

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT
Pamela Mann, Chairman

Through my interviewing of various unit members throughout Idaho, I am assuming that many of you have Junior members that are related to Senior members and your unit does not have a junior program. These junior members may or may not live in the same community as their unit. I am trying something new this year. I am going to correspond directly with your junior members. I will be furnishing them with supportive materials that will help them develop knowledge of the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. I encourage you to help eligible girls in your family to become junior members so that we can continue building toward the future of our organization.

Eligibility

As you know to be eligible to be a junior member you must be under 18 years old. Junior members are automatically transitioned to a senior member classification once they reach 18. Membership eligibility includes the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States.

For those of you who have the resources to develop an active junior program in your unit, here are some guidelines to help you do so.

Developing a Junior Program

The purpose of Junior Activities is to interest eligible your women under the age of 18 in continuing their membership as a senior member. So, we all need to be working for this goal. The first step is to select one or more volunteers from your unit who has report with youth and has the interest in developing a Junior Program.

1. Gather the resources necessary for guiding your program. Some suggestions would be
 - Ala Junior Activities Handbook
 - ALA Junior E Learning Course.
 - The ALA Junior Facebook page
2. Decide on a first meeting time and develop a fun flyer to distribute to your Auxiliary and Legion members. Let them know that they are invited to accompany their eligible members to the first meeting. Distribute your flyer at the local schools.
3. Hold a fun filled first meeting utilizing a craft such as making a poster that can be displayed at a local business thanking our soldiers for their service or announcing a local food drive to gather canned goods for a Veteran's home.

Do not get discouraged if it takes a few meetings to get things rolling. Once you have regular attendance you can utilize the Patch Program. Email me or call me if you would like me to send you the Patch Program Guidelines. Remember, the idea is to teach Americanism.

Here are some suggested activities you can do with our young people outside of meetings:

1. Volunteering with the Senior Auxiliary organizations at dinners, food drives, making and sending cards to veterans and or deployed soldiers, knitting caps or veteran's homes, making cookies, and delivering them to local vets.
2. There are Educational Comic Books that are available the American Legion Emblem Sales (<http://emblem.legion.org>). I have used these in the local school classrooms to teach such things as, the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance and why we say it, The Constitution, the Bill of Rights and citizenship, The meaning, history, and proper treatment of the U.S. Flag, and The honor and sacrifice of our country's veterans. These have recommended grade levels associated with them, so you know what grade level to use them in.
3. Sponsor a poster contest for your Unit's poppy distribution day. We did this in a 4th and 5th grade class after showing a You Tube Peanuts video on the how the Poppy became an important symbol.
4. Interview a Veteran and tell his story either in person at the Senior Auxiliary meeting or the Junior meeting or write it in pamphlet form.

Please send me suggestions and things that you have done in your unit. I will pass your suggestions on to others. Together we will make this a wonderful year of mentoring our young people on what it means to be "An American Citizen"

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