American Legion Auxiliary

Junior Activities Handbook

A Complete Guide to Membership, Ceremonies, and Projects

May 2021 Revision

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

American Legion
Auxiliary

MISSION AND PURPOSES

In the spirit of *Service Not Self,* the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

In fulfillment of our mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes:

- ★ To support and advocate for veterans, active military and their families
- ★ To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion
- ★ To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship
- ★ To award scholarships and promote quality education and literacy
- ★ To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government
- ★ To increase our capacity to deliver our mission by providing meaningful volunteer opportunities within our communities
- ★ To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through *Service Not Self*

The American Legion Auxiliary has one purpose — to contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion. Our Preamble is nearly the same as The American Legion.

The American Legion Auxiliary does not establish any policy that conflicts with those of The American Legion. Its activities are designed to enhance The American Legion's programs. Although often working independently on projects of its own, the Auxiliary has no purposes which are apart from the aims of The American Legion. It is in every sense an "Auxiliary" to The American Legion. Its members serve side-by-side with members of The American Legion in a spirit of unselfish devotion to the well-being of America.

This guide is intended for educational and informational purposes and provides general, non-specific legal information. Information provided within this manual is not legal advice intended as a substitute to consulting with your local attorneys.

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PREAMBLE TO ALA CONSTITUTION

For God and country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principals of justice, freedom, and democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

FOREWORD

This guide is written to assist American Legion Auxiliary members who work with Juniors. Junior members are also invited to use the resources available, not only in this handbook, but also those available on our website, www.ALAforVeterans.org. Resources are always being updated and added to the website in the MyAuxiliary member portal. This guide will be updated as needed. Any updates will be indicated by a revision date on the front cover.

This Junior Activities Handbook contains details for organizing and directing a program for Junior members. It also contains information on eligibility, programs, meeting agenda, prayers, programs and ceremonies for initiation, installation, and graduation that may be utilized. Seasoned ALA members and Juniors should be encouraged to use this handbook as a resource to become knowledgeable American Legion Auxiliary members.

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the American Legion Auxiliary Junior Activities Program.

Junior Auxiliary members bring enthusiasm as well as a positive energy to our organization. Senior and Junior members are members of one body, with a national president, division vice presidents, and national officers. Honorary national Junior division

vice presidents help lead our national Junior meetings. Honorary Junior officers may also be elected/appointed at the department, district, and unit levels. We will discuss this in more detail later. As one body, we draw upon our strengths, share our experience, and gather our resources to help our country's heroes and their families.

Seniors and Juniors have the same mission, vision, and purpose. We are proud of our history. Our mission, vision, and purpose have remained strong since the ALA's inception in 1919.

Let's Be Right About Serving Our Juniors

The goal of the ALA Junior Activities program is to develop our Junior members into leaders and stay connected with them. The purpose of the Junior Activities Committee is to interest eligible young women under the age of 18 in continuing their membership as a senior member through the positive experience of mission-based volunteering that instills the ideals of the organization.

The Junior Activities chairman is a seasoned member selected for her rapport with youth of all ages and for her creativity and energy. It is suggested that the Junior Activities chairman recruit additional young members to serve as peer helpers, so the needs of all age groups can be better served. Whether your group is small or large, older or younger, there is something for each age group.

Success of the Junior Activities program is largely dependent on the leadership provided by the unit, district, or department. Juniors are not a separate organization but are under the guidance of an adviser (or Junior Activities chairman) and a committee of members.

Juniors conduct their own meetings, carry out their own activities, and are highly encouraged to participate in senior member meetings and activities. The Junior officers are honorary in title. Their work should be coordinated with the work of the seasoned officers in their unit, district, and department.

Americanism should be a major focus to teach patriotism, citizenship, and loyalty to America. There are many teaching tools available to help instruct a variety of ages in Americanism. All member activities should encourage Junior participation.

Membership Eligibility

Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary are a special classification of members under the age of 18. Membership dues for the year are calculated based on a Junior member's age on Jan. 1. Upon reaching the age of 18, Junior members are automatically transitioned to a senior member classification. An Auxiliary member under the age of 18 who is married shall be classified as a senior member. Members attaining senior membership status have full senior membership privileges.

Eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is as defined in the American Legion Auxiliary Constitution & Bylaws. 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 during any of the following periods as defined by The American Legion's federal charter approved by Congress:

- April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918;
- any time after December 7, 1941;
- or who, being citizens of the United States at the time of their entry therein, served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of said periods, and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;
- and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion

Any changes to Legion membership eligibility require an act of Congress. For further information and membership forms, please refer to our website at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Dues

Dues for Juniors are paid yearly. Junior members do not receive dues notices from ALA National Headquarters. All funds generated from Junior dues are handled by the senior unit treasurer. The amount for Junior dues is set by the senior members. Be sure that the dues amount is sufficient to cover national and department per capita.

We know that many Juniors' dues are paid for by someone else. Perhaps considering a PUFL (paid up for life) membership can be suggested to ensure continuous years of membership.

Finance

Consider tracking revenue from Junior fundraising activities as a separate line item in the senior unit's budget so your Juniors have a sense of accomplishment. All Junior projects requiring expenditure of funds must be approved by the senior unit.

As the honorary Junior treasurer, the Junior should keep a record of all expenditures and should save all receipts. Upon completion of the approved project, the bill for the expenses, as well as all receipts, should be presented to the senior treasurer for payment.

JUNIOR OFFICERS

During the National Executive Committee meeting held Feb. 25, 2012, a resolution passed stating honorary national Junior offices carry courtesy titles bestowed by the American Legion Auxiliary. Any honorary national Junior officer (honorary Junior division vice president) elected is solely an honorary, courtesy position without any formal duties. She shall not travel as a representative of the national American Legion Auxiliary nor conduct fundraising for Junior election campaigns or related activities benefiting an honorary Junior officer or candidate. It was also resolved that any Junior officer must be paying dues as a Junior member for the membership year in which she is installed.

At the unit level, honorary Junior officers traditionally include president, vice president, chaplain, historian, secretary, treasurer, and sergeant-at-arms. Honorary Junior officers may vary by district and department but are likely to reflect the structure of the unit.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

There are many ways to engage your Juniors. You will have Juniors of all ages and you will need to be sure there is something for each age level to do in whatever activity you choose. Juniors are encouraged to implement aspects from some or all the Auxiliary's programs into their projects throughout the year.

ALA Patch Program

Participating in the American Legion Auxiliary Patch Program gives Junior members the opportunity to increase their knowledge of

patriotism, citizenship, leadership, health, and fitness. Juniors can be involved with the patch program as a group or as in individual.

There are three levels in the Patch Program, grouped according to what grade the Junior is in school. These include the Red level for grades kindergarten through 3rd grade, the Gold level for 4th-8th grades, and the Blue level for grades 9-12 (or 18 years of age). The requirements for each level can be found at www.ALAforVeterans.org on the Junior Member Activities page in the MyAuxiliary member portal.

When the Junior has completed the requirements for a patch, a senior must sign the form to verify the Junior has met the requirements for the patch. The completed requirements sheet should be submitted to the department Junior Activities chairman who will complete the request form for patches (found on the Junior Members Activities page on the website) and send it to ALA National Headquarters. Patch orders may be submitted any time of year; however, orders turned in after June 1 will be reported on the following administrative year. It's recommended to keep a copy of all of your paperwork before sending it on, should any questions arise or if the paperwork is lost in transit.

Student Volunteers

A student volunteer is a volunteer under the age of 18 and a Junior member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, or may be unaffiliated with our organization.

Participants can volunteer at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical center, community outpatient clinic, or nursing home. Guidelines for these volunteer opportunities, including the suggested age for a student volunteer, are outlined in the ALA Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Guide, available for free download at www.ALAforVeterans.org. You may also get a hard copy from your department headquarters.

Student volunteers who meet the requirements can apply for the James A. Parke Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The American Legion Auxiliary contributes to this scholarship. For more information on this scholarship, visit www.volunteer.va.gov/ParkeScholarship.asp.

ALA Girls State and ALA Girls Nation

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State provides an opportunity for all young women, not just Auxiliary members, who have completed their junior year in high school or home school equivalent to experience state government processes. A self-governing mock state, young women elect their own leaders, write bills for debate, and run a legislative session. Each department's program is unique while keeping the basis of the program the same.

Two participants from each department ALA Girls State session are selected to attend American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation in Washington, D.C. Mock caucusing and debating bills educate young women in federal legislative processes. Registration fees for both programs are usually paid for by the American Legion Auxiliary. For more information, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org.

On Facebook: American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State.

Planning Activities with Your Junior Group

Juniors can participate in any activities your senior unit plans. Allow them to participate in all aspects. Remember: They don't want to just be the "clean-up crew." If you hold a dinner, allow them to help serve the dinner. Perhaps your older Juniors could prepare a dessert. A dinner is a great time for the Juniors to visit with veterans. They can learn more about The American Legion, about the veterans' service, and so much more.

Consider holding a joint installation with your Juniors. Perhaps a full American Legion Family installation. The senior and Junior installation scripts can be combined so each officer can receive the correct charge. Include the Juniors in preparing refreshments for after the installation.

Some ALA units only have one, two, three, four, or five Juniors. If your numbers are small and you cannot find someone to do a separate Junior group, be sure to include them in your meetings. Perhaps they could lead the Pledge of Allegiance, lead the Preamble, or say opening and/or closing prayer. Consider assigning them to a senior officer or committee chairman. They can learn more about the ALA and become excited about our programs.

