION  
**\$70**  
 BEFORE DEADLINE

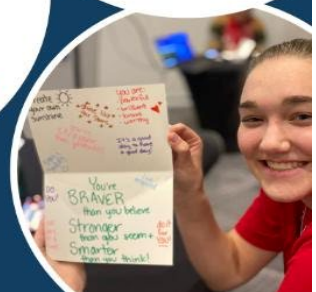


REGISTER AT  
[WWW.ALAFORVETERANS.ORG](http://WWW.ALAFORVETERANS.ORG)

Registration includes:

- Breakfast & Lunch
- Free T-shirt!

**AGES**  
**8-17**  
**WELCOME!**





# JUNIOR JOURNAL

## JUNIOR MEETING FUN

Denver  
Colorado  
Junior  
Meeting  
Highlights  
11-16-24



Nashville  
Tennessee  
Junior  
Meeting  
Highlights  
11-16-24



Juniors and young SAL members attending the Southern and Northwest Junior meetings had fun and enjoyed learning and working together on activities. The attendees heard from speakers on Honor Flights and Wreaths Across America. Listened to the poppy story and made crepe paper poppies. Played Kahoot's for learning on the National Security program and on Parliamentary Procedure. Heard from the Division Junior Member of the Year on her service and how to apply for this honor. Made cards and fans for Honor Flights, a miniature wreath and a patriotic backpack tie. Junior learned about the importance of membership and presented a candle ceremony to Senior members in attendance. Blue Star families were recognized. Songs and games were a large part of the day's activities. Each participant received a blue T-shirt and a Junior Meeting patch.

There are **three more Junior Meetings** this year. **January 25 in Des Moines, Iowa: February 1 in Boston, Mass and Las Vegas, NV!** Juniors and young SAL members can take part in a Division Junior meeting. You do not need to attend your Division if another date or location works better for you. All meetings have similar content. Not only are these meetings to gain ideas but friendships across state lines are developed. Register Junior members using the link provided.

<https://www.legion-aux.org/Meetings/Mission-Training>