

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Pamela Mann, Chairman

Greetings. I am hopeful that you already have many Junior Activities on going in your units, but if you are like myself, you may be wondering how to get things started in your unit or what are some options in working with Junior Members.

This is the first time I have served on a Department committee or written a report so please bear with me. I am taking most of my information from the Junior Activities Handbook. I would recommend that you order a copy or two for those who will be working with Juniors in your units.

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 eighteen. 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.

Developing a Junior Program

The purpose of Junior Activities is to interest eligible your women under the age of eighteen 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
 - Email pamelamann@q.com for directions for Patch Program
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. We started in October, so we painted pumpkins in Patriotic themes.

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. You can google on your computer for ALAforVeterans.org or hit this link and go to member portal. After you sign in you will find Patch Program Guidelines or email be and I will send them to you.

Here are some other suggestions for activities that you can do with our young people within meetings or 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, things that you have done in your unit, and picture of junior activities. Since I am new at this position, your suggestions and sharing of activities is valuable to me. I will pass your suggestions on to others. Together we will make this a wonderful year of mentoring our young people to be a future Senior Auxiliary member and a good American Citizen.