Suggested Activities

The following is a partial list of suggestions for possible activities. This is not all inclusive. Be original and make whatever activity you choose a fun learning opportunity. Keep in mind you are working with a wide age range of girls. You need to incorporate activities for all ages. Be sure to include breaks to get up, move around, and socialize. Reminder: Be sure to have the girls wear an American Legion Auxiliary branded shirt or pin when they are out in the community.

1. Conduct a workshop on flag etiquette.
2. Take the ALA Juniors E-Learning Course (this is discussed in more detail later in this handbook).
3. Present programs at schools on the American flag or the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Partner with a school to conduct an ALA Star Spangled Kids program. For information on Star Spangled Kids, visit the Americanism page in the MyAuxiliary member portal at www.ALAforVeterans.org.
5. Participate in Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (January).
6. Collect school supplies for local schools or military kids.
7. Collect items for members of the community who are in need (i.e., food drive or clothing drive for homeless veterans, buddy baskets for transitional veterans' facility, etc.).
8. Reach out to military children in schools. With the help of a school counselor or principal, pair up with a military child who might be struggling or needs a friend.
9. Learn the history of the poppy and its significance to The American Legion Family and veterans.
10. Distribute poppies.
11. Conduct a weekend campout that focuses on teambuilding and learning more about the ALA and its programs.
12. Volunteer in VA medical centers, VA homes, nursing homes, or transition facilities.
13. Participate in send-off and welcome-home events for servicemembers.
14. Adopt a veteran or military family and volunteer to run errands, babysit, mow the lawn, or clean the house.
15. Fundraise/collect items to assemble care packages to be sent to deployed servicemembers.
16. Make and distribute holiday cards to veterans.
17. Participate in ALA Christmas Gift Shops at the local VA medical center.

CONTESTS AND AWARDS

Contests

American Legion Auxiliary contests include the Americanism Essay Contest, Poppy Poster Contest, and Little Miss Poppy. Contest guidelines, themes, and applications for the current year can be found in the relevant program section at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Units, districts, and departments may choose to expand on some of these contests to encourage more Juniors to participate.

Awards

Each year, a unit may submit a nominee for national Junior Member of the Year. There is no department elimination required. All nominations are accepted and reviewed. The national Junior Activities Committee will review all submissions and determine a winner. The winner will be notified by the national Junior Activities chairman. The national organization will contact the winner to attend the ALA National Convention to bring greeting to the members.

Other awards in the Junior Activities program are listed at www.ALAforVeterans.org on the Junior Activities MyAuxiliary member portal page.

SCHOLARSHIPS

American Legion Auxiliary scholarship opportunities, guidelines, and requirements can be found at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Scholarships available to Junior members include the following:

1. Spirit of Youth Scholarship
2. James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship for VAVS Student Volunteers
3. Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship

Scholarships available to Junior members and other high school students include the following:

1. Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship
2. The American Legion Samsung Scholarship (ALA Girls State and American Legion Boys State alumni)

Many departments and units also offer scholarships. You should make Junior members aware of all scholarships available in your department.

SO…YOU WANT TO START A JUNIOR GROUP

It's exciting that your unit has decided to create an active Junior group! Your Juniors are already helping with dinners and other unit activities and it's clear they want to be a part of our mission. Here are some guidelines to assist you in helping your Juniors become an active Junior group. Take each phase at your own pace. It is not necessary to get this done all at once.

Phase I — Getting Started

1. Share your plans with the unit and the post. Let them know what you are thinking. If they know your plans (i.e., service projects, field trips, craft supplies, refreshments, T-shirts, etc.), perhaps they will volunteer to assist with your budget needs.
2. If you are not planning to be the leader, you need to identify a member who is motivated to organize your Juniors. She should be a senior member who is young at heart and comfortable working with youth. Perhaps it is a member who has always wanted to work with your Juniors – but don't rule out a newer member. All members need something that "draws them in" and keeps them coming back to your unit. You can always have co-chairmen as well.
3. Once you've identified a leader of your Juniors, gather some resources that will assist in organizing the girls. Great resources to start with are this ALA Junior Activities Handbook and the ALA Juniors E-Learning Course. You can seek help from your district and department Junior Activities chairmen, and the expertise of the national Junior Activities Facebook page (search "American Legion Auxiliary Juniors" and click "Like"). If necessary, you may also find answers in the ALA Department Operations Guide, and your unit's Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules.
4. When you are ready and fully informed, go to your unit meeting and present your plans to start an active Junior activities group. Follow your Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules to ensure you will not come across any obstacles. Don't be discouraged if all members are not "on

board." Remember: You are the one the girls will be working with, and you can make this work.
5. If you have girls already assisting with unit and post projects, talk with them. Share what you are trying to do. Share your enthusiasm with them. Remember: It is contagious! They may be willing to help.

Phase II — Your First Get-together!

1. Send a letter to all members explaining what you are going to do. Don't forget to utilize social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. Create a fun flyer that will catch the member's (especially the Junior's) eye. Let them know when you are planning your first organizational meeting, where it will be, and what time. Make it clear that any parent/grandparent/guardian can bring them. Let them know they can and should bring a friend. It does not have to be an ALA member. Don't forget to invite your seasoned members as well.
2. Consider holding the meeting at a fun location like a pizza place or game arena. If the girls see fun on the flyer, they will be more likely to ask a family member to bring them.
3. Phone calls or texts a couple days before the meeting will remind the girls and their parents of the upcoming meeting. Remind them to bring a friend. Be excited and positive on the phone. If someone says they need a ride, be sure to arrange for someone to pick the Junior up, even if that someone is you.
4. Fun MUST be part of the meeting. Remember: It will take more than one organizational meeting to be successful. Don't give up if only a few Juniors attend.
5. Have a fun, easy project planned that the girls can take home and share with others.
6. Tell the girls what an active Junior group is. Share age-appropriate information about the ALA's mission of helping veterans. A great way to do that is through the story of the most recent Junior Member of the Year and her accomplishments. Let them know they can do as many of these activities or as many as they are comfortable doing. Let them know there will be meetings, service projects, and fun at each meeting. Be sure to include some of our programs such as Poppy, VA&R, National Security, and Americanism. There are activities in each of these programs that will pique their interest.

7. Tell them about the ALA Patch Program and how easy they are to earn. Perhaps some samples of patches or a couple of different requirement sheets for them to view would be beneficial to have at the meeting.
8. Take pictures. Action photos are always the best, but some posed ones are fine as well. Familiarize yourself with the photo guidelines from the ALA Branding Guide, found in the MyAuxiliary member portal on the national website and include a signed release from the parents that photos of their children can be published. These include how to send a photo, how to save a photo, suggestions on what you want to include in your photos, etc. Share your photos with your unit, district, department, and national. Ask your district and department to share the photos in their newsletters. Everyone is interested in a great story!
9. Let them know if there may be some sort of dress code at future meetings, but not every meeting. Remember: It is not as important what they are wearing as it is that they are attending.
10. Let the Juniors and their guests choose the location for the next meeting. Use several meetings to get acquainted. Utilize "get to know you" games (see "For Fun" section of this handbook). Do a simple service project.
11. It is OK to have informal meetings for several months. Use those meetings to gain enthusiasm, support, and members.
12. After several meetings, utilize the Junior Course and other ALA Academy courses to see what they have learned and to enhance their knowledge of the ALA. The Junior ALA Academy Course also gives them the opportunity to practice running a meeting. The ALA Academy can be found on our website at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Phase III — Meetings and Installation

1. When you are confident that you have support from the post, unit, the girls, and parents, plan the first formal meeting with the girls and their parents. Let them know you will be meeting at your post. Find a time that works for the majority. Let them know you will be electing honorary Junior officers for their group at the next meeting, which will give them some experience with leadership even though Juniors are members of the unit, rather than belonging to a separate organization.

2. Encourage them to bring a friend to the next meeting, perhaps a friend who is eligible to join the ALA.
3. Have refreshments. Desserts are always fun. Consider asking one or two of the Juniors to work with two seniors to bring refreshments for the next meeting.
4. Ask the girls to dress nicely for this special meeting when the new officers will be installed. Explain what an installation is.
5. Invite the post, unit, district president and district Junior Activities chairman, and the department Junior Activities chairman to the meeting. Have the girls make invitations.
6. Utilizing the ALA Junior Activities Handbook, create an agenda for your next meeting. Type a script for the girls to follow that can be found in the Junior Handbook as well. For now, write the prayers for your chaplain. If she wishes to write her own later, that is awesome.
7. Plan on an election of honorary Junior officers. You don't have to fill every office. It is helpful if you explain that holding office is a responsibility rather than a chance to be "in charge." Leaders help set direction, get things going, encourage members to work together, invite new people to be involved, and help the group celebrate their accomplishments. The basic roles you need to start are a president, secretary, and chaplain.
8. Once again, social media, phone calls, and texts as a reminder will help ensure attendance and will let the girls know you are genuinely interested and excited to see them.
9. Invite the unit president to be your installing officer.
10. The evening of the meeting, have a regular head table set up with a gavel, the script, a notebook for the secretary, and desk flags or floor flags.
11. Open the meeting in normal fashion. Thank the girls for coming. Hold your election for honorary Junior president. Once elected, assist her in running the remainder of the election. Even if you only have two girls, hold the meeting. It is important to let them know they are important and you are glad they came.
12. Hold an installation for your new officers. Perhaps the senior counterpart for each Junior officer could read the charge to the Junior and pledge her support.
13. Once the meeting is complete, have special refreshments to congratulate the new officers. Perhaps you could ask some of the senior members to provide them. It is a great way to get them to the meeting.

