

Children & Youth

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

Committee Contact Information

Dbfreland@hotmail.com

What can you do?

1. Support Children and Youth in your community.

- **“Star Spangled Kids”**: This is an ALA program to educate children and youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism and the U.S. Constitution.

Ideas:

Member

- Offer to make a “Star Spangled” presentation to your local schools. Invite post members to help students learn how their military service was meaningful in defending the U.S. Constitution. ○ Refer to the Star Spangled Kids how to sheet at the end of this program plan for more information.
- Contact local high schools to invite them to encourage their students to use their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution by participating in The American Legion Oratorical Contest.
 - Refer to www.legion.org for information on the Oratorical Contest.
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Unit

- Create a Unit Citizenship Award for children and youth who have learned the ideals of the U.S. Constitution.
- Share a constitutional fact each month in the unit newsletter, the newspaper editorial and/or on social media.
- September 17 is Constitution Day (Citizenship Day). Host a party that revolves around the U.S. Constitution for children.
- Print and distribute pocket constitutions to schoolchildren.
 - Refer to the Star Spangled Kids how to sheet at the end of this program Plan for more information.

Unit

- Host a dinner, game night, community fair, etc. that will bring military and nonmilitary families together.

Children & Youth Reporting*

Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of units in the department, and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction. Each department Children & Youth chairman is required to submit a narrative report to the division Children & Youth chairman, plus copy the national Children & Youth chairman. Reports must be received by Donna Freeland by December 31,2017.

Annual 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. Each department Children & Youth chairman is required to submit a narrative report to the division Children & Youth chairman, plus copy the national Children & Youth chairman. Members and units should follow their department's protocol and deadlines. Reports must be received by Donna Freeland by April15,2017.

As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:

1. How did your units and department promote "Star Spangled Kids," educating children and youth about the U.S. Constitution from the aspect of patriotism and Americanism?

Children & Youth Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements:

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just three simple steps to add your part to our national success story:

- 1) Please follow instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet found in the awards section in front of the Programs Action Plan.
- 2) Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the award's materials and guidelines section.
- 3) Submit as indicated in the Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan

National Report and Awards Cover Sheet, deadlines, and Children & Youth committee contact information may be found on the Children & Youth committee page on the national website, www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program

- Award: Citation Plaque
- Presented to: One unit in each division (5) • Materials and guidelines:
 - Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. Include specific examples of how your unit worked the Children & Youth program, including supporting military children and the Star-Spangled Kids program.
 - May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.

How To Sheets

- 1) How to Promote “Star Spangled Kids”

Additional Resources You Can Use

1. Your national Children & Youth committee members (see Children & Youth program page on the national website or Annual Supplement for contact information.)
2. The national Children & Youth Committee Facebook group, search “ALA Children and Youth”
3. The American Legion Children & Youth programs: www.legion.org/programs
4. The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation: www.legion.org/cwf
5. Josh and Friends (American Legion Family alliance): www.joshandfriends.com
6. Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (an American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant recipient for Klinger): www.taps.org

HOW TO PROMOTE "STAR SPANGLED KIDS"

Committee:

Children & Youth

Contact Information for Questions:

Dbfreland@hotmail.com

Star Spangled Kids: Educate children and youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism and the U.S. Constitution.

- In conjunction with local schools, create a Unit Citizenship Award for children and youth who have demonstrated the ideals of the U.S. Constitution.
- Team with the Education chairman to bring veterans or servicemembers into the classroom to talk about what their service means to defending the ideals of the Constitution.
- Share "Fascinating Facts about the U.S. Constitution" each month in the department or unit bulletin, in tweets, or in a newspaper editorial.
- List important constitutional dates by chronological order or by month.
- Encourage students to test their knowledge of the Constitution.
- Distribute patriotic coloring book pages for children in primary grades.
- Celebrate Constitution Day (also known as Citizenship Day) on September 17, the day set aside each year to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution.
 - Celebrate at September's Junior meeting with a cake or cupcakes.
 - Let Juniors report on different sections of the Bill of Rights
- Print and distribute pocket copies of the U.S. Constitution for school children and/or Juniors.
- Put on a skit or musical about the Constitution and the signers.
- Hold a scavenger hunt in the post where children find information relating to the Constitution.
- Have members dress up as signers of the Constitution and describe the role of their character in the writing and signing of the Constitution.
- Encourage high school-aged students to use their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution by participating in The American Legion Oratorical Contest.

Resources:

- www.constitutionfacts.com
- Constitution Day Resources:
<http://ca3rsproject.org/pages/ConstitutionDayResources.html>

Community Service

The Community Service program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's visibility within our localities through our commitment to community, state and nation.

Committee Contact Information

Dbfreland@hotmail.com

What can you do?

