



DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

2024-2025 Junior Activities Program Engagement Plan

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PURPOSE

The Junior Activities Program is to inspire active participation in members aged 17 and under so they become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood.

DEADLINES/IMPORTANT DATES

- January 25, 2025: National Junior Meeting in Des Moines, IA. Open to any Junior who is 8 years old or older. Juniors can attend any of the 5 Junior Meeting locations. Includes Honorary National Junior Division Vice President elections. Winners will be announced at National Convention. [Event registration available here.](#)
- March 15th: Units submit nominations for **Unit Junior Member of the Year** to Department Chairman.
- April 1st: Submit Junior Activities Award Cover Sheet with narrative for judging as **Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities 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 will be posted on the department website (www.amlegionauxwi.org) under the Program Info tab.
- April 15: Purple Up! Day for Military Children
- August 1-15, 2025: Honorary National Junior Division Vice President elections. Open to any Junior who attended a 2024-2025 National Junior Meeting. Winners will be announced at National Convention.

GET INVOLVED

1. **Inspire active participation in members age 17 and under so they will become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood.**
 - a. Engage Junior members in activities that support the American Legion Auxiliary mission:
 - Engage in poppy activities that may include making poppy posters, telling the poppy story, and distributing poppies with the assistance of senior members.
 - Promote Americanism through practicing correct flag etiquette and respect.
 - Organize and participate in service projects.

- Offer help to military families and help military kids entering a new school.
 - Involve Junior members in helping support the needs of veterans in VA hospitals and outreach facilities with handwritten cards, thank-you cards, mementoes, and supplies.
- b. Engage Junior members in leadership training:
- Shadow senior member officers at meetings and hold an appropriate unit office.
 - Post colors at senior meetings, conferences, and conventions.
 - Lead opening ceremonies (the Pledge, prayers, National Anthem, ALA Preamble).
 - Shadow senior committee chairs and assist with their program plans.
 - Promote the ALA scholarship benefits of remaining a member.
 - Encourage Juniors to attend ALA Badger Girls State program the summer between their junior and senior years of high school.
2. **Encourage Junior members to attend the Department Junior Conferences and National Junior Meetings.**
- Department Junior Conferences are held in fall and spring, with elections of Honorary Junior officers at the spring meeting.
 - Wisconsin Junior Activities Fall Conference at King, WI on October 12, 2024
 - 2024-2025 ALA Mission Training & National Junior Meetings
 - Nashville – November 16, 2024
 - Denver – November 16, 2024
 - Des Moines – January 25, 2025
 - Las Vegas – February 1, 2025
 - Boston – February 1, 2025
3. **Build the Junior Activities program one member at a time by giving Junior members a voice and opportunity to participate.**
- Plan mission-related activities that are interesting and inspiring to Juniors.
 - Participate in Wreaths Across America Day by volunteering to lay wreaths at local cemeteries.
 - Hold graduation ceremonies to recognize Juniors who will move to ALA senior membership status.
 - Offer for Unit to pay first year of senior membership to encourage retention.
 - Pair older Juniors with less experienced Juniors to promote mentorship.
 - Share information about Department and National Scholarship opportunities
 - [Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship](#)
 - [Spirit of Youth](#)
 - [Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship](#)
 - [Samsung Scholarships](#)
4. **Promote and encourage Junior participation in the ALA's national Junior Member of the Year Award.**
- There are five Division Junior Members of the Year. One of the five Division Junior Members of the Year will be selected as the National Junior Members of the Year.
 - Four Division Junior Member of the Year will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The National Junior Member of the Year will receive a \$5,000 scholarship and be invited to the ALA's national convention.
 - The scholarship is to reward ALA Junior members who are contributing to the organization and our mission, with a long-term goal of increasing Junior participation.
5. **Promote and encourage Junior participation in the ALA Patch Program to teach them about the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.**
- Work on the Patch Program at unit meetings. Include senior members to educate Juniors about the importance of participation in the Patch Program and to learn about ALA programs.

- Encourage Juniors who are unable to attend unit meetings to work on the Patch Program at home.
- Work with Sons of The American Legion (SAL) squadron leaders to inform them of the opportunity for young SAL members to participate in the ALA Patch Program.

6. Make Junior meetings fun and informative.

- Explore mission service and how they can impact our mission at each meeting.
- Encourage friendships and mentoring by planning fun team-building activities (games, learning Junior songs, etc.) and provide age-appropriate crafts.
- Highlight the numerous ALA learning opportunities available to members in the ALA Academy, including the [ALA Juniors eLearning Course](#).

AWARDS

2024-2025 National Junior Activities Program Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements

Member Award: Junior Member of the Year

- Nominees must have been a Junior at the start of the current ALA administrative year.
- Juniors must be at least in eight or eight-grade equivalent and can only win once.
- [Materials and guidelines](#):
 - Narrative should detail the Junior nominee's ALA participation and activities during the past year. Document with photographs, screenshots, and other evidence of Junior's ALA participation and activities.
 - All entries must be submitted by March 15th to the Department Chairman.

Unit Award: Best Department Junior Activities Program for Central Division

- Materials and guidelines:
 - Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words that includes specific examples of how the unit involved Junior members as part of their unit's programs.
 - Should include high-resolution action photos, scans/links to news articles, etc.
 - All unit entries must be submitted to the department chairman by April 1st using the entry form in the Junior Activities Program Engagement Plan.

ALA JUNIOR ACTIVITIES PATCH PROGRAM – *New patch level in 2024!*

Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary, as well as school-aged Sons of the American Legion members who often work alongside Juniors, may earn patches for activities in ALA programs, such as Poppy, Leadership, Americanism, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, and more. Participating in the Patch Program is a terrific way to be involved in learning about the Auxiliary and our Legion Family, volunteering in the community, and serving our country's veterans.

There are now four levels of patch criteria:

- Purple Level: Pre-School (age 3) through Kindergarten
- Red Level: 1st through 4th grade
- Gold Level: 5th grade through 8th grade
- Blue Level: 9th grade through 12th grade (or 18 years old)

RESOURCES

- For suggestions on how to implement this program, please contact the Department Chairmen listed at the beginning of this Program Engagement Plan.
- Junior Activities Handbook: Handbook is available for purchase from [American Legion Flag & Emblem](#) (item # 355.208) for \$1.99 each, or by phone at 1-888-453-4466.
- National Junior Meetings: member.legion-aux.org/meetings/national-junior-meetings
- ALA Academy: member.legion-aux.org/member/online-training
- Junior Member of the Year: member.legion-aux.org/Junior-Member-of-the-Year
- ALA's Junior Activities Facebook Group: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/alacentraldivisionjuniors/>



**Department of Wisconsin
2024-2025 Junior Activities Award Cover Sheet for Units**

Send completed form to:

Dr. Christine Johnsen, Department Chairman
159991 Granite Road
Wausau WI 54403
cmj102@aol.com

Committee sponsoring award: **JUNIOR ACTIVITIES**

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:

Unit # _____ District # _____ City Location: _____

Full official unit name: _____

Unit president/chairman (circle one) name: _____

Phone number: _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Email address: _____