

Hello Everyone,

I know that many of you are already engaged in various Junior Activities within your units. If you're like me and wondering how to kick off these activities or explore options for working with Junior Members,

Eligibility: Junior members must be under 18 years old. Upon turning 18, they automatically transition to senior member status. Eligible members include grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct or adopted female descendants of all individuals who served in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Developing a Junior Program: Our goal with Junior Activities is to encourage young members under 18 to continue their membership as senior members. To start, select one or more volunteers from your unit who connect well with youth and are interested in developing a Junior Program.

Gather Resources:

- Junior Activities Handbook
- ALA Junior E-Learning Course
- ALA Junior Facebook page

Suggested Activities and Volunteer Projects:

Here are some ideas to involve junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary:

1. **Leadership Workshops:** Organize workshops to develop leadership skills among junior members, such as public speaking, event planning, and community service project management.
2. **Service Projects:** Involve juniors in community service projects, like visiting veterans, organizing care packages, or participating in local clean-up efforts.
3. **Mentorship Program:** Pair junior members with senior members for a mentorship program where they can learn about the Auxiliary's history, values, and impact.
4. **Creative Competitions:** Host art, essay, or photography contests with themes related to patriotism, veterans, or community service. Showcase their work in local events or publications.
5. **Social Media Ambassadors:** Encourage junior members to take charge of social media accounts, creating content that highlights Auxiliary activities, promotes events, and engages other young members.
6. **Fundraising Events:** Involve juniors in planning and executing fundraising events. They can help design promotional materials, run booths, or manage online campaigns.
7. **Youth-led Meetings:** Allow juniors to lead meetings or segments of meetings to give them a sense of responsibility and ownership within the organization.
8. **Educational Trips:** Organize trips to historical sites, military museums, or veterans' homes, where junior members can learn more about the sacrifices of veterans and the importance of the Auxiliary's work.
9. **Skills Workshops:** Offer workshops on practical skills like sewing for making items to donate, cooking for charity events, or crafting for holiday gifts for veterans.
10. **Recognition Programs:** Create awards or recognition programs specifically for juniors to acknowledge their contributions and encourage continued involvement.

These activities can help juniors feel more connected and empowered within the organization.

We can't eat the entire elephant, but we can take one bite at a time. Thank you for all that you are doing.

Best regards,
Pamela Mann