- 1. Become visible within your community as a link to the veteran community. Get involved in community service projects to bring awareness of our mission to support veterans, servicemembers, their families and the community.**

Ideas:

Member

- Always wear your American Legion Auxiliary apparel or pin while volunteering in the community; it reinforces our brand promise by telling people who we are, what we do, and why we matter. o **Note:** If you are ordering anything with the ALA name or emblem from a source other than Emblem Sales, remember that a request first must be submitted through your department headquarters to National Headquarters for approval by the national secretary. Contact your unit for more information on this process.
- Reach out to local ministers and first responders to indicate your willingness to be a designated responder for veteran families in need. Be sure to keep a list of veteran resources handy so you will be ready.
- Get involved with your neighbors and those outside our Legion family by volunteering at your local library, food pantry, domestic violence shelter, senior citizen centers, assisted living centers, nursing homes.
- Represent the Auxiliary as a member of local community boards and committees.
- Volunteer with your local Meals on Wheels to deliver meals on days when they are typically closed (i.e. Christmas and Thanksgiving).

Unit

- Volunteer to organize or assist with your community's Veterans Day observance.
- Organize and participate in service projects for veterans, servicemembers, their families and local community programs on ALA suggested days of service.
- Register service projects on websites, community forums and social media to attract other community members to participate in your service projects.

- Volunteer for local service projects and causes (walks, special events, etc.). Work with your post home to offer space and their participation in local service projects and causes.
- Sponsor and participate in activities at local libraries, senior citizen centers, assisted living centers, nursing homes, service projects and causes (walks, special events, etc.).

Community Service 1

- Attend and represent the Auxiliary at special celebration events in the community such as holiday parades, grand openings of community facilities and community leader recognition ceremonies.

Community Service Reporting*

Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of units in the department, and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction. Each department Community Service chairman is required to submit a narrative report to the division Community Service chairman, plus copy the national Community Service chairman.

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. Each department Community Service chairman is required to submit a narrative report to the division Community Service chairman, plus copy the national Community Service chairman. Members and units should follow their department's protocol and deadlines.

As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:

- Did members volunteer for or organize service projects for any of the ALA suggested days of service? If so, which days were most successful for offering service projects? Did you have any challenges?
- What types of community service activities and/or projects were done in your department?

Community Service Awards

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just three simple steps to add your part to our national success story:

Please follow instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet found in the awards section of the Programs Action Plan.

- 1) Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the award's materials and guidelines section.

- 2) Submit as indicated in the Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan.

National Report and Awards Cover Sheet, deadlines, and Community Service committee contact information may be found on the Community Service committee page on the national website, www.ALAforVeterans.org.

A. Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program

- Award: Citation Plaque
- Presented to: One unit in each division (5)
- Materials and Guidelines:
 - Include pictures and newspaper articles.

Additional Resources You Can Use

1. See your national Community Service Committee page of the national website:
 - *ALA Service Not Self Volunteer Toolbox*
 - How to Partner with Organizations for Community Outreach
 - How to Mobilize Community Support for Those Who Serve
 - How to Serve on National Days of Service
2. ALA suggested days of service:
 - 9-11 National Day of Service and Remembrance (observed annually on Sept. 11)
 - Make a Difference Day (observed on the fourth Saturday of Oct.)
 - Veterans Day (observed annually on Nov. 11)
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (observed on the third Monday of Jan.)
 - National Volunteer Week (usually the third week in April)
3. Your national Community Service committee members (see Community Service program page on the national website or Annual Supplement for contact information)
4. The national Community Service Committee Facebook group, search “ALA Community Service”

Children & Youth

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Children & Youth and the 2014-2019 Centennial Strategic Plan: by protecting, caring for, and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans and military families, ALA members fulfill our brand promise (Goal 5) of being community leaders and responsible American citizens while caring for military families. In doing so, we are building a future membership base (Goal 1) among our target demographic—military families.

Objective: **“Star Spangled Kids”**—Educate children and youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution.

April is Children and Youth Month:

April is the Month of the Military Children

April 15th is Purple Up! for Military Kids Day: wear purple to honor them!

“Outstanding” Unit Children & Youth Program Award: An award will be presented in Central Division to the Unit Chairman promoting the most outstanding Children & Youth program. The entry must have the names of the Department (State), Unit and name & address of the Unit Chairman, must be in narrative form and not to exceed 1,000 words. Report must be received by Donna Freeland by April 15, 2018.

Star Spangled Kids Unit Award: a citation to be given to a unit chairman in each of the five (5) divisions for the most outstanding program promoting “Star Spangled Kids”. Narrative is not to exceed 1,000 words, and may include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc. Attach an award cover sheet, including the name of the award, as well as the name and contact information of the Department C & Y Chairman. Must be into Donna Freeland by April 15, 2018.

