Ohio Unit Plan of Action



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

CHAIRPERSON
Brandy Little
6158 Licking Valley Rd.
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2nd MEMBER
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3964 County Road 217
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3rd MEMBER
Aheva White
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District Junior Activities Chairman

REPORT DUE TO DISTRICT CHAIRMAN BY:	**APRIL 15, 2027**
REPORT DUE TO DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN BY:	**MAY 1, 2027**

Award/Project due dates vary based upon submission to district and department chairman. Projects due to district chairman have a due date of April 15th. Projects due to department chairman have a due date of May 1st.

District Chairmen

DNO	UNO	First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	Postal Code	Cell Phone	Email Address
01	262	Colleen	Phillips	C-032 CO Rd. 8B	Hamler	OH	43524	(419) 439-0526	ckphillips43524@gmail.com
02	813	Mona	Shipley	632 S. Elizabeth St.	Lima	OH	45804	(410) 204-8832	Shipley813@yahoo.com
03	707	Sandy	Hutchinson	1743 Rosina Dr.	Miamisburg	OH	45342	(937) 238-2040	Sandra.hutchinson723@gmail.com
04	615	Denise	Hartzell	8784 Oregonia Rd.	Waynesville	OH	45068	(937) 238-4277	Denisehart3470@yahoo.com
05		Cindy	Perkins			OH		(567) 224-6358	Roncin4@hotmail.com
06	764	Brandy	Little	6158 Licking Valley Rd.	Frazeysburg	OH	43822	(740) 644-9462	unit764ala@gmail.com
07	633	Sandy	Grooms	135 Columbia St.	Seaman	OH	45679	(937) 892-0400	s_grooms_219@yahoo.com
08	376	Betty	Harris	103 Summit St.	Somerset	OH	43783	(740) 408-0629	bettyharr2141@yahoo.com
09									
10	436	Connie	Morton	11022 Kent Ave. NE	Hartville	OH	44632	(330) 354-6001	cjsmorton@hotmail.com
11	038	Leiann	Cline	72894 Pleasant Grove	Dillonvale	OH	43917	7403913105	leianncline@gmail.com
12	144	Kay	Hayman	2649 McComb Rd.	Grove City	OH	43123	(614) 537-4359	kaybh@juno.com
13	627	Michelle	Bolin	4300 Bridgeview Ave.	Newburg Heights	OH	44105	(216) 253-2101	ala627.bolin@gmail.com
14		Kathy	Burkhammer	885 Polk Ave.	Akron	OH	44314	(330)738-8552	Lovemyangelsof2@yahoo.com

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

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 to District by April 15, 2027.
Narrative Deadline to Department by May 1, 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.

What did your Unit do to maintain/obtain new Junior members? _____

_____

How did your Juniors participate in Unit activities? What were the Juniors' duties for those activities?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

What did your Unit do to mentor the Junior members leading them into Senior membership? _____

_____

_____

How did your Unit/Juniors participate in the Star-Spangled Kids program? What did your Unit do to promote the Conference Covers for the 75th Department Junior Convention with your Juniors? How did your Unit promote the Americanism Essay contest with your Juniors? How did your Unit promote the Poppy Posters Contest? _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Get Involved

Purpose: The purpose of the Junior Activities Committee is to inspire active participation in members aged 17 and under so they become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood. *Standing Rule 6, National Committees – Mission Outreach*

Inspire active participation in members age 17 and under so they will become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood.

- Mission-related:
  - Distribute poppies with assistance from senior members.
  - Organize and participate in service projects and fundraising projects.
  - Offer computer/technology help to veterans with assistance from senior members. See article from Auxiliary magazine on Veterans Tech Support, plus more information here: **https://veteranstechsupport.com.**
  - Offer help to military families and help military kids entering a new school.
- Leadership training:
  - Shadow senior member officers at meetings and hold an appropriate unit office.
  - Post colors at senior meetings, conferences, and conventions.
  - Lead opening ceremonies (the Pledge, prayers, National Anthem, ALA Preamble).
  - Shadow senior chairmen and assist with their program plans.
  - Ask Senior members to let Junior members help facilitate the Senior meeting. Have Junior officers sit with Senior officers to learn and participate in helping to run the meeting. Give them an active role in the meeting at all levels.
  - Promote ALA scholarship benefits of remaining a member.
  - Encourage Juniors to attend their ALA Girls State program the summer between their junior and senior years of high school.
- Encourage Junior members to attend meetings and invite their friends. Encourage Unit members to sign up to their children/grandchildren.
- Include Junior information in newsletter, including membership and activities.
- Hold a Junior Membership Drive and encourage Seniors and Juniors to join the American Legion Auxiliary together.

