

Juniors Are The Future Of Our Organization!!!

Any girl with the proper eligibility and who is under the age of 18, may become Junior members. These girls are under the direction of the unit. The goal is to teach these young ladies the principals of loyalty to God and country, justice, freedom, democracy and the love and respect of our flag and Veterans.

What Can You Do?

1. Get members! We all have potential members, either within our own families or friends or in our communities. Ask each Auxiliary, Post or SAL member to help with Junior membership. In turn, maybe you can help them with their membership. It all starts by just asking.

What happens now that you have members? You don't have anyone to chair the Junior Activities committee? That's okay. You don't have to start out as an active Unit, just active Junior members.

Start by letting the girls do things at home or on their own time. You may be surprised at how much they enjoy this. It also could open up the door for their friends who want to become members. Keep a record of what they do and report it. If you're a mother, aunt, grandmother, etc., take them with you when you are doing something for the auxiliary/post or visiting someone in the hospital or nursing home. That's community service and these girls bring smiles to those who are confined.

2. Invite your Junior members to attend your meeting. Maybe they could help with something the auxiliary is working on. They could lead the pledge or fold programs, etc. Their attention span is short, so it may not be a good idea to have them for the entire meeting. It's your call.

3. Junior meetings~ keep them fun and interesting! I suggest to include info/education, crafts, exercise and definitely snacks and drinks. Teach them to open and close a meeting, offer prayer and say the Pledge. Make the meetings fun.

Make the girls Honorary Junior officers. It makes them feel good and they seem to strive to do more. You can do this even if you only have a couple of active members.

4. The Patch Program is one way a Junior member can earn patches for the work they are doing. There are 10 different physical patches that they can earn. They can also earn electronic patches to share on social media sites.

Here's a brief explanation:

3 Levels

Red-Level 1: Kindergarten through 3rd grade

Gold-Level 2: 4th through 8th grade

Blue-Level 3: 9th through 12th grade

Also History Patch for Level 3

Patch Activity Sheets:

Americanism-Leadership-Membership-Poppy-National Security-VA & R-Community Service-Physical Fitness-Field Service-Education and the National President's Scholarship Patch.

Each activity sheet has up to 10 possible activities to complete. In order to earn the patches, 3 to 6 activities must be completed (depending on grade level).

These Patch Activity sheets are a wonderful way for these Juniors to learn about the American Legion Auxiliary and also help the Veterans and community.

IDEAS

Remember...You can start with one member!

1. Nursing home or hospital visits
2. Making or signing cards for members
3. Crafts/snacks/cards for Veterans at a nursing home
4. Crafts/decorations for your post
5. Cards/packages to deployed military
6. Helping Post/Auxiliary/SAL when needed
7. Patch Program
8. Junior Leadership Course
9. History of the ALA/Legion/SAL
10. Flag etiquette and proper salute to the flag
11. Invite friends of Junior members to attend functions and volunteer, even if they are not eligible to join
12. Promote what they do. Put in the newspaper and on Facebook!

I'm sure many of you have ideas about this wonderful group of girls. If you want, please share them with other units.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. I will help you in any way that I can and if I can't, I will give you the info for someone who can.

I look forward to hearing from all the units. Please send me the info for your Unit Chairman or someone in the unit who is interested in starting a Junior program.

For more information:

1. ALA Junior Activities Handbook
2. National ALA Juniors Activities Facebook page:
www.Facebook.com/ALAJuniors
3. www.ALAforVeterans.org

Juniors....Such a Joy!

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