CHILDREN & YOUTH

CITATION OF MERIT

Department of OHIO

REQUIREMENT

CHAIRMAN
Kristen McLaughlin
6810 Big Creek Pkwy.
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VICE CHAIRMAN
Marilyn Holdheide
1974 Hartings Rd.
Maria Stein, OH 45860

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REPORT DUE TO DISTRICT CHAIRMAN BY: MAY 1, 2027

REPORT DUE TO DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN BY: MAY 15, 2027

District Children and Youth Chairmen

District Chairmen									
DNO	Unit	First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	Postal Code	Cell Phone	Email Address
01	553	MARYBETH	PARKER	6853 Deer Ridge Rd. Apt. 35	MAUMEE	OH	43527	(419) 344-4236	Mbparker58@yahoo.com
02	178	ERIN	FINFROCK	16399 State Rt. 114	GROVER HILL	OH	45849	(419) 39-0783	Erinfinfrock4@gmail.com
03	775	Judy	Roweton	702 Greenhurst Dr.	Vandalia	OH	45377	(937) 239-1698	Queen2007@att.net
04	615	KATIE	MACKOWAY	8353 Lytle Ferry Rd.	WAYNESVILLE	OH	45068	(513) 255-7699	kmackoway@yahoo.com
05	535	JORDAN	SMITH	4763 POSSUM RUN RD.	BELLVILLE	OH	44813	(419) 631-0044	jsmith450009@gmail.com
06	518	HOPE	EATON	3964 COUNTY RD. 217	MARENGO	OH	43334	419-210-6088	Hopeeaton90@gmail.com
07	062	CARI	STEINBROOK	531 N. HIGH ST	CHILLOCOTHE	OH	45601	(740) 804-7924	caristeinbrook@gmail.com
08	021	DARCI	ROGERS	51720 SR-246	LONG BOTTOM	OH	45243	(740) 416-7353	darcibissell@yahoo.com
09	214	MARIBETH	HANNON	287 E. 235TH St.	EUCLID	OH	44123	(216) 408-6284	scarfitup@att.net
10	557	MELISSA	COCHRAN	44175 HAMMOND SCHOOL RD	WELLSVILLE	OH	43968	(330) 708-0598	melissascott42@yahoo.com
11	090	ROBYN	MISNER	624 BOND AVE.	BARNESVILLE	OH	43713	(740) 238-0807	Robyndq@sbcglobal.net
12	171	SHEILA	NOCKS	8060 SCHOTT RD	WESTERVILLE	OH	43081	(614) 563-4798	sheilanocks@yahoo.com
13	091	STACEY	LEHMANN	41 HENRY ST	BEREA	OH	44017	(440) 465-3868	stacey_m15@hotmail.com
14	449	KAREN	PEEL	2216 25th ST SW	AKRON	OH	44314	(330) 962-0738	karen.peel@sk2holdings.com

Department Report Form

This Form should be attached to each narrative submitted for information, Citation of Merit requirements and possible Department award. Please fill out the information completely and accurately. A Unit must submit this report form with boxes completed and answer the questions below to earn the Citation of Merit. Narrative word count must follow directions given in award guidelines. Simple or elaborate stories will be accepted as a report.

Please complete the following with the complete name of your Unit: _____

District: _____	Unit #: _____	Unit Membership Goal: _____	Unit Membership Total as of Report: ____
Name of Person Completing Report:		Unit Chair	Unit President
Phone #		Email:	Membership ID (if available)
Specific Award Name (if applicable)			

Narrative Deadline: May 15, 2027

Narrative Guidelines:

Narrative must be typed written in narrative form.
Narrative must not exceed 1,000 words. (Can be fewer words if program dictates)
Narrative may include photographs and news articles.

Answer the following Questions in your narrative.

If you are doing a narrative, please include the following answers in the narrative. Also include the money spent, the hours, volunteers, and the number of children served for each question.