Build the Junior Activities program one member at a time by giving Junior members a voice and opportunity to participate.

- Plan mission-related activities that are interesting and inspiring to Juniors.
- Participate in Wreaths Across America wreath-laying ceremonies.
- Hold graduation ceremonies to recognize Juniors who will move to ALA senior membership status.
- Pay first year of senior membership to encourage retention.
- Share information about the ALA's scholarship programs
  - Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship
  - Spirit of Youth
  - Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship
  - Samsung Scholarships
- Pair older Juniors with less experienced Juniors to promote mentorship.

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Promote and encourage Junior participation in the ALA's national Junior Member of the Year award.

- There will now be five division Junior Members of the Year.
- Of those five division winners, a national Junior Member of the Year will be chosen.
- Four division winners will receive a $1,000 scholarship. The national winner will receive a $5,000 scholarship, plus invited to the ALA's National Convention.
- This scholarship is to reward ALA Junior members who are contributing to the organization and our mission, with a long-term goal of increasing Junior participation.

Promote and encourage Junior participation in the ALA Patch Program to teach them about the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

- Work on the Patch Program at unit meetings. Include senior members to educate Juniors about the importance of participation in the Patch Program and as a way for Juniors to learn about ALA programs.
- Provide year (1st, 2nd 3rd) attachments to Juniors who have achieved a patch at the same level for more than one year.
- Work with Sons of The American Legion (SAL) squadron leaders to inform them of the opportunity for young SAL members to participate in the ALA Patch Program.
- **OHIO** - Mentor the Juniors so that they can complete the requirements to earn the patches during the District and Department meetings. Schedule a special meeting so Juniors can do what needs to be done, i.e., recite pledge, talk about the meaning of preamble, read excerpts to earn various patches, invite community people in to talk about safety, write letters or thank you notes to various people for good things, take some on field trips to nursing homes, schools, or library to complete patch requirements, etc.

Make Junior meetings fun and informative.

- Explore mission service and how they can impact our mission at each meeting.
- Encourage friendships and mentoring by planning fun team-building activities (games, learning Junior songs, etc.) and/or provide age-appropriate crafts.
- Highlight the numerous ALA learning opportunities available to members in the ALA Academy, including the ALA Juniors eLearning Courses
- **OHIO** - When planning Junior Meetings, talk with Juniors to see what they would like to do at their meetings for a social piece. Plan activities that are fun, yet engaging, teach about ALA and our mission, and be sure that your meeting is age appropriate for everyone.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES RESOURCES

- Junior Activities National Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/alajuniors/
- Junior Activities Instagram page: https://www.instagram.com/alajuniors/
- ALA National website: https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/junior-member-activities

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Year-End Reports

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. Narrative should include photos and/or news articles. **Each Unit Junior Activities chairman is required to submit a narrative report by April 15, 2027, to the District Junior Activities Chairman.** (addresses on front of POA)

NATIONAL AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINES

Junior Member of the Year Award - The Merry Lyn Plaque winner will be sent on to National to compete for this National Award.

Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program – one per division. The Helen Sloan Plaque winner will be sent on to National to compete for this National Award.

Best Media Coverage of Activity or Project – The Department winner will be sent on to National to compete for this National Award.

DEPARTMENT AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINES

Merry Lyn Plaque – Junior Member of the Year Award – This award recognizes the dedicated service, efforts, and talents of our Junior members. At a minimum, criteria should include the following:

1. Nominees must have been a Junior at the start of the 2026-2027 administrative year and must be members in good standing.
2. Juniors must be at least in eighth-grade equivalent and may win only once.
3. Juniors may be nominated by any member, unit, or department.
4. Nominee should not be serving as honorary Department Junior President.
5. Name, membership number, e-mail address and complete mailing address of nominee must accompany nomination.
6. A narrative typed essay not to exceed 500 words describing the nominee's accomplishments during the current administrative year, it can be electronic mail or postal mail.
7. Document with pictures, screenshots, or other evidence of Junior's ALA participation and activities to be sent either electronically or via postal mail.

