

**2023-2024 American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of New York  
Children & Youth**

**Department Chairman**

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**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.
- Perform the Military Child Table ceremony at a unit meeting or in your community.
- 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.
- 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.**

- 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.

## **DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH RULES**

- Entries must be typed, double spaced, not to exceed 1,000 words.
- Word count in lower left corner of cover sheet unless otherwise noted under award instructions.
- Entries must be in narrative form and placed in folder.
- Pictures, newspapers clippings and other materials and/or documents may be included.
- All entries must include a cover sheet with the name of the award entry, name of the Unit/County/District, name, and address of the Unit/County/Chairman.
- Entries must be received by the Department Chairman no later than **MAY 1<sup>st</sup>** unless a different date is specified.

**DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S AWARD:** To the Unit that submits the greatest number of Youth Hero and Good Deed awards by June 1, 2024. All entries are to be mailed or emailed to the Department Office for the Department Secretary who will forward them to National Headquarters.

**THE MARYANNE CASADEI AWARD:** An award to the Unit/County reporting the best year-round program for children with special needs to include but not limited to, vision hearing, speech, learning disabilities, behavioral problems, cerebral palsy, and other physical, emotional, or mental disabilities. Award may include but not limited to greatest monetary donation, volunteer hours, donation of goods. Programs may take place in group homes, schools, hospitals, DDSO Homes, respite, church, afterschool, Post home or where there is a scheduled program for children.

## **NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH AWARDS**

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

### **Award: Youth Hero**

#### **Award: Youth Hero Medal and Citation**

- Presented to: Youth under 18 years of age who have performed heroic acts of physical valor; membership in The American Legion Family is not required.
- Materials and guidelines:
  - Complete the Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination Form and mail to your Department Secretary, who certifies, then mails the application to National Headquarters. (Please, **do not** mail applications directly to National Headquarters.)
  - The award certificate, signed by the National President and national Children & Youth chairman, and Youth Hero Award medal will be returned to the unit or department to be presented on behalf of the National organization.
  - The department Children & Youth chairman should be notified of the award.

### **Award: Good Deed**

- Award: Citation
- Presented to: Youth under 18 years of age who have performed specific good

deeds and are great examples of community service in action; membership in The American Legion Family is not required.

- Materials and guidelines:
  - Complete the Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination Form and mail to your Department Secretary, who certifies, then mails the application to National Headquarters.
    - (Please, **do not** mail applications directly to National Headquarters.)
  - The award certificate, signed by the National President and national Children & Youth chairman, will be returned to the unit or department to be presented on behalf of the National organization.
  - The department Children & Youth chairman should be notified of the award.

**A. Unit Award:** Most Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program (per division)

- Deadline: May 1, 2024
- Send to the Department chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above.

**B. Department Award:** Best Department Children & Youth Program (per division)

- Deadline: May 1, 2024
- Send to national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above 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.
  - May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to Department Chairman to be forwarded to National

### **Child Welfare Foundation**

Established in 1954, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation was developed as a repository of funds from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children in this country. Our foremost philanthropic priority is to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth by aiding progress in the field of child welfare through dissemination of knowledge about research, studies, surveys, projects, or by supporting programs and activities benefiting the welfare of children and youth.

Not all American children grow up inside the comfortable definition of normal childhood development. For thousands, each day is a challenge marked by pain, prayer, and perseverance. Many of these children require specialized care. To overcome their obstacles, they need help from you and The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.



# American Legion Auxiliary

## Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination Form

NAME OF YOUTH \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Initial Last

Youth's date of birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_  Male  Female

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Submitted by Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. of \_\_\_\_\_

Description of bravery and/or deed performed by youth (to be completed by unit)

- **Good Deed Award** – Youth should demonstrate leadership role in community service, specific deed should be present
- **Youth Hero Award** - Youth should demonstrate a physical act of valor

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach news clippings or include website to verify the deed being recognized.

### UNIT CERTIFICATION (MUST BE CERTIFIED BY TWO UNIT MEMBERS)

Unit Member \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit Member \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*UNITS SHOULD COMPLETE THE AWARD NOMINATION ON THE NATIONAL WEBSITE AND SEND A COPY TO THE DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN\*\*\***

*If you do not have a computer then use this form and send it to the department office*

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### DEPARTMENT SECRETARY CERTIFICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Department secretary mails nomination to ALA National Headquarters,

Please ship to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please use this form for all Youth Hero and Good Deed Award nominations. For more information, contact National Headquarters at [childrenyouth@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:childrenyouth@ALAforVeterans.org) or (317) 569-4500.

#### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY

Date received \_\_\_\_\_ Date shipped \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Hero Award  Good Deed Award By \_\_\_\_\_

# UNIT CHILDREN & YOUTH REPORT FORM 2023 - 2024

Reporting dates:       November 1, 2023                       April 1, 2024

Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person Reporting \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Unit does not have a Children & Youth Chairman**

**If your Unit participated in any of the activities/programs (check all that apply below) and give a detailed description of the activity. (USE REVERSE SIDE IF NECESSARY.)**

- Big Brothers/Sisters of America     Kids of Deployed R Heroes 2                       National Family Week  
 Boys/Girls Military Program               Child Welfare Foundation                       Health & Safety Programs  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

1. Total Hours for Youth Activities \_\_\_\_\_
2. Dollars Spent on Goods for Youth Activities \$ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Dollar spent on goods for youth activities \$ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Total other **Unit** expenses (parties, dinners, paper goods, trophies) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Total number of children/youth served \_\_\_\_\_
6. Donations to all other child service charities \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total hours members volunteered \_\_\_\_\_ (multiply X \$31.80 hour) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer the following questions (Please use back page or additional paper)**

How did your unit promote the Youth Hero/Good Deed Award? \_\_\_\_\_

How did your Unit promote Kids of Deployed R Heroes 2? \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*\*\* YOU MUST FILL IN THIS INFORMATION FOR IMPACT REPORTS \*\*\*\*\***

**3. Our ALA Service for Youth**

Impact Report	Service for Children & Youth		Total
Line 13	Total hours for other Legion Family youth activities	From Line #1	
Line 14	Dollars spent on goods for youth activities	From Line #2	\$
Line 15	Dollar amount of direct cash aid to help a needy child	From Line #3	\$
Line 16	All other <b>UNIT</b> expenses (parties, dinners, paper goods, trophies)	From Line #4	\$
Line 17	Total number of children/youth served	From Line #5	
Line 18	Donations to all other child service charities	From Line #6	\$

**Send completed form to: Your County Children & Youth Chairman  
Keep a copy for your records**



# COUNTY CHILDREN & YOUTH REPORT FORM 2023-2024

Reporting dates:             November 10, 2023             April 10, 2024

County Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person Reporting \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ County does not have a Children & Youth Chairman

**If your County participated in any of the activities/programs (check all that apply below) and give a detailed description of the activity. (USE REVERSE SIDE IF NECESSARY.)**

- Big Brothers/Sisters of America     Kids of Deployed R Heroes 2     National Family Week  
 Boys/Girls Military Program     Child Welfare Foundation     Health & Safety Programs  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

1. Total Hours for Youth Activities \_\_\_\_\_
2. Dollars Spent on Goods for Youth Activities \$ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Dollar spent on goods for youth activities \$ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Total other **Unit** expenses (parties, dinners, paper goods, trophies) \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Total number of children/youth served \_\_\_\_\_
6. Donations to all other child service charities \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Value of a volunteer hour is \$31.80 X total hours members volunteered = \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**Please answer the following questions (Please use back page or additional paper)**

How did your units in your county promote the Youth Hero/Good Deed Award? \_\_\_\_\_

How did your units in your county promote Kids of Deployed R Heroes 2? \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\* YOU MUST FILL IN THIS INFORMATION FOR IMPACT REPORTS \*\*\***

**3. Our ALA Service for Youth**

Impact Report	Service for Children & Youth	Total from all Units	Total
Line 13	Total hours for other Legion Family youth activities	From Line #1	
Line 14	Dollars spent on goods for youth activities	From Line #2	\$
Line 15	Dollar amount of direct cash aid to help a needy child	From Line #3	\$
Line 16	All other <b>UNIT</b> expenses (parties, dinners, paper goods, trophies)	From Line #4	\$
Line 17	Total number of children/youth served	From Line #5	
Line 18	Donations to all other child service charities	From Line #6	\$

Send this report to **Department Children Youth Chairman** and keep a copy for your records

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