14. Be sure you have set the time, location, and date of your next meeting. You need to do this each month. Perhaps a cute flyer to remind them could be passed out before they leave each month.

Troubleshooting Concerns

1. Remind your Juniors that they are always welcome at senior ALA meetings and functions as well. Encourage them to help if they can.
2. If you have difficulty getting girls to attend meetings, ask the unit if holding the Junior meeting the same time as the senior meeting would be helpful.
3. Be flexible. Girls are very busy now. Be willing to hold your meeting on a different night if the majority of girls can't come on the set meeting night.
4. Running into trouble planning projects for the girls? Ask them if they have any ideas for a community project. Perhaps a dinner fundraiser for a friend or family member, cleaning a park or playground, supplying school supplies for those less fortunate, or providing necessities for veterans in hospitals. The possibilities are endless. If they are helping, they are happy and engaged.
5. Don't give up. It may take several meetings to get more girls involved. Be persistent; any action at all is progress. Ask the girls to bring friends. At each unit meeting, share the exciting things the girls are doing and encourage members to get their girls there as well. Not already a member? What a great way to gain membership.
6. Stay in touch with your district, department, and national Junior Activities chairmen. They will want to hear how things are going. They will also want to assist you in any way you may need. Be sure to send a midyear and year-end report to all these ladies. Include all those photos you have been taking!

Working with our Juniors is one of the most rewarding jobs we have to offer our members. We need to teach the Juniors about our past and present, so they can carry our mission, purpose, and dedication to our veterans into the future.

NATIONAL JUNIOR MEETINGS

Looking for a great way to get your local Juniors involved on the national level? National Junior meetings for members age 8-17 are held in various locations across the country in conjunction with

seasoned member ALA Mission Training events. At these Saturday-only meetings, Juniors conduct much of their own meeting with senior Junior Activities Committee members serving in a guidance role. Older Juniors attending these meetings will be contacted to serve as instructors on different ALA programs as well as lead games, service projects, and so much more. Juniors may attend a meeting in ANY division, not just in the division of their membership.

HONORARY NATIONAL JUNIOR OFFICERS

Juniors who attend a national Junior meeting will have the opportunity to register to vote and/or run for honorary national Junior division vice president. The Junior may only run for office in the division of her membership, even if she attended a meeting in another division. Elections are held electronically. Juniors must fill out an “intent to run” form. This form must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian. Elections are held the first week of August by sending an email to every Junior who attended a national Junior meeting that year. Winners are announced on the National Convention floor during the Junior Activities report.

EMBLEM USAGE

The American Legion Auxiliary emblem is fully copyrighted and patented in the name of the national organization. The use of the emblem by an individual Auxiliary member is limited to the wearing of the official insignia and to the possession of authorized jewelry or merchandise bearing the insignia. To obtain approval to use the emblem, you must submit a form that can be found on the website.

Units may only use the emblem on stationery, unit publications, notices, posters, place cards, or items of similar character used in the ordinary routine and conduct of legitimate unit business. Departments and programs of the American Legion Auxiliary are similarly limited. Any other use of the name “American Legion Auxiliary” or the emblem shall be subject to the approval of the National Secretary.

These restrictions apply equally to the emblems of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, and American Legion Riders.

ALA ACADEMY JUNIORS E-LEARNING COURSE

To help your Juniors better understand the American Legion Auxiliary and our mission, it is suggested they take the Juniors E-Learning Course of the ALA Academy (found at www.ALAforVeterans.org).

This course provides information on basic protocol and parliamentary procedure. The course is fun, informative, educational, and will incite the Juniors' pride in the ALA, as well as a desire to continue their membership as senior members.

MENTORING

Mentoring engages Junior members and encourages continuation into senior membership. Juniors are encouraged to participate in three types of mentoring:

1. Senior members mentoring Junior members
2. More experienced Junior members mentoring less experienced Junior members
3. Junior members mentoring senior members in areas such as social media use

For senior mentorship, ask members if they are interested in mentoring a Junior. The senior member in charge of mentoring may wish to pair Juniors with mentors based on career, ALA program, or hobby interests. It is suggested that Juniors sit with their senior mentors, so they can ask questions on issues or meeting processes during unit meetings. For Juniors interested in officer positions, pair them with senior officers to study the duties and responsibilities of that office. If the Junior or senior member expresses dissatisfaction with the partnership, re-assign them.

Junior mentorship provides guidance and camaraderie when a less experienced Junior may be overwhelmed with ALA processes or perhaps they need support from another Junior. A Junior may be more likely to attend activities and meetings if she has a mentor. The mentee may be paired with a more experienced Junior with similar interests in school or hobbies. Perhaps someone the Junior already knows would be a good choice.

Electronic media is the most common form of communication in today's world, whether it is email, texting, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. Some senior members are not familiar with this technology. Assign a Junior to assist them in learning how to communicate using these tools. It will give your Junior a sense of

accomplishment and will assist the seasoned members in ALA report writing and submission.

BACKGROUND SCREENING

As a program that primarily serves minors, it is extremely important that your American Legion Auxiliary Junior Activities Program has a background screening process that covers any volunteers working with minors.

National Headquarters staff conducts background checks on national committee members, National Headquarters staff, and volunteers who work with American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation and our national Junior Activities program.

If a background check reveals anything that gives a program leader cause for concern about an individual, that individual should not participate unless the cause for concern is resolved.

There is no one law that covers whether background checks are required for employees or volunteers or states how extensive those background checks should be; instead, there is an overlay of federal and state laws. You should also remember that there can be both civil and criminal liability for failing to conduct background screenings. Some states may require screening for employees but not volunteers; other states may require them for both.

Organizations that serve children are often held to the strictest standards regarding background screening and you should be aware of which laws apply to your programs. Even if there are legal requirements or only limited requirements for background screening, there are other compelling reasons for mandatory screens:

- Protecting a vulnerable population
- Avoiding private and public backlash
- Reassuring parents, donors, and members
- Limiting liability

Applicants' backgrounds may be screened in a variety of ways, and your department should approve your policy. A typical policy would include requiring a national criminal history check, a sex offender registry check, and a social security check. If the person would be transporting minors by motor vehicle, a screening check with your state department of motor vehicles is recommended. There are many reputable companies that provide background checks, often at a reduced rate for nonprofits. The site www.protectyouthsports.com provides inexpensive but thorough background checks for The

American Legion Family. They provide all necessary forms and will work with you no matter how small or large your need may be. The results of the background check should be kept confidential.

RESOURCES

Publications

Publications available for free download by logging in to the MyAuxiliary member portal at www.ALAforVeterans.org:

- Junior Activities page
- ALA Academy – Juniors E-Learning Course, Junior Mentor Training courses
- ALA Department Operations Guide
- Unit Guide Book
- Brochures in the PR/Marketing Resources section of the website
- ALA Branding Game for Juniors
- ALA Unit Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules

Resources available for purchase from Emblem Sales at www.emblem.legion.org:

- Robert's Rules of Order
- Flag Education DVD
- Indivisible: The Story of Our Flag
- Knowledge in a Nutshell: America

Facebook

- Connect with the Auxiliary through our social media pages:
- American Legion Auxiliary Juniors
- American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters
- American Legion Auxiliary Girls State
- American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation
- American Legion Auxiliary National President
- Individual American Legion Auxiliary Program Facebook groups (i.e., National Security, Americanism, Poppy, etc.)

Twitter

Follow us — American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters (@ALAforVeterans)

Instagram

Follow us — American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters (@alaforveterans)

Follow us – American Legion Auxiliary Juniors (@alajuniors)

YouTube

Subscribe – American Legion National Headquarters (AmericanLegionAux)

COMPONENTS OF JUNIOR MEETING PROCEDURE

Meeting Etiquette

- As the future leaders of our organization, Juniors should learn protocol and Auxiliary traditions; emphasis should be placed on engaging Junior members while making meetings meaningful and fun. Be sure to intersperse the occasional formal meeting with fun activities and projects. Activities could include giving presentations on flag symbolism, flag etiquette, or the National Anthem; participating in the pocket flag program; volunteering at VA medical centers; or participating in the Veterans History Project.
- To minimize disruption, all in attendance will be asked to silence or turn off their cell phones during the meetings. They will also be asked to refrain from texting. To ensure this policy is adhered to properly, suggest everyone put their phones in their purses or under their chairs. Be sure to make parents aware of this policy. Provide them with an emergency phone number should the Junior need to be reached during the meeting.
- Units may decide to put a dress code in place. However, this is more likely to be done at the department and national levels.
- Consider putting a time limit on your Junior meeting. If younger Juniors must sit and be quiet for very long, they might begin to talk and disrupt the business of the meeting.
- Allow the Juniors to lead their own meeting under the guidance of the chairman. If they are leading, the Juniors will be more engaged than if a senior member runs the meeting.
- Invite seasoned members to attend the Junior meetings. Make it clear they are strictly guests and they may observe only. Juniors who get constantly corrected are less likely to return.
- Have copies of the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, and the Preamble available to the Juniors for all meetings.

Flag Etiquette for a Junior Meeting

1. Flag courtesy and manner of salute is observed according to Flag Code, which can be found in The American Legion's Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette.

2. The colors are placed at either side and just in advance (front) of the honorary Junior president's station. The American flag is to be on the right of the president and the unit colors are on the left of the president.
3. When the colors are advanced, the right hand is placed over the heart and remains there until the colors are posted. When the colors are retired, the hand is placed over the heart as the colors are removed from the stand and is not removed from the heart until the American flag is no longer in view.
4. While pledging allegiance to the flag or singing the National Anthem, member should stand with the right hand over the heart and nothing in their hands. This position is held until the end of the pledge or completion of the National Anthem. You will see Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion hold their covers (hats) over their hearts during the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.
5. Desk flags are placed and are never advanced.
6. Tradition states that no one should reach through the colors. This is not an official flag etiquette rule, but you should try to teach and adhere to this rule.

Desk colors, U.S. flags, and banners are available through Emblem Sales at www.emblem.legion.org

Basic Parliamentary Procedure Information

1. One rap of the gavel calls a meeting to order, seats an audience, signifies the passing or failing of a motion, and adjourns the meeting.
2. Three raps of the gavel signal the audience to rise.
3. When making a motion the proper wording is "I move …" NOT "I make a motion".
4. Meetings should start on time.
5. When a motion is made and seconded, the chair repeats the motion and asks for discussion. If no discussion, the vote is taken. "All those in favor, say aye, all opposed, no." Motion will pass or fail.
6. If there is a motion on the floor, it must be acted upon before any further business can be conducted.

Standardized Program Procedure

Order of Business:

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. National Anthem
5. Preamble
6. Reading and approval of minutes of previous meeting
7. Reports of officers and committees
8. Unfinished business
9. New business
10. Announcements
11. Remarks by Junior Activities chairman
12. Adjournment
13. Program or activity

Simplified Meeting

This is a simplified meeting script for Juniors. Consider this a starting point. You should tailor this script to one that works for your unit.

Honorary Junior President: The meeting will now come to order. (One rap of gavel)

Honorary Junior President: Please rise and place your hand over your heart as the colors are advanced. (three raps of the gavel)

OR

Honorary Junior President: (three raps of the gavel) the colors are in place so will salute the colors by the numbers “One” (wait a couple of seconds, then) “Two”

Honorary Junior President: Our chaplain will offer prayer.

Honorary Junior Chaplain: Our Father, we thank Thee for this great country of ours and for the sacrifice and service of our loved ones who have preserved it for us. Help us as Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary to continue loving service to those who have served and their families. Amen.

Honorary Junior President: Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the singing of our National Anthem, The Star-Spangled Banner.

Let us recite the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary. (If many of your members are younger, you may consider

reciting the ALA mission statement here and work with the girls to learn and understand our Preamble)

Honorary Junior President: I now declare the meeting of the Junior group of unit number _____ Department of _____regularly convened. (one rap of gavel)

Honorary Junior President: Welcome to all of you. I am so excited to be a Junior in the ALA. Our meetings will be short, but will follow protocol so we all learn to hold our meeting in the proper way.

Honorary Junior President: Our secretary will now read the minutes of the last meeting.

Honorary Junior Secretary: (read minutes)

Honorary Junior President: You have heard the minutes of our last meeting. Are there any corrections or additions? If not, the minutes will stand approved as read.

OR

(If there are corrections) The minutes will stand approved as corrected.

Honorary Junior President: At this time, our secretary will call the roll. Please share with us at that time anything you have been doing for The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, or for veterans, their families, or our community.

Honorary Junior Secretary: (Call each girl's name that is present. Each will give a short report of their activities since the last meeting).

Honorary Junior President: Is there any unfinished business? Is there any new business?

Honorary Junior President: If there is no further business to come before this meeting, the chaplain will lead us in prayer. (three raps of the gavel)

Honorary Junior Chaplain: Our Father, we thank Thee for the good works we have accomplished in this meeting and ask your guidance as we continue our service to veterans, servicemembers, and their families. Amen.

Honorary Junior President: Until we meet again, let us remember that our obligation to our country can only be fulfilled by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, state, and nation always be our objective. Let us always be watchful of our organization and ourselves, that nothing shall steer us from the path of justice, freedom, and democracy.

The colors are in place, so we will salute the colors by the numbers. “One (pause) Two.”

OR

The color bearers will retire the colors.

Honorary Junior President: (Once colors are all the way to the back of the room) I now declare this meeting adjourned. (rap gavel one time)

Sample Motion

Junior member: I move to have a holiday party for kids who have parents currently deployed. (Another Junior will need to second this motion.)

Honorary Junior President: It has been moved and seconded to have a holiday party for kids who have parents currently deployed. Is there any discussion? All those in favor say “Aye,” opposed “No.” Motion passes. (one rap of gavel)

CEREMONIES

These ceremonies are guides for your Junior program. They may be used as written or altered to suit your needs. We ask that the charges and the definitions or meanings in the ceremonies not be changed.

Initiation Ceremony

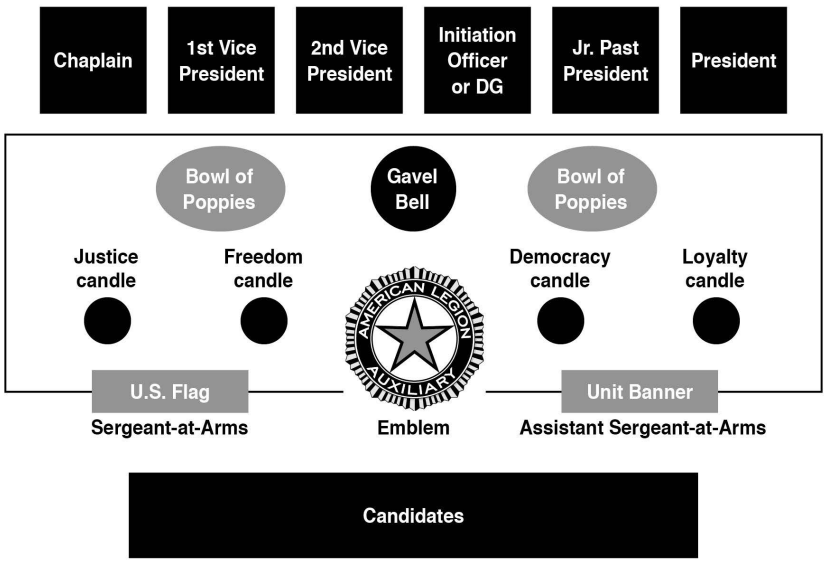
Initiation of members is an important function, but it is not mandatory for membership. There is no reason to hold the ceremony each time you get a new member. Just keep a list of those members who need to participate in this ceremony. The honorary Junior president should select the initiation officer.

An appropriate covering should be used on the unit president's table (perhaps a blue or gold tablecloth). Four candles in uniform holders should be placed on the table (these may be purchased anywhere). In addition, a bowl of poppies, one for each candidate, should be placed on the table along with sufficient copies of the ALA Unit Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules, Flag Code, small American flags, Auxiliary pins, and other materials you find useful for your new members.

Chairs should be place in a row in front of the table for your candidates. No formal attire or uniform is necessary.

The ceremony is of a serious nature. The diagram below shows the set-up of the table.

Initiation Ceremony Diagram



Initiation Officer: We shall proceed with the initiation ceremony. Please remain silent. (three raps of the gavel). Sergeant-at-arms, please present the Juniors for initiation. The chaplain will offer prayer.

Honorary Junior Chaplain: Let us pray. Our Heavenly Father, we ask Thy blessing upon these members who are being received into our group. May the principles and ideals taught by the American Legion Auxiliary inspire them to become loyal, patriotic American citizens. Help them to become true leaders working for the good of the community, state, and nation. Grant to them Thy loving care now and forever, Amen. (one rap of the gavel to seat everyone)

Initiation Officer: The American Legion Auxiliary cherishes four great principles: justice, freedom, democracy, and loyalty. They will now be explained.

Honorary Junior Vice President: I light the candle of justice. Justice makes no distinction between persons, races, and creeds. Justice is impartial, without anger, without malice. It is the guiding star of life and upon it rests the future of all nations.

I give you a copy of our Constitution, in which you will find a practical application of the ideals of justice. (Sergeant-at-arms pass out a copy of the constitution to all candidates).

Honorary Junior Secretary: From the candle of justice, I light the candle of freedom. Among the rights of mankind, freedom is the one held most dear. In the Revolutionary War, freedom was won for the people of the United States. In the Word Wars, it was the torch that led men through darkness of the conflict. This bell is a reproduction of the Liberty Bell which rang out the freedom of a new nation, and may it ever remind you that America is the cradle of freedom. The flag of the United States is the emblem of freedom. (Sergeant-at-arms will present each candidate with a small American Flag and a copy of the Flag Code).

Honorary Junior Treasurer: From the candle of freedom, I light the candle of democracy. Democracy is government of the people, by the people, and for the people. American democracy offers a voice in government to every citizen so that all may share in its benefits. Democracy can only exist where each person knows and accepts the responsibility of service to their community, state, and nation. The emblem of the American Legion Auxiliary is the emblem of democracy.

Honorary Junior President: From the candle of democracy, I light the candle of loyalty. Loyalty is one of the first requirements of a

citizen and is the cornerstone of the American Legion Auxiliary. Loyalty to God, Country, and self is the basis of true Americanism.

You have heard explained the four great principles of the American Legion Auxiliary. Are you willing to obligate yourself to the principles? If so, answer 'I am' (wait for the candidates to respond, rap gavel three times for audience to rise).

Honorary Junior President: You will raise your right hand and repeat after me, giving your name where I give mine. (/ indicates a pause for candidates to repeat)

I, _____ (name), do solemnly pledge/to be a loyal member of the American Legion Auxiliary/to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America/to maintain law and order/to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism/and to all of these things/I pledge myself to God and country. I am not a member of/and do not subscribe to/the principles of any group/opposed to our form of government. Hands down.