Email entries to Department Junior Activities 1st Chairperson.
Entries must be received **May 1, 2027**. Presentation at Junior Convention.

Helen Sloan Plaque – Overall Junior Activities Program – Unit winner will be presented with a plaque.

1. The Junior Unit must be at goal.
2. Written in narrative form that demonstrates superior execution of at least two action steps from each of the objectives in the Junior Activities Plan of Action. Awarded to the unit with the most outstanding Junior Activities program.
3. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. Include specific examples of how your Juniors worked the ALA mission.
4. Narrative should include high resolution pictures, news articles, news releases, and original media, etc.
5. First page - Helen Sloan Plaque
6. Last page
    a. Unit name and number
    b. District number
    c. Junior advisor's name, address, email, and phone number, membership number
    d. Number of words.

Email entries to Department Junior Activities 1st Chairman.
Entries must be received **May 1, 2027**. Presented at Junior Department Convention.

Best Media Coverage of Activity or Project

1. Presented to a Junior Group with the best media coverage of their activities or project.
2. Narrative is not to exceed 500 words and should be typed.
3. Narrative should detail activity or project from inception to completion and a list of all media coverage, including news articles, news releases, newsletters, and social media. Document with photographs, screen shots, and other evidence of media coverage.

Email entries to Department Junior Activities 1st Chairperson.
Entries must be received **May 1, 2027**. Presented at Senior Convention.

Junior Americanism Spirit Plaque

1. First Page- "I Am an American Legion Auxiliary Junior."
2. Explaining how you have promoted the Americanism Program
3. Based on a narrative. The 2026-2027 Department Report Form must accompany this entry.
4. Essay should cover activities from **May 1, 2026, through April 30, 2027**.
5. Last page should include the following:
   a. Junior name and birth date.
   b. Unit name and number
   c. District number
   d. Number of words in your Essay.
6. Use 8-1/2" X 11" filler paper (either college or wide ruled), double spaced and stapled in the upper left corner **OR** type out the essay, double-spaced on 8-1/2" X 11" plain, white copier paper.

Email entries to Junior Department 2nd Member.
Entries must be received **May 1, 2027.** Presented at Junior Convention.

Dorothy McCullough Americanism Plaque

A plaque will be presented to the **Junior Advisor** reporting the most outstanding Junior Americanism program during the current year.

2. Cover - Dorothy McCullough Americanism Plaque.
3. Based on a narrative. The 2026 - 2027 Department Report Form must accompany this entry.
4. Last page must be typed and include the following:
   a. Unit Advisor's name, address, e-mail, and phone number
   b. Unit name and number
   c. District number
   d. Number of words

Email entries to Junior Department 3rd Member.
Entries must be received **May 1, 2027.** Presented at Senior Convention.

Erwina Ehresman Department Attendance Award - The Unit with highest percentage of junior members in attendance at the Department Junior Convention to be presented at the Department Junior Convention. Eligibility is as follows:

Junior Unit must have a minimum enrollment of five.

Martha Van Horne Plaque – Number of juniors from the Unit in attendance at Department Junior Convention multiplied by the round-trip miles traveled to the conference, to be presented at the Department Junior Convention. This will be judged by the Registration/Junior Activities Committee for accuracy.

Junior Citation of Merit

1. Junior membership as of 5/31/2026 plus one (1) new member by **May 31, 2027**.
2. Must participate in three or more of the American Legion Auxiliary programs.
3. Must submit a unit report to the **District Junior Activities Chairman** by **April 15, 2027**.

Membership Goal Ribbon – Membership as of 5/31/2026 plus one (1) new member at Department Headquarters by **May 31, 2027**.

Rylee Little, Honorary Junior President – Special Project

Junior projects will support the Senior President. Mindi Rue's Special Project is Stockhands Horses for Healing. The Junior Special Project is titled "Harness Hope, Honor Heroes."

Juniors will be making and selling bracelets to earn money to show support for the senior project.

Harness Hope, Honor Heroes

"Harness Hope" – In order to harness hope, Junior Auxiliary members will be making bracelets to sell and wear. The bracelets will act as the harness.

"Honor Heroes" – After the bracelets are made and sold, the proceeds will go directly to Stockhands to support our heroes' healing journeys.

"Stockhands" – Stockhands is a non-profit organization using horses to assist with various forms of therapy. They offer several programs, including therapeutic riding lessons, a veteran's group, a first responders' group, peer support groups, and more.