Questions for Narrative

What did your Unit do to promote awareness to protect, care for, and support children and youth? (Examples: Bullying, youth suicide, drug safety, Halloween safety, violence safety) How much did you spend?

_____
_____
_____
_____

What did you do to support/help the homeless/needy children in your community? How much did you spend and how many children did you help? _____

_____
_____
_____

Did you nominate any children for the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award? If so, how many nominations of each? Did you honor those you nominated? If so, what did you do to honor the nominated children? How did your Unit find children/youth to nominate?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Questions for Narrative continued:

Did your Unit participate in the Kids of Deployed Heroes 2 (KDH2) honoring military children? If so, what did your Unit do to participate? _____

_____

_____

Did you participate in National Military Children April 15th? Did you promote to others to wear purple April 15th? If so, then how did you promote wearing purple to others?

_____

_____ _____

Did you do other activities to support military and veterans' children? If yes, state what you did to support military and veterans' children.

_____

_____

How did your Unit support the American Legion Children & Youth program (Example - Child Well Being Foundation, American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation, National Family Week Nov. 24-30, 2026, and April Children & Youth month). Please list your money spent and time volunteered.

_____

_____

_____

What other activities did your Unit do to support Children and Youth that aren't listed above? (Examples: Parties, drive-in events, auctions, dinners, etc.) How much did you spend and how much time did you volunteer?

_____

_____

_____

What children's service charities did your Unit donate to and how much did you donate? How many children were served? _____

Below is the portion of the Unit Impact Report Form National is requiring Departments to report. The line numbers reference the Member/Unit Impact Report which will be included in the Kit of Reports.

1. **Our ALA Service for Youth**

	Service for Children & Youth	Obtain Total From	Member +	Unit =	Total
Line 13	Total hours for other Legion Family youth activities	*Member Form Line 9*		N/A	
Line 14	Dollars spent on goods for youth activities	*Member Form Line 10*	$	$	$
Line 15	Dollar amount of direct cash aid to help a needy child	*Member Form Line 11*	$	$	$
Line 16	All other **UNIT** expenses (parties, dinners, paper goods, trophies)	***Unit Records***	N/A	$	$
Line 17	Total number of children/youth served	*Member Form Line 12*			
Line 18	Donations to all other child service charities	*Member Form Line 13*	$	$	$

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Get Involved

Purpose: The purpose of the Children & Youth Committee is to work collaboratively with The American Legion to promote programs that protect, care for, and support children and youth, especially those of our military and veterans. Standing Rules 6, Core National Standing Committees

The Children & Youth program emphasizes protecting, caring for, and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans' and military families.

- Wear purple April 15 in honor of Purple Up! Day for Military Kids.
- **OHIO** – Your Unit could conduct contests at school or among your members at the April meeting. Make it a fun project/contest.
- Perform the Military Child Table ceremony at a unit meeting or in your community.
- **OHIO** – Set up the Military Child Table at a meeting or a dinner open to the public. Make a display board to explain the meaning of the items on the table. Also, perform the Military Child Table Ceremony at Unit meetings or in the community. You can get Juniors involved with the ceremony.
- Contact your local churches, homeless shelters, and food pantries to identify homeless veterans' children. Ask what their specific needs are and offer them your services as an ALA member.
- Contact your local news sources (newspaper, community television, community websites, and social media accounts) and town council with an offer to give a presentation about you and your unit's work for veterans and military children.
- Plan a special celebration for children during the month of April in honor of Children & Youth Month and Month of the Military Child (#momc).
- Host a dinner, game night, or community fair, etc., that will bring military and non-military families together.

To recognize and reward the positive actions of our children and youth, the American Legion Auxiliary has two special national awards bestowed to youth nominated by units: the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award.