(At the conclusion of the obligation, all lights, except those of the four candles, shall be extinguished. Silence shall be observed for 10 seconds. Soft music may be played if available).

Without a cue, the Honorary Junior Chaplain shall call attention to the emblem. This may be a banner, pin, computer image, or picture.

Honorary Junior Chaplain: The emblem of the American Legion Auxiliary is your badge of distinction and honor. It stands for God and country and the highest rights of mankind. It consists of several parts and each part has a meaning. The rays of the sun forming the background stand for the principles of the American Legion Auxiliary; loyalty, justice, freedom, and democracy; dispelling the darkness of violence, strife, and evil. The unbroken circle of blue represents unity and loyalty. The field of white exemplifies the hope of freedom. The star of blue is the emblem of service in war; it is no less the emblem of service in time of peace.

The emblem of the American Legion Auxiliary is the emblem of Americanism. Americanism is the unity of love, singleness of allegiance, practicality of purpose, care of the distressed, and the education of children, all directed to the promotion of a common good. As members of this organization, we must preach and teach the principles of Americanism. Let us not forget that to each generation comes its patriotic duty and that upon your willingness to sacrifice and endure, as those before you have sacrificed and endured, rests the hope of the nation. (Lights are turned on and one rap of the gavel to seat the audience is given).

Initiation Officer: On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of _____, I welcome you to membership in this unit. May you enjoy your association with other members of this group and always be a loyal member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Installation of Junior Officers

Installation of Junior officers and choice of installing officer and chaplain are at the discretion of the unit. If it is a separate installation, ask the incoming honorary Junior president if she has someone special in mind to install her. This ceremony can take place during the installation of senior unit officers or as a separate event. Pins, badges, and ribbons may be used to make the ceremony as simple or as elaborate as desired. Consider inviting the entire American Legion Family to the installation to show support. It would be nice to offer refreshments following the installation, but this is not mandatory.

Unit President: We will now proceed with the installation of honorary Junior officers. The sergeant-at-arms will now present the installing officer and the installing chaplain. (Unit president, welcome the installing officer then be seated at the table).

Installing Officer: Sergeant-at-arms, please present the honorary Junior officers to be installed to the front of the room. (Sergeant-at-arms should call out each name, starting with the honorary Junior: President followed by the vice president, secretary, treasurer, chaplain, historian, and sergeant-at-arms and color bearers. The officers should face the installing officer as their name is called. Be sure a list has been provided).

Installing Sergeant-at-Arms: (Once all names have been called and are standing at the front of the room, say) Madam installing officer, I present to you the honorary Junior officers of this Junior group to be installed.

Installing Officer: You have been chosen to be an officer in your Junior group. I know you will make us proud of the trust that has been placed in you and will carry out the duties of your office to the best of your ability. Remember: The success of your group depends upon you. Learn your duties and perform them well. You will be guided by unit members and are encouraged to assist them when asked. You will uphold the ideals of the American Legion Auxiliary, which are justice, freedom, democracy, and loyalty.

You will now raise your right hand and repeat after me, giving your name where I give mine: (/ indicates a pause for officers to repeat)

I, _____ do solemnly pledge/to perform faithfully all the duties of the office/I am about to assume/and I further pledge/that I am not a member of/and do not subscribe to/the principles of any group/opposed to our form of government. Hands down.

Please take one step forward as I call your office. I will read your charge and you can take one step back.

Honorary Junior Sergeant-at-Arms (and color bearers if applicable): It is your duty to keep order at all meetings; to see that the flags are advanced, retired, and properly stored. Your attendance at meetings is important, as you are a valuable aide to the president. Congratulations.

Honorary Junior Historian: You are charged with the responsibility of recording the activities and accomplishments of this group. Attend all meetings and keep a neat and orderly history that will guide the footsteps of those who follow. Congratulations.

Honorary Junior Chaplain: You are the spiritual leader of the group. By your words and actions, you will represent our founding principles of service to God and country. You will give the opening and closing prayer at all meetings; provide prayer on special occasions and set a good example for other members. Congratulations.

Honorary Junior Treasurer: Your office is one of trust. You will keep a record of the monies of the group. When the group votes to approve the spending of money, with the agreement of your adviser, you will contact the senior treasurer for prompt payment. Any monies raised should be turned in to the senior treasurer immediately.

Honorary Junior Secretary: You will record the minutes of each meeting and assist the president with correspondence. Be prompt and accurate in recording actions taken at meetings. Congratulations.

Honorary Junior Vice President: You will work closely with the president for the success of this group. You will learn the programs and attend all meetings. Be prepared to conduct the Junior meeting in the absence of the president. The teachings of justice and freedom go with the office of honorary Junior vice president. Congratulations.

Honorary Junior President: Great trust has been bestowed upon you to fill the highest office in the Junior group. Under the guidance of your adviser, you will have the responsibility of leading the Juniors throughout the year. To you is entrusted the sacred duty of upholding the four great principles expressed in the Preamble to our Constitution: justice, freedom, democracy, and loyalty. Congratulations (rap gavel three times for audience to rise).

I congratulate this Junior group on the officers you have chosen. I have charged them with a serious responsibility and in turn, I charge you likewise. Will every Junior and senior member of this unit please raise your right hand and repeat after me?

I solemnly promise/to renew my pledge of service/to the American Legion Auxiliary/and to give wholehearted support/to these honorary Junior officers. Hands down

The installing chaplain will now offer prayer.

Installing Chaplain: Our Heavenly Father, we ask your blessing upon these newly installed officers. Guide them in their work as they lead us with ready hearts and willing hands in the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary in the path of service. Give them the wisdom to work closely with our Junior adviser and senior officers, make proper decisions and help them use their talents wisely. We pray for blessings on our unit members. Amen.

Installing Officer: (one rap of gavel to seat audience). Will the sergeant-at-arms please escort the retiring and newly installed honorary Junior presidents to the podium and seat the other officers?

_____ as the retiring honorary Junior president, you have come to the close of a very successful term. It has been an exciting experience for you and a successful one for your Junior group. You have fulfilled the duties as honorary Junior president admirably. As you leave this office, you take with you the appreciation of your Junior group and the entire senior unit. I pin over your heart the insignia of past honorary Junior president. May you always wear it with pride. (Allow outgoing president to bring short thank you greetings)

_____, as the newly installed honorary Junior president, I present to you this gavel, your symbol of authority. May you use it wisely and always in the best interest of our Junior group. I extend to you the congratulations of the senior unit

and the Department of _____ and wish for you a truly successful year. (Allow new president to bring short thank-you greetings)

Unit president: On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit _____, Department of _____, I thank all our new Honorary Junior officers for your willingness to serve. May you enjoy your term and always be a loyal member of the American Legion Auxiliary. This installation is complete. Thank you to all for coming.

Graduation Ceremony

A commemorative Junior member graduation certificate is available at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

This ceremony is for Juniors graduating from Junior to senior membership in the next administrative year or for those Juniors turning 18 before the completion of the current administrative year.

The table should be set up with four candles in uniform holders; graduation certificates; a copy of the unit Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules; an Auxiliary pin (can be indicating senior membership or perhaps a pin from the department president); and small poppy corsage for each graduate. Be sure there is adequate room for all graduating Juniors. Be sure the colors are posted.

Unit President: Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the Junior Activities chairman and all Juniors eligible for senior membership to the front of the room.

In the Junior Activities program, you have been given the opportunity to learn the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities in the American Legion Auxiliary, so you may understand and participate in the unit when you become senior members. May you always be a loyal and faithful member, helping to carry out the four great principles for which we are organized.

You are now eligible to join the ranks of senior membership of our great organization. May you use your leadership abilities to help carry out our program of service to our veterans, servicemembers, and our community.

First Vice President: I light the candle of justice. Justice is the highest code by which humanity is governed. True justice is the guiding star of life, upon rests the future of our nation.

Second Vice President: I light the candle of freedom. Freedom is among all of the rights of man and the one held most dear. You must

help keep America a free country, faithful to the ideals upon which it was founded.

Immediate Past Unit President: I light the candle of democracy. Democracy is government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Our American democracy will continue to exist only if our citizens know and accept their responsibilities to their community, state, and nation.

Secretary or Treasurer: I light the candle of loyalty. Loyalty is one of the most important requirements of a citizen. Loyalty to God, to Country, and to self is the basis of true Americanism.

Unit President: Will the Junior Activities chairman please present the names of the Juniors who are eligible for senior membership?

Junior Activities Chairman: Madam/Mister president, I have the honor of presenting (give each graduating Junior's name). They have served as Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit _____, Department of _____ and have attained the required age of 18. They are now eligible for senior membership.

Unit President: Your presence here indicates the trust our unit has placed in you as Junior members. Your membership as a senior will add additional strength to our unit and the Department of _____. I now declare you a senior member of the American Legion Auxiliary and take pride in presenting each of you with this certificate. (The president walks around the table and presents each graduate with her certificate. The sergeant-at-arms should follow with unit Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules for each graduate as well as a Unit Handbook).

(The Junior Activities chairman pins a poppy corsage on the left shoulder of each girl and presents her with an Auxiliary pin of the unit's choosing).

Unit President: (rap gavel three times for the audience to rise). The unit chaplain will now offer prayer.

Unit Chaplain: Let us pray. O God, as we participate in this graduation ceremony for these Juniors, we express our pride and satisfaction in having them as senior members of the American Legion Auxiliary. Help us guide them so Your name will be glorified through service to our Country and to You. Bless the American Legion Auxiliary as we carry out our programs of service to mankind. Grant that all of us may seek Your guidance throughout our lives. We pray this in Your Holy name. Amen.