Visit/Volunteer
Stockhands Horses for Healing
3788 Olentangy River Rd, Delaware, OH 43015
Call
(740) 834-9774
Website: stockhands.org

How to Help

There are several ways you can help, "Harness Hope, Honor Heroes," The first thing you can do is make a monetary donation that will go directly to Stockhands. The second thing you can do is stop by the Juniors table during Mid-Winter Conference to purchase the bracelet of your choice or have a chance to order a bracelet customized just for you. The third thing you may do is donate patriotic beads and/or string. If you are interested in the third option, the link below is an Amazon Wishlist with some requested items.
https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/owner-view/2SAGTSBFTXOPC?ref=gr univeral landing ggr

Junior Craft Book

1. Make a craft book. The craft could be a wreath, a blanket or quilt, jewelry, a center piece or party favor for a veteran's party, Auxiliary Party, etc. (These are just a few examples. Be Creative!)
2. Minimum of three crafts in the craft book.
3. Take pictures of how you made the craft and include instructions and materials used.
4. Explain in 500 words where, why, when it was used, and how many you made (for each craft).
5. Type on double-spaced on 8-1/2" X 11" plain, white copier paper.
6. The front page should read "MY CRAFT PROJECT"
7. Last page should include the following:
    a. Junior's name and Class (SEE PAGE 8)
    b. Unit number,
    c. District number
    d. Number of words in each explanation.

Email entries to Junior Department 3rd Member.
Entries must be received **May 1, 2027.** Presented at the Junior Conference.

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Ohio County Travelogue: 2026 - 2027 County will be PUTNAM COUNTY OHIO.

1. Your Travelogue should be typed.
2. Each entry you make must be dated and include what you might have seen during the visit.
3. Pictures may be included.
4. Your visit to PUTNAM COUNTY can be done virtually, but your words must be your own, as if you were writing a story. Information you get from the internet CANNOT be directly copied into your Travelogue as that is considered plagiarism.
5. Your paper should be double-spaced on 8-1/2" X 11" plain, white copier paper.
6. Decorate the cover. Use pictures, inscriptions or draw something from the county.
7. The First page should include the following:
    a. Putnam County Travelogue
    b. 2026-2027
    c. Class number
8. Last page of the Travelogue should include the following:
    a. Name of Junior
    b. Birth date
    c. Unit number
    d. District number

District Chairperson should email winning entries with the official winner's certificate taped to the back, to the Department Junior Activities 2nd Member.
Entries must be received at **District by April 15, 2027, and at Department by May 1, 2027.** Presented at the Junior Conference.

Department Junior Conference Cover

One winner from each of the eight classes will be selected. Winning entries to be copied and used in the Department Junior Activities Conference Program.

1. Use 8-1/2 x 11 white copier paper.
2. Must use black pencil or felt tip marker and it must be hand drawn.
3. Design of the Department Presidents Theme: "Get on Board"
4. Include the following on the cover.
    a. American Legion Auxiliary
    b. 75th Department Junior Convention
    c. ___TBD_____ (date)
5. Include the following on the back written in pencil.
    a. Junior's name and address
    b. Class number (SEE PAGE 8)
    c. Unit name and number
    d. District number

District Chairperson should email winning entries with the official winner's certificate taped to the back, to the Department Junior Activities 2nd Member.
Entries must be received at **District by April 15, 2027, and at Department by May 1, 2027.** Presented at the Junior Conference.

Junior Prayer Book Guidelines

Book of Prayers and Devotional Thoughts – should also be on the front cover of the book as the title.

- Size: Book should be a digital copy.
- You may use colored paper and clipart but be respectful.
- Please try to use the Department President theme, "Get on Board."
- First page – centered with Unit Name, Unit Number, and Unit Chaplain's Name.
- If this is a District book, be sure to use the District Number and District Chaplain's Name only.
- "Prayers and Devotional Thoughts" should be next and centered on the page.
- 2026-2027 Junior Prayer Book Awards

Junior Prayer Book Guidelines continued

- Personal gift – Junior Department entry winner
- Personal gift – Junior Unit and District entry winner
- Certificate to each Junior Member that submits a **Book of Prayers and Devotion Thoughts**.