- Watch your socials and local media for possible nominations of students.
- **OHIO** – Contact schools, church pastors/groups, youth organizations, and home-schooled groups for possible students to nominate.
- Use the online form to submit your nomination.
- Invite your winners to a unit meeting to present the award to them.
- Contact your local media and submit a press release regarding the award presentation.
- More information: https://member.legion-aux.org/youth-hero-good-deed-awards

Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2) is an initiative honoring military children who may be experiencing separation from one or both parents, whether deployed to a war zone, having a short tour, or on an extended temporary duty assignment.

- Volunteer at a Family Readiness Group event where KDH2 "I'm a Hero 2" buttons/stickers can be distributed.

Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2) continued:

- Host a KDH2 celebration with recognition buttons/stickers to let military kids know we appreciate their sacrifices.
- More Information: https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/children-and-youth/recognize-kids-of-active-military

The American Legion Auxiliary Children & Youth program strives to support and promote the Children & Youth program of The American Legion.

- Work with your post to organize celebrations for the youth in your community. Host an Easter egg hunt, a Christmas party, or a family movie night, etc.
- Work with your post to cross-promote youth programs. Invite Legionnaires to speak at a unit meeting about Legion Boys State, Legion Baseball, Oratorical Contest, etc. Speak at a post meeting about ALA Girls State, Junior Activities, etc.
- **OHIO** – Stive to embrace children and youth every season.

CHILDREN & YOUTH RESOURCES

- Children & Youth National Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAChildrenandYouth/
- ALA National website: https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/children-and-youth
- Emblem Sales: https://emblem.legion.org
- The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (ALCWF) www.cwf-inc.org

Year-End Report

Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the department and may result in a national award for participants if award requirements are met. **Each Unit Children & Youth chairman is recommended to submit a narrative report by May 1, 2027, to the District Children & Youth Chairman.** (addresses on front of POA)

NATIONAL AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINE

Most Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program Award – one per division.

DEPARTMENT AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINES

NOTE: The Annual Report Forms must be sent to your **District** Children & Youth Chairman. Reports are due by **May 1, 2027**. You are highly encouraged to send photos of your Unit conducting Children & Youth activities and promoting the program. We hope to highlight your Units and its members during the Department Convention. Please send along with your narratives, photos, and clippings.

The **District Chairmen** Annual Reports are due to Department Children & Youth Chairman and is due by **May 30, 2027**.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Group 1	10-50 members	Group 2	51-100 members
Group 3	101-200 members	Group 4	201-400 members
Group 5	401-600 members	Group 6	601 and up

Leta Zeller Plaque – This plaque will be presented at Department Convention to the District President with the "Highest Percentage" of Units contributing to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation by June 1st. Department Headquarters will calculate all donations and determine winner.

Miriam Junge Plaque – This plaque will be presented at Department Convention to the Unit Chairman promoting the most outstanding report for the "Best Year-Round Children & Youth Program." All entries are to be sent by **May 1, 2027**, to **District Children & Youth Chairman**. District Chairman will send all entries to Department Chairman by **May 30, 2027**, along with report forms.

Youth Hero Award
Youth Hero Award winners receive a medal and a certificate.

- Any child under the age of 18 is eligible. May be a Junior Auxiliary member or someone eligible for membership, but eligibility is not a criterion for consideration.
- Demonstrates a physical act of valor (Heimlich, CPR, first aid, rescuing from fire or water peril)
- Serves as an inspirational role model for the organization and the community.

Good Deed Award
Good Deed Award winners receive a certificate.

- Any child under the age of 18 is eligible. May be a Junior Auxiliary member or someone eligible for membership, but eligibility is not necessary for consideration.
- Donates time and/or money for a worthy cause (such as troop support, raising money to help homeless veterans, a food drive, etc.)

Nomination Form
Go to alaforveterans.org under Children & Youth Program and complete the Nomination Form online to submit. Be sure to include news articles, pictures, and any other pertinent information to show Youth Hero and Good Deed recipients in action.

Share a favorite story on the Children and Youth Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAChildrenandYouth/

Thank you for taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission! Your story may inspire another member into service. It also helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter.