



# Ohio Unit Plan of Action



## CHILDREN & YOUTH

**CHAIRMAN**  
Colleen Phillips

**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
Jane Yaeger

**CITATION OF MERIT**



**REQUIREMENT**

**REPORT DUE TO DISTRICT CHAIRMAN BY:** **April 15, 2026, to DISTRICT CHAIRMAN**

**DISTRICT CHAIRMAN SEND TO DEPARTMENTS CHAIRMAN BY MAY 1, 2026**

**Your District Children & Youth Chairman  
(address shown below)**

### District Children and Youth Chairmen

DNO	UNO	First Name	Last Name
01	468	Marybeth	Parker
02			
03	184	ROBYN	COOPER
4	194	SUSAN	SEWELL
05	397	NICOLE	ARNOLD
06	518	HOPE	EATON
07	062	CARI	STEINBROOK
08	021	LYNN	LAFFERTY
09			
10	557	MELISSA	COCHRAN
11		JESSICA	SKELTON
12	171	SHEILA	NOCKS
13	091	STACEY	LEHMANN
14		KAREN	PEEL

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Department Report Form			
This Form should be attached to each narrative that is submitted for information, Citation of Merit requirements and possible Department award. Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. A Unit must submit a this report form with boxes completed and answer the questions below in order 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. <b>Please complete the following.</b> Be sure to give 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 Pres. _____
Phone # _____	Email _____	Membership ID (if available) _____	
Specific Award Name (if applicable) _____			

**Answer the following Questions in your narrative.**

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.

**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.**

- What did your Unit do to promote the awareness to protect, care for and support children and youth (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 and how many nominations of each? \_\_\_\_\_ Did you honor those you nominated? What did you do to honor the nominated children? How did your Unit find children/youth to nominate? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_
- Did your Unit participate in the Kids of Deployed Heroes 2 (KDH2) honoring military children? What did your Unit do to participate? Did you do other activities to support military and veterans' children? Did you participate in National Military Children April 15<sup>th</sup>? Did you promote to others to wear purple April 15<sup>th</sup>? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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- How did your Unit support the American Legion Children & Youth program (example - Child Well Being Foundation, and the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation, National Family Week Oct. 7-13, 2025, 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? (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 that National is requiring Departments to report on. The line numbers reference the Member/Unit Impact Report that will be included in the Kit of Reports.

**1. Our ALA Service for Youth**

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

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## 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 a separation from one or both parents, whether deployed to a war zone, having a short tour, or on an extended temporary duty assignment.**

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- Volunteer at a Family Readiness Group event where KDH2 "I'm a Hero 2" buttons/stickers can be distributed.
- 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** – Strive 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](http://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 April 15, 2026, 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. The Miriam Junge Plaque winner will be sent on to National to compete for this National Award.

## **DEPARTMENT AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINES**

- NOTE: The Annual Report Forms must be sent to your **District** Children & Youth Chairman. Reports are due by **April 15, 2026**. 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 1, 2026**.

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## 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 April 15, 2026, to **District Children & Youth Chairman**. District Chairman will send all winning entries to Department Chairman by May 1, 2026, along with report forms.

**Certificate of Participation** – A certificate of participation will be awarded at the Department Summer Convention for those Units that submit a narrative that tells how they celebrated or supported the children and youth in their community during each season with a minimum of three (3) narratives submitted.

Submit a **SUMMER** narrative that covers June 21 through September 21 – due October 31, 2025.

Submit a **FALL** narrative that covers September 22 through December 20 – due January 31, 2026.

Submit a **WINTER** narrative that covers December 21 through March 19 – due April 15, 2026.

Submit a **SPRING** narrative that covers March 20 through June 20 – due April 15, 2026, if covering an event prior to April 15 and due October 31, 2025, if covering an event after April 15.

**Narratives may be emailed to Vice Chairman after each season's deadline.** Each Narrative should include the Unit name, number, and contact information and should have no more than 300 words. Your narrative should include details about the activity and how the activity impacted the youth. Please include photographs and news articles that show the celebration or support.



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## 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](http://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.