Junior Chaplain Books are due by **May 1, 2027,** to the Department Chaplain, Tara Warnement, by email at the following: **Warnement5@bright.net** to be awarded at the Junior Conference.

Junior Scrapbook

I. Content

A. Title Page
- **i**. "Scrapbook of (Junior Name, Unit Number and District)"
- **ii**. Name and Address of Junior
- **iii**. Date: 2026 – 2027

B. Chronological History
- **i**. Pictures (brief captions and dates) of Officers and Chairmen (can be Department, District, and/or Unit)
- **ii**. Pictures (brief captions and dates) of activities Junior was involved in.
- **iii**. Newspaper articles
- **iv**. Programs

II. Format

A. Red, Blue, Black, or White scrapbook with paper size of 8 ½ x 11 inches or 12" x 12"
B. Typewritten or computer-generated text may be used
C. "Junior Scrapbook" should appear on front cover
D. Signature of entrant

Deadline: Junior scrapbooks must be received by **May 1, 2027.** Send your Junior Scrapbook to Department Historian, Dana Slattman via email: slattman@yahoo.com to be awarded at the Junior Conference.

Junior Narrative History

I. Introduction (10 Points)

A. Title Page
- i. History of Junior name and number of Unit Junior Group
- ii. Name and address of Junior
- iii. Date: 2026 - 2027

B. Forward or Dedication
C. Picture of Honorary Junior President (Department, District, and/or Unit)
D. Prayer
E. Pledge of Allegiance
F. First verse of "The Star-Spangled Banner"
G. Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary

II. Historical Content (70 Points)

A. List of elected or appointed Honorary Junior Officers 2026 - 2027
B. List of Honorary Junior Unit Chairman or committee appointments held by your Unit 2026 – 2027
C. The history shall be written as factual narrative, beginning with the installation of 2026 – 2027 Junior Unit officers and ending with the summary of end-of-year reports and closing events of the administrative year.
D. The signature of the Junior is to immediately follow the final paragraph of the history
E. Index (optional)

III. Appearance (10 Points)

A. Cover: binder for loose-leaf paper, preferably blue or red, with 2 ½" gold foil American Legion Auxiliary Seal centered on the cover or a regulation binder with imprinted seal.

B. Paper: Plain white 8 ½" x 11".
C. Page Setup:
  i. Margins for left and right margins should be 1.25;" top and bottom margins should be 1".
  ii. Page numbers should begin on the first page of the Historical Content. They should be centered and placed 0.5" from the bottom.
D. Spacing: **Double-spaced**, with the exception of the introductory pages (Title Page, Forward or Dedication, Photograph of Honorary Junior President (Department, District and/or Unit), Pledge of Allegiance, "Star Spangled Banner" and Preamble), which shall be centered in the middle of the page. Paragraphs may be indented or in block form.
E. Text: 12-point font, Times New Roman or Arial style font.
F. Technology:
  i. Computer preferred, but not necessarily in the third person
  ii. Clear, concise language with correct spelling.
  iii. No decorations, computer graphics, pen or ink drawings, illustrations, extra material, or newspaper clippings.
  iv. Be original and unique in thought and presentation.

IV. **Deadline: Junior** History Narrative must be received **by** **April 1, 2026.** Send your Junior History Narrative to: Department Historian, Patti Watson 1150 Elco Ave, Maumee, OH 43537

Deadline: Junior scrapbooks must be received by **May 1, 2027.** Send your Junior History Narrative to Department Historian, Dana Slattman via email: slattman@yahoo.com to be awarded at the Junior Conference.

Little Miss Poppy Contest – Ages 6-12

Little Miss Poppy award submissions are now electronic to address postage and material cost considerations. Please refer to the rules below for submission requirements and deadline information.