Unit President: (one rap of the gavel to seat audience). On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of _____, I welcome you as senior members of this unit. May you enjoy your association with us and always be a loyal member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Congratulations.

Sergeant-at-arms, please escort these new senior members to their seats.

Memorial Service

This is the most solemn ceremony in the American Legion Auxiliary we sadly must perform. The Juniors should be quiet and reverent during this ceremony.

(Music may be played softly.)

Honorary Junior Chaplain: Precious God and Father of all mankind, we come to you with quiet minds and hearts to remember our deceased Juniors. Please be with us and give us strength to always remember these Juniors that came home to be with you. Amen.

Honorary Junior President: Death has entered our ranks and we pause to pay tribute to those Junior members who have passed to the Great Beyond this past year. We shall keep in hallowed memory the lives of these members whom we have loved and lost and their contributions to God and country. We shall strive to pattern our lives after their excitement of patriotism and their devotion to our veterans and servicemembers. We pledge to rededicate ourselves to the unfinished work which their hands began. We will miss them in this earthly life but know we will see them again when we are called home to be with You.

(Read the name of each lost Junior member. Place a flower in a basket or bowl or light a candle for each name).

The chaplain will offer prayer (three raps of the gavel for audience to rise).

Honorary Junior Chaplain: We give Thee thanks for the memories we have of our departed Junior member(s). O God, whose presence is everywhere and whose mercy never fails, may we always be pure and truthful, and learn day by day to know Thee better and to love Thee more. Amen.

(Taps, a solo, or a special religious hymn should be played here).

Honorary Junior President: This concludes our memorial service. (one rap of the gavel to seat the audience)

PRAYERS

Prayer is an important part of any Junior meeting, ceremony, or celebration. In the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary, we place God as our most important guide: "For God and country…". Please feel free to use these prayers or create your own. Prayers may also be found in the chaplain's prayer book, available through Emblem Sales at www.Emblem.Legion.org.

Before Meals

(Option 1) "Dear Lord, as we gather together, we take this time to thank You, for the food that has been prepared for us on this special day/evening. We thank the cooks and all who helped to make this meal wonderful. Amen."

(Option 2) "Dear God, thank you for the world so sweet. Thank you for the food we eat. Thank you for the birds that sing. Thank you, God, for everything. Amen."

(Option 3) "We thank Thee, O Lord, for this food and for all the blessings You have provided. Please bless all those who helped prepare this meal. Amen."

Mother's Day

We thank You, creator of us all, for our mothers. We thank You for the many things we have learned from them. Our mothers gave us faith, helping us to know You and to know Your loving ways. They taught us how to love and how to sacrifice for others. They taught us that it is OK to cry and that we should always stand for truth.

Bless our mothers with the graces You know they need today, tomorrow, and always. Help them feel precious in Your eyes today and to know that we love them as You love them. Give them strength and courage, compassion and peace. Bless our mothers this day and always with Your love. Amen.

Memorial Day

Dear God, may we honor and remember those who died that we might live in freedom. We remember our departed love ones who have gone to their Heavenly home before us. Those we honor will be a part of our lives forever.

O God, we are mindful of Your great love for us. We are thankful for that love. We praise You for the blessings of love and friendship, for our families and our homes as we live in peace and freedom. Amen.

Veterans Day

Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for this day with its opportunities for service. Grant us grateful hearts and minds for the freedoms we enjoy through Thy grace and mercy. Grant Thy comfort to families who have lost a loved one in service to America and sustain those veterans who bear the scars of war.

We thank Thee for sustenance and Thy guiding hand for friends, companions, and loved ones. Send Thy blessing upon our dear ones wherever they may be. To those in sorrow, reveal unto them the comfort and peace of Thy tender mercy. Help us all to be more constant in our praise and obedience to Thee. Amen.

Thanksgiving Day

Lord, thank You for Your everyday gifts to us. We have so much to be thankful for, not just on Thanksgiving Day, but each new day that You give us. We give You thanks, Lord.

Our prayers of Thanksgiving join those of our forefathers, God. You know the words we so often speak; but more than that, You know the secrets of our hearts. We thank You for this day.

Lord, we pray for peace in the world. We thank You for people who stand for truth and that which is right. Give Your blessing, Lord, to our veterans and servicemembers who have given and continue to give so much for our country's freedom. We remember those that have given the supreme sacrifice, for we pray they will never be forgotten. Be with us, we pray. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Dear God, as we gather here today, we ask for Your blessing upon this meeting. We ask that You give us the encouragement and thoughtfulness we need to fulfill our duties to the best of our ability. Give us a kind heart and tongue as we work together to serve our veterans, their families, and our communities. Please remember each one of our members that are not able to be with us. Bless the veterans and servicemembers who sacrificed and continue to sacrifice so much to keep our country strong and free. To all who are here today, give them Your special blessings. Dear God, we thank You that we never walk alone. Teach us to be tolerant of others as we seek to strengthen the bonds that bring us together for God and country. For all of Your blessings, we give You thanks. Amen.

Closing Prayer

We thank You, Lord, for the opportunity of being here to enjoy this day. We thank you for Your guiding hand, for friends, and for loved ones. Bless all our efforts for God and country.

Help us to fulfill our duties honestly and well and with kind hearts, whether it be at home, school, or for the American Legion Auxiliary. Grant Thy blessing on all members of the American Legion Auxiliary that we may continue to do good work. For all of Your blessings, we give You thanks, for we know we are all Your children. We ask for safety as you guide us home. Amen.

SONGS

The Star-Spangled Banner (National Anthem)

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner! Oh long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home
of the brave!

America

My country, 'tis of Thee,
Sweet Land of Liberty
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountain side
Let Freedom ring.

Our fathers' God to Thee,
Author of Liberty,
To thee we sing,
Long may our land be bright
With Freedom's holy light,

Protect us by thy might
Great God, our King.

America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

This is My Country

This is my country,
Land of my birth,
This is my country, grandest on earth.
I pledge thee my allegiance,
America, the bold,
For this is my country,
To have and to hold.

What difference if I hail from North or South or from the East or West?
My heart is filled with love for all of these.
I only know I swell with pride and deep within my breast
I thrill to see "Old Glory" paint the breeze.

This is my country,
Land of my birth,
This is my country, grandest on earth.
I pledge thee my allegiance,
America, the bold,
For this is my country,
To have and to hold.

God Bless the U.S.A.

If tomorrow all the things were gone
I'd worked for all my life,
And I had to start again
With just my children and my wife
I'd thank my lucky stars to be living here today,
'cause the flag still stands for freedom
And they can't take that away.

Chorus
And I'm proud to be an American
Where at least I know I'm free
And I won't forget the men who died
Who gave that right to me.
And I'd gladly stand up next to you
And defend her still today.
'cause there ain't no doubt I love this land
God Bless the U.S.A.

From the lakes of Minnesota,
To the hills of Tennessee,
Across the plains of Texas
From sea to shining sea,
From Detroit down to Houston
And New York to L.A.
Well, there's pride in every American heart, and it's time to stand and say.
Repeat chorus

You're a Grand Old Flag

You're a grand old flag,
You're a high flying flag
And forever in peace may you wave,
You're the emblem of the land I love,
The home of the free and the brave.
Every heart beats true for the
Red, White and Blue,
Where there's never a boast or brag,
Should auld acquaintance be forgot?
Keep your eye on the Grand Old Flag.

POEMS

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.
— Lt. Col. John McCrae (1872–1918)

FOR FUN

Banana Cheer

Bananas unite! Peel, banana. Peel, peel, banana.
Smash banana. Smash, smash banana.
And then you go, bananas! Go, go bananas!
You lean to the left. You lean to the right.
You peel your banana, and *UGH* take a bite!
Go bananas! Go, go bananas!
Go bananas! Go, go bananas!

Form the orange. Form, form the orange.
Peel the orange. Peel, peel the orange.
Squeeze the orange! Squeeze, squeeze the orange!

Form strawberries. Form, form strawberries.
Wash strawberries. Wash, wash strawberries.
Dip strawberries! Dip, dip strawberries!

Form potato. Form, form potato.
Peel potato. Peel, peel potato.
Mash potato! Mash, mash potato!

Form the corn. Form, form the corn.
Shuck the corn. Shuck, shuck the corn
Pop the corn! Pop, pop, the corn!

Form avocado. Form, form avocado.
Peel avocado Peel, peel avocado.
Guac-amole! Guac, guac-amole!

Form the house. Form, form the house.
Paint the house. Paint, paint the house.
Rock the house! Rock, rock the house!

Form the mullet. Form, form the mullet.
Gel the mullet. Gel, gel the mullet.
Rock the mullet! Rock, rock the mullet!

Form the ‘fro. Form, form the ‘fro.
Pick the ‘fro. Pick, pick the ‘fro.
Rock the ‘fro! Rock, rock the ‘fro!

Form the cow. Form, form the cow.
Tip the cow. Tip, tip the cow.
Have a cow! Have, have a cow!

Baby Shark

(Shark mouth with index finger and thumb)
Baby shark, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Baby shark, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Baby shark, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Baby shark.

(Shark mouth with hands connected at wrist) Momma shark, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Momma shark, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Momma shark, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Momma shark.

(Shark mouth with full arms)
Daddy shark, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Daddy shark, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Daddy shark, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Daddy shark.