- Participant must be between 6 and 12 years of age as of June 1 and be a Junior member in good standing of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Promotional activity of the Poppy story must occur through the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the community during the timespan of May 1 of the current year to April 30 of the following year.
- For National Little Miss Poppy consideration, participants must submit a Little Miss Poppy award electronic application with supporting documentation.
- All entries are due by 5 p.m. on June 1, 2027.
- In addition to the information on the award application, please include documentation on the criteria below. Accepted formats are Word document, Google Slides, or .pdf. PowerPoint presentations may also be uploaded via Google Slides. For more information on Google Slides, please visit https://www.google.com/slides/about/.
- Judging Scrapbook criteria:
  - The memorial poppy must be visible in all promotion and publicity submitted.
  - There is no specific dress code or dress color for Little Miss Poppy.
  - Promotion of the Poppy Program: What did you share and do?
  - Publicity of poppy activities (newspapers, radio/TV, etc.)
  - Submitted file must include the following information (both pictures and descriptions).
    - What I learned during my time as Little Miss Poppy?
    - How I shared the story of the poppy with my community?
    - What does the poppy mean to me?
    - What activities did I attend to promote the poppy and its meaning?
  - Age-appropriate originality with considerations for neatness and creativity.
- The Department of Ohio will honor all Little Miss Poppies that participate in this program with a certificate. Further information will be included in a future Bulk Mailing.
- If a National winner, Little Miss Poppy is invited to appear at the ALA National Convention, immediately following her selection, and if so chooses, travel will be at her own expense.

Poppy Poster Contest

Units shall sponsor contests in local schools. When schools do not conduct activities, other youth groups – including Junior members – may participate under direct supervision of the Unit. The Unit chooses their winning entry and must be emailed to Department Poppy Chairman, Vicki Buck at Lt248@aol.com by **April 15, 2027**.

Contest classes are:

Class I	Grades 2 & 3	Class V	Grades 10 & 11
Class II	Grades 4 & 5	Class VI	Grade 12
Class III	Grades 6 & 7	Class VII**	Jrs. w/ Special Needs
Class IV	Grades 8 & 9	Class Alpha	Birth to 1st Grade

Poppy Poster Requirements

1. Each poster shall have a fitting slogan not to exceed ten (10) words. The articles "a, and, an, the" are ***not to be counted*** as words. The words "buddy" and "buy," ***cannot*** be used.
2. The words "American Legion Auxiliary" must be used in the design of the poster and will not be counted in the (10) word count.
3. Each poster must include a red poppy.
4. The poster shall be on 11"x14" poster board. (Drawing paper will not be accepted).
5. The United States flag may be used, as long as there are no infractions of the flag code.
6. Posters will be judged using the following criteria:
   - ✓ 50% - Poster Appeal (layout, message, originality)
   - ✓ 40% - Artistic Ability (design and color)
   - ✓ 10% - Neatness
7. Media used shall be watercolor, crayon, powder or oil paint, handmade paper cutouts, ink or textures, acrylics, pencils, or markers.
8. ***Written in ink*** on the back of the poster (not attached) shall be the class in which the entry is submitted, the name, address, age and grade of the contestant and the name of the department**. Each Poppy Poster must have the Poppy Contest - Cover Sheet attached and be completed with all information and signatures.**
9. **Submissions become the property of the American Legion Auxiliary.** Through submission of artwork, contestants and their legal guardians grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and artwork published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.
10. The poster shall be the work of only one individual.
11. The label "In Memoriam" from the veteran-made poppy ***may not be used***.
12. While ALA representatives will do their best to return all posters, it is not guaranteed. We recommend participants take a picture or scan their poster for their records.

Junior Poppy Usage Contest

All Junior Units, the Poppy Usage Contest will be held at the **Mid-Winter Conference.** The entries are designs of your own choosing using official ALA poppies and it may be any of the following nature: wreaths, centerpieces, tray favors, etc. This is an opportunity for you to share with other Junior Units your creative ideas. Attendees at the Conference will vote by a $1.00 contribution per vote.

- All money collected will go to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.
- A photo of the entry that brought in the most money will be highlighted in the Buckeye Messenger.
- If your Unit has an entry, but no one is coming to Mid-Winter, try to send with a Unit who is attending.
- Each Unit should have a fundraiser for the Creative Arts Festival and send those monies collected to Department Headquarters.

Junior Poppy Corsage Contest

Juniors are also asked to participate in this contest! The Junior entries will be judged separately at the **Mid-Winter Conference.** Attendees pay $1.00 per vote, and the proceeds will go to the National Creative Arts Festival. This would be a wonderful opportunity to make sure they fully understand what the Poppy represents.

- Each corsage should have the name of the creator, their Unit and District
- Be approximately 3 ½ x 3 ½ and fit in a standard 4" x 4" corsage box, any larger will be disqualified.
- The entries are designs of your own choosing using official ALA poppies.
- The winning corsages will be used at 2027 Buckeye Girls State Session for the City Mayor's. ***Please note:*** ***All Poppy corsages will not be returned unless that is noted at the time your entry is received.***

Junior Activities Patch Program

American Legion Auxiliary Junior members and Sons of The American Legion youth members can be active participants of the organization with the Patch Program. Specific patches can be earned year-round and are ongoing with three levels of patch criteria:

- Purple – Level Pre-School Age 3 through kindergarten
- Red – Level 1: 1st Grade through 4th Grade
- Gold – Level 2: 5th grade through 8th grade
- Blue – Level 3: 9th grade through 12th grade (or 18 years old)

Per National Headquarters, completed worksheets and the accompanying documentation for the Patch Program should be uploaded to the website by the **Unit President or the Unit Jr. Activities Chairperson**. If you have any questions, please reach out to Department 1st Chairman. Information and sheets for completion can be found on **https://www.alaforveterans.org/Programs/Junior-Member-Activities/**

JUNIOR IDEAS WITHIN OTHER ALA PROGRAMS - This is only a brief list of ideas. Read all the program's Plan of Actions for more ideas.

- **Americanism** –
  - Have Juniors participated in folding flags and writing notes for the Pocket Flag Project.
  - Participate in the Americanism Essay Contest using the essay title: "How can we support families who provide care to their Veterans?" Think of ways that you can support those who care for their Veterans.
  - Star Spangled Kids – educate children and youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism, and the US Constitution. Celebrate Constitution Day – Sept. 17, day set aside each year to commemorate the signing of the US Constitution. At the Juniors September meeting, celebrate this with cake or cupcakes, report on different sections of the Bill of Rights, distribute pocket copies of the US Constitution. Resources: www.constitutionfacts.com, http://ca3rsproject.org/pages/ConstitutionDayResources.html
- **Chaplain** – Place grace cards for your local nursing homes, Post and Unit dinners, and VAMCs for local holidays. Ask your Senior members to help in writing a prayer that can be sent for the President's Prayer Book.
- **Children & Youth** – Juniors can raise funds to purchase gift cards for kids in foster care, games, books, etc. for a children's hospital or hold a Clothing Drive. Have your Juniors wear purple and give a presentation at their school during the Month of the Military Child.
- **Community Service** – Send cards to nursing homes for the holidays or just to say hello and to let residents know you are thinking of them. Have a fundraiser or set up a collection for an animal shelter. Hold a food drive for a local food pantry during the year, not just during the holidays.
- **Education** – Coordinate a school supply drive to replenish classrooms mid-way through the school year.
- **History** – Interview the oldest members of your Unit or Post and record their answers to your questions. Begin writing your Junior history today!
- **Leadership** – Complete the Ohio and National's ALA Junior Leadership Courses. Invite your Juniors to participate in your Unit meetings. Give them a role with which they can help.

- **Legislative** –
  - High School students can participate in "Youth at the Booth" during election day by working as a poll worker. If this program is not in your high school find out how they can become involved. Check with your local county to get requirements.
  - Assist the Juniors to earn their Grade 9-12 Americanism patch by completing Activity 10 on the Blue Level 3 check sheet. Write letters or send emails to the State and U.S. Legislators regarding Veterans or the American Flag Amendment.
  - Certificates will be presented to all Juniors and young SAL, which have written and/or received replies from letters or emails sent to various legislators. You may include the Activity List of the Confirmation e-mail from the @Votervoice.net – American Legion response. Certificates will be given at Junior Department Convention.
- **National Security** - Work with Juniors on the POW/MIA table presentation. Juniors can also help in honoring our community First Responders and 9-11 Programs. Juniors can wear RED on Fridays for the **R**emember **E**veryone **D**eployed initiative. Juniors can help cut and sort coupons sent to military installations.
- **Poppy** – Help distribute poppies with senior members and help to collect donations. Participate in the Poppy Poster Contest. Work with a Senior member to put together a Poppy Scrapbook to highlight your year.
- **Public Relations** – When you have an event or project you are working on in your Jr. Unit, contact the local news station, newspaper and even your school newsletter/newspaper to do an article/story about your project. Remember to state your goals, along with why you are promoting/working this and ask for community participation.
- **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation** – Juniors can help collect blankets, socks, gloves, scarves, and hats to help keep homeless veterans warm. These can be taken to many of the homeless shelters in your community. Juniors can work with Senior members to help with many of the VA & R activities that Units participate in including holiday parties, Stand Downs, collection of items to take to VAMCs, etc. Also, Juniors can help with fundraising for the Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

National Junior Meetings

If your Junior is 8 years old or older, we want to see them at a national Junior meeting! We are going to meet new friends, do a service project for caregivers, and have tons of fun! The meetings are on a Saturday, one in each ALA division. We cannot wait to see your Junior there!