(Same as Momma, but with fists instead of fingers to look like no teeth)
Grandma shark, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Grandma shark, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Grandma shark, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Grandma shark.

(Shark mouth with forearms)
Grandpa shark, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Grandpa shark, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Grandpa shark, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Grandpa shark.

(Swimming motion with arms)
Swam real fast, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Swam real fast, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Swam real fast, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Swam real fast.

(Faster swimming motion)
Not fast enough, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Not fast enough , Doh-doh, doh, doh
Not fast enough, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Not fast enough.

(Swimming motion with one arm)
Lost an arm, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Lost an arm, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Lost an arm, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Lost an arm.

(Hop on one leg, continue swimming with one arm)
And a leg, Doh-doh, doh, doh
And a leg, Doh-doh, doh, doh
And a leg, Doh-doh, doh, doh
And a leg.

(CPR motions on chest)
CPR, Doh-doh, doh, doh
CPR, Doh-doh, doh, doh
CPR, oh-doh, doh, doh
CPR

(Slap two fingers on your wrist)

It's not working, Doh-doh, doh, doh
It's not working, Doh-doh, doh, doh
It's not working, Doh-doh, doh, doh
It's not working

(Halo Motions)
Went to heaven, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Went to heaven, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Went to heaven, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Went to heaven

(Shark mouth with index finger and thumb)
Reincarnation, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Reincarnation, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Reincarnation, Doh-doh, doh, doh
Reincarnation

(Point to your bottom)
That's the end, Doh-doh, doh, doh
That's the end, Doh-doh, doh, doh
That's the end, Doh-doh, doh, doh
That's the end!!

Little Sally Walker
Little Sally Walker walking down the street.
She didn't know what to do so she stopped in front of me. She said 'Hey girl do your thing, do your thing and switch.'
(Repeat and do choreography)

Coast to Coast
From Coast to Coast
Juniors are the most
From Coast to Coast
Juniors are the most

Chorus
Na na na na na
Na na na na na na
Na na na na na na na
Na na na na na

From earth to mars, Juniors are the stars! *(Repeat)*

Repeat chorus

From east to west, Juniors are the best! *(Repeat)*
Repeat chorus

From North to south, Juniors rock the house! *(Repeat)*
Repeat chorus

From state to state, Juniors are really great! *(Repeat)*
Repeat chorus

From city to city, Juniors are really pretty! *(Repeat)*
Repeat chorus

From town to town, Juniors are getting down! *(Repeat)*
Repeat chorus

From America's dream, Juniors are the team! *(Repeat)*
Repeat chorus

The Crossover Game

Split into two lines facing each other and just cross when appropriate.

1. Crossover to the other side if you have ever been in a parade.
2. Crossover to the other side if you have been an Auxiliary member for more than five years.
3. Crossover if you have seen any of (insert popular series here) movies.
4. Crossover if you have seen all of (insert popular series here) movies.
5. Crossover if you have signed up a new Auxiliary member this year.
6. Crossover if you have attended ALA Girls State.
7. Crossover to the other side if you are in elementary school.
8. Crossover if you have served as an honorary Junior officer at the department level.
9. Crossover if you have a family member serving in the military today.
10. Crossover if they are overseas.
11. Crossover if you paint your fingernails.

12. Crossover if you paint your toenails.
13. Crossover if you like (insert popular musician here).
14. Crossover to the other side if you like broccoli.
15. Crossover to the other side if you plan on going to college.
16. Crossover to the other side if you know who our current national president is.
17. Crossover to the other side if you attended a national Junior meeting last year.
18. Crossover to the other side if you might be interested in joining the military.
19. Crossover to the other side if you have a Facebook page.
20. Crossover to the other side if you own a tablet.
21. Crossover to the other side if you put new music on your tablet or phone before you came to this meeting.
22. Crossover if you helped your unit help a veteran this summer.
23. Crossover if you are on an organized sports team.
24. Crossover to the other side if you shopped for new clothes for this Junior meeting.
25. Crossover if your mom served in the military.
26. Crossover to the other side if you helped distribute poppies this year.
27. Crossover to the other side if you know who The Beatles are.
28. Crossover to the other side if you like to go barefoot.
29. Crossover to the other side if you have an immediate family member who is a Legion Rider.
30. Crossover to the other side if you learned something new about your new friends here.

Positive Reinforcement

This is a great way to show students what positive reinforcement is and demonstrates this principle of leadership for them.

Explain to the Juniors that we are only going to use positive reinforcement by clapping for a student who does what we expect.

Send one Junior out of the room.

The rest of the group decides what the action will be. (Examples: walk to a cupboard and open the door, look under an object, walk around the room.)

Have the class clap when the Junior looks in that direction, and continue clapping until she gets to the object. If he/she turns the wrong way there is no reinforcement and the Juniors stop clapping.

The more times you play, the better they will become and the more difficult the task may be.

Start simple.

Contact:

Looking for more ideas? Contact your district, county, department, and then division chairmen. Email the national chairman at JuniorActivities@ALAforVeterans.org.

APPENDIX

HOW TO SERVE VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES AS A JUNIOR MEMBER

Ever wonder how Juniors can make a difference for our veterans and military servicemembers? Listed below are some ideas for how to help veterans, active military, National Guard, Reserve, and their families. Some of these activities may help Juniors earn patches in the ALA Junior Patch Program (discussed in this handbook). Check the appropriate program level requirements.

1. **Show new military children around your school.**
    a. Contact a guidance counselor or principal at school. Tell them you are a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Explain that we are the largest women's patriotic service organization in the world and that our mission is helping veterans, military, and their families. Tell them you would like to assist in showing new military children around the school and help them if they have a question.
2. **Help children in your school understand the special circumstances of a military child, tell them who we are and what we do, and reach out to the military kids.**
    a. Ask a guidance counselor or principal to help you gather a small group of students who would be interested in helping military kids adjust to new surroundings or help them with anything special they may need if a parent or sibling is currently deployed or will be deployed. Hold a meeting with these students explaining the volunteer work you do and how much you admire the sacrifices of our military heroes and their families. Remind them that it is not only the military servicemembers who serve, but their families too. Ask these students to reach out to students who may be missing a parent or worried about a deployed parent or sibling. Be sure to meet again to share any information the students may have so you can work as a team to support these kids.
    b. You may know some students personally who are part of a military family. Reach out to those kids first. Ask them how they are doing. Let them know you are a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and you want to help the student and the family in any

way you can. Many times, the kids are not comfortable sharing that they have a deployed family member. Allow them time to get to know you. Just spend time with them. As you gain their trust, they will feel more comfortable asking for help.

c. If you don't know any kids in your school who may have a deployed family member, ask the counselor or principal if they can help identify these students. Due to privacy laws, the school may not be able to share this information. Don't give up. Use your outgoing personality to meet people and find those kids who need that extra friend during a difficult time for the family.

d. Other ways to identify a military child: Do they wear a lot of camouflage clothing or carry camouflage bags? Do they display flags and/or yellow ribbons on their lockers? Are there special markings on a car that drops them off or picks them up?

3. Write thank-you letters

a. Contact a nursing home or VA home near your unit. Ask how many veterans live there. Then, get other Juniors in your unit or friends from school to write thank you letters to them. Be sure to tell them how much you appreciate their service and sacrifice they gave for our country.

b. Be sure you remember the female veterans as well.

c. Perhaps you could include a personally drawn picture of a flag or a poppy.

d. Consider placing a poppy in each thank-you letter.

4. Collect items for Give 10 to Education

a. Have your Junior group collect items for military kids in your school or community. Don't forget the kids of our National Guard and Reserve!

b. Try to expand your project to include the kids in your school. The more items collected, the more kids you can help.

c. Remember: It does not have to be anything expensive. It can be 10 pencils, 10 erasers, 10 boxes of crayons, anything! Get creative!

d. Include your school counselor or principal. Ask them if they can assist in getting the items to the students in the school.

5. **Help with events going on in your local American Legion Family**
    a. If you know of events that will be taking place, contact the person in charge of the event and offer your help.
    b. Perhaps you can help set up before the event or help serve.
    c. Volunteer to help make the decorations. Try to incorporate the poppy in your decoration.
    d. If there are folks who need assistance carrying their dishes, that is a great job for a Junior!
    e. Consider coming to visit with the veterans. They love to share their experiences with someone who is willing to listen.
    f. Again, be creative with how you can help.
6. **Inform the high school counselor about all scholarship opportunities available from The American Legion Family**
    a. Encourage them to go to www.ALAforVeterans.org and www.Legion.org for more information on eligibility and requirements.
    b. Encourage the school to invite the appropriate American Legion Family member to awards night at the school to announce and award any scholarships.
7. **Participate in the Veterans History Project (grade 10 and above)**
    a. Capture a piece of history by interviewing a veteran in your community.
    b. Go to www.loc.gov/vets to find out how you can participate.
8. **Become a student volunteer at your local Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)**
    a. Ask permission from your parent or guardian to become a student volunteer at a veterans' hospital or VA facility in your area.
    b. Contact your local Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) for opportunities in your community.
    c. Go to www.volunteer.va.gov/StudentProgram.asp for instructions to apply.
    d. Speak with the VA&R chairman of your unit or department to let them know you are interested in volunteering.

HOW TO INCORPORATE MISSION-RELATED PROJECTS INTO JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

To instill a commitment to volunteerism and awareness of the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary, each department and unit is encouraged to incorporate mission focused projects into their Junior Activities program —the focus being veterans, military, and their families.

1. **Adopt a military family with a deployed family member.**
    a. Work with your American Legion post or local Veterans Affairs office to identify a family in your community.
    b. The Junior Activities chairman should contact a family and introduce themselves as well as introduce the American Legion Auxiliary and explain our mission.
    c. Ask if you and a small group of Juniors can meet with the family to find out how the Juniors can help. Check to see if a seasoned member needs to be present for the family's comfort level or if Juniors can do the work on their own.
    d. Once the family agrees and you know the needs, create a calendar that specifies when Juniors will be at the home, how long they can stay, what they will be doing, and how many Juniors will be assisting.
    e. Be sure the family has the Junior Activities chairman's contact information as well as a copy of the calendar.
    f. Let the Juniors know that this is their project and their responsibility to follow through on their assignments. Be sure you have back up Juniors scheduled in case something does happen that a Junior can't make it.
    g. Suggested activities for the Juniors would be mowing the lawn, planting flowers in the yard or in flower boxes, cleaning the house, babysitting (for an evening out or just for a short respite from the kids), or washing the car.
    h. Be sure you assign age appropriate Juniors for the assigned task.
    i. Have a start and an end date set clearly with the family. If you feel the need to continue the services once the deployed family member is home, you can work something out with the family.

2. Make poppy wreaths or poppy plates

a. Review the history of the poppy with the Juniors. A book titled The Poppy Lady is an excellent resource.
b. Explain how the assembly of the poppy is used as therapy for the veterans. Let them know that the veteran receives a small amount of money for each poppy made.
c. Talk with them about National Poppy Day®, the distribution of poppies, and how the money given during distribution must be used.
d. Have the Juniors create a poppy wreath on a paper plate. These can be distributed for donations in their post. This is a way for the Juniors to see how the money they receive can be used.
e. Create a poppy wreath as a Junior group for display. You will need a floral wreath form (either Styrofoam or grapevine), poppies to build the wreath, and a ribbon to place on the wreath.
    i. Obtain your poppies from the post, unit, or squadron from previous years. Leftover poppies from previous years can only be used for decoration purposes. If you don't have enough within your family, reach out to your department office.
    ii. Be sure to remove all labels from the poppies.
    iii. If using Styrofoam, you will need to apply a floral wire or floral picks to each poppy before placing them in the wreath.
    iv. If using a grapevine wreath, the poppies can be placed and when all poppies are placed, you can wrap the stems around the vine.
    v. Allow each Junior to apply her wire/pick to the poppy, fluff the poppy, and place in the wreath. When the girls are placing their poppy, have them share for what veteran or servicemember they are placing the poppy.
    vi. Create a beautiful bow to apply somewhere on the wreath.
    vii. Place the wreath somewhere in the community. For example, a veterans' memorial, the Statehouse, the community building, or even on the door of the post. Be sure you label the wreath as given by the American Legion Auxiliary Juniors, Unit _____.

3. Mail for veterans and servicemembers

a. Many veterans and active military do not receive mail on a regular basis. Take the time to write them a note to let them know we are grateful for their service and we support them.
b. You may write letters or postcards. If you plan to keep it brief, a postcard is a better choice.
c. When starting the letter address the reader as Dear veteran, Dear servicemember, or Dear American hero. Remember: If you address it to “soldier”, that is a term used in the Army and your letters may go to a different branch of service.
d. Be sure the Juniors do not sign their names or provide personal addresses. They should just be signed as “Grateful Junior member of the American Legion Auxiliary” and perhaps their first name.
e. When you send the letters, be sure to include an ALA emblem and name and address for return mail and to let them know who is writing the letters.
f. For security reasons, it is best not to put the letters in individual envelopes when sending letters to servicemen and women abroad.
g. If you take the letters to a local military installation or National Guard base, they can mail your letters. If you know someone personally in the military, you can address the box of letters or postcards to that servicemember and they can distribute them to their fellow servicemembers.
h. If you send the photos to a known servicemember, ask for a photo of the group with their letters. The Juniors can then see how much the letters mean to them.
i. Provide the girls with some patriotic stickers to add a personal flair to their letter.
j. Avoid the use of glitter.

There are many other projects you can do with your Juniors to emphasize our mission. Please share any ideas you have with other Junior groups. If we work together, we can be sure our organization and our mission will be recognized and more veterans and servicemembers will be served.

MILITARY CHILD'S TABLE SETTING CEREMONY

C&Y chair (or Youth #1):

We will begin today with a ceremony to honor our military children.

Our United States military members answer the call to service every day as they defend freedom around the world. That service often comes at a great personal sacrifice, not only for the servicemember, but also for their family, their children.

When an Air Force officer was asked what he needed in Iraq, he said, “Please don’t send cookies, care packages, or socks. Just help take care of our children.” Our country has always supported its military in times of war through community efforts. We have a great capacity to care for the home front. Now is the time for a new victory garden. In this garden, we can tend to the needs of the military child.

Today we would like to present to you the Military Child’s Table Setting, inspired by the POW/MIA ceremony to honor the sacrifices and contributions of our military children.

The Potted Flowering Plant symbolizes that they may flower and flourish where planted.

Youth #2

Enters carrying Potted Flowering Plant and sets on table.

C&Y chair (or Youth #1):

The Hand Spade recognizes that they may be transplanted to a new location any place in the world at a moment’s notice, where they become fully immersed in the culture, make new friends, and acclimate themselves to a new school.

Youth #3

Enters carrying Hand Spade and sets on table.

C&Y chair (or Youth #1):

The Birthday Cake and Unlit Candles…

Baseball Glove and Ball…

And Ballet Slippers represent the fact that sometimes special occasions are missed by one or both parents while serving their country.

Youth #4, 5 & 6

Enter carrying Birthday Cake and Unlit Candles…

Baseball Glove and Ball…

and Ballet Slippers and set on table.

C&Y chair (or Youth #1):

The Family Photo depicting a child or children with their uniformed parent represents the foundation of our country's strength…

Youth #7

Enters carrying Family Photo and sets on table.

C&Y chair (or Youth #1):

Families united in their commitment to national service and willing to make any sacrifice, both at home and abroad…

To ensure that our flag continues to fly free.

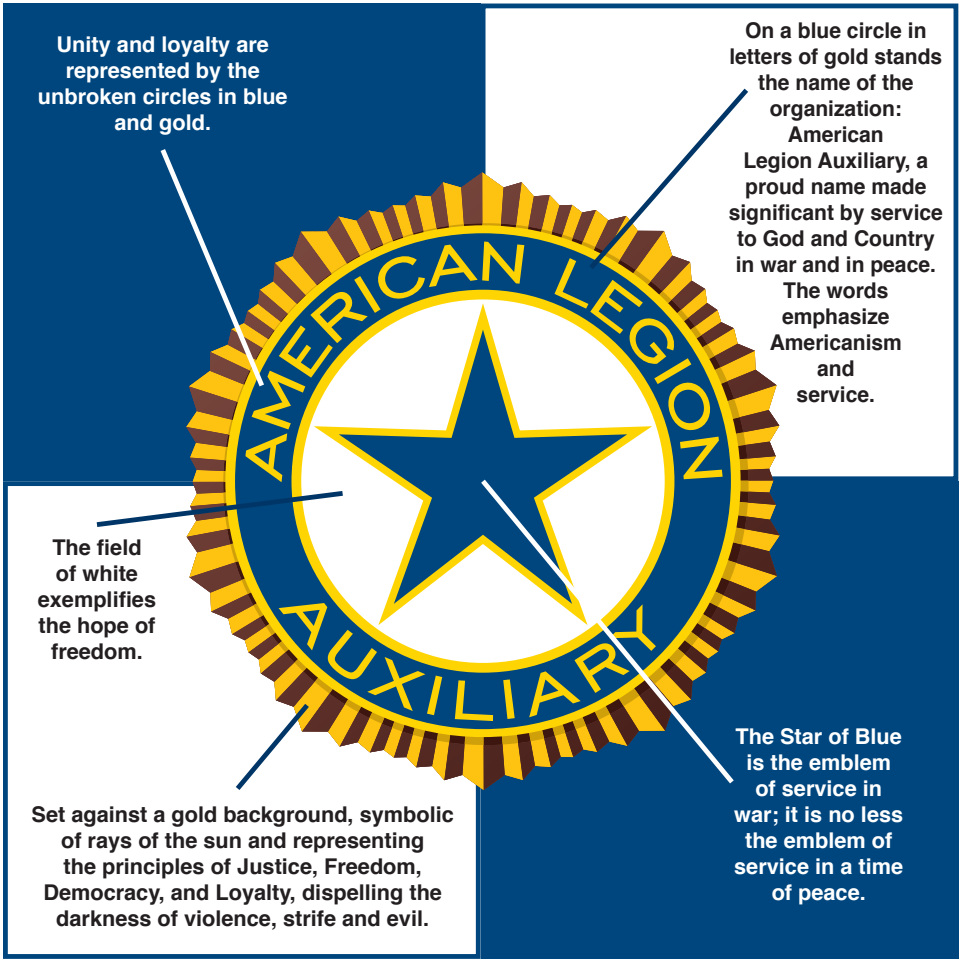
Youth #8

Enters carrying US Flag and sets on table.

ALL

Amen.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY EMBLEM:



When the American Legion Auxiliary was formed in 1919 to support the work of The American Legion, one of its first acts was to adopt an emblem similar to that of the Legion, yet distinctive and true to the work of the Auxiliary. Under this emblem, the Auxiliary has worked with the Legion in constructive service to country, America's veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

For more information about the American Legion Auxiliary, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org.

American Legion Auxiliary
Mission:

In the spirit of Service Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.

For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

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