Is the Junior meeting right for your Junior?

- Yes - if they are interested in meeting other Junior members and national leaders outside of their local area who share their passion for helping veterans!
- Yes - if they want to share great ideas with other Junior members across the country and learn more about what it means to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary!
-

Five ALA Mission Trainings and national Junior meetings are planned. They will be held at the same time and location throughout the winter and spring.

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

POPPY POSTER CONTEST

COVER SHEET

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors a Poppy Poster Contest for students. in grades 2-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into seven classes. One award in each of the seven classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive $50 and a $50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at www.ALAforVeterans.org after national convention.

Poster Classes:

Class	Grade Level
ALPHA	Birth to 1st grade
I	2nd and 3rd
II	4th and 5th
III	6th and 7th
IV	8th and 9th
V	10th and 11th
VI	12th
VII	Juniors with Special Needs

Class competing in: _____Sponsoring ALA unit: _____

Due date for students to return to ALA unit: **April 15, 2027**

To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone:_____School Name: _____

City/State of School: _____

Parent or Teacher Name: _____

Signature: _____

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.): Sponsoring Unit Name/Number:
Signature of Unit Poppy Chairman/President:
Unit winner due to Department on: **May 1, 2027**
Department Signature of Department Chairman:
Department winner email due to Department Poppy Chairman Vicki Buck. Email: Lt248@aol.com

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

Junior and Unit Advisor Deadlines

Due Date	Who creates	Who submits	What it is	Send to	When/Where awarded
5/1/2027	Unit Juniors & Advisor	Unit Jr. Advisor	Merry Lyn Plaque - Jr. Member of the Year	Brandy Little	Jr. Dept. Conv.
5/1/2027	Junior Member	Junior Member	Americanism Spirit Plaque	Hope Eaton	Jr. Dept. Conv.
4/15/2027	Junior Member	District Chairperson	Ohio County Travelogue	Hope Eaton	Jr. Dept. Conv.
4/15/2027	Junior Member	District Chairperson	Conference Cover	Hope Eaton	Jr. Dept. Conv.
5/1/2027	Junior Member	Junior Member	Jr. Craft Book	Hope Eaton	Jr. Dept. Conv.
5/1/2027	Junior Member	Junior Member	Jr. Prayer Book	Tara Warnement	Jr. Dept. Conv.
5/1/2027	Junior Member	Junior Member	Jr. Scrapbook	Dana Slattman	Jr. Dept. Conv.
5/1/2027	Junior Member	Junior Member	Jr. Narrative History	Dana Slattman	Jr. Dept. Conv.
5/1/2027	Unit Jr. Advisor	Unit Jr. Advisor	Helen Sloan Plaque – Most Outstanding Program	Brandy Little	Sr. Dept. Conv.
5/1/2027	Unit Juniors & Advisor	Unit Jr. Advisor	Best Media Coverage	Brandy Little	Sr. Dept. Conv.
5/1/2027	Unit Jr. Advisor	Unit Jr. Advisor	Dorothy McCullough Americanism Plaque	Aheva White	Sr. Dept. Conv.
5/01/2027	Local school/Jr. Member	Participants	Poppy Poster Contest	Vicki Buck	Sr. Dept. Conv.
ongoing	**Junior Members**	Jr. Advisor/Sr. Member	**PATCH PROGRAM**	Brandy Little	**To Be Determined**

MARTHA VAN HORNE REVOLVING PLAQUE - determined at Jr. Dept. Convention by total round-trip miles by Juniors attending.
ERWINA EHRESMAN DEPARTMENT ATTENDANCE AWARD - determined by percentage attending Jr. Dept. Convention (5 members) with consideration of participation in Auxiliary Programs, and submission of Unit year-end report.
JUNIOR CITATION OF MERIT - previous year's membership as of 5/31/26, plus one (1) new member, participation in three or more ALA Programs, **and submission of Unit year-end report**
MEMBERSHIP GOAL RIBBON - previous year's membership as of 5/31/26, plus one (1) new member

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