

**2025-2026 American Legion Auxiliary
Department of New York
Children & Youth**

Department Chairman

**Julianne Barton
9354 Capron Rd.
Lee Center, NY 13363
C: 315-794-5116
nyalachildrenandyouth@gmail.com**

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.

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 1st** unless a different date is specified.

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S AWARD: To the Unit that submits the best Children & Youth program supporting Children & Youth including Military Children, plan a special celebration for the children during the month of April in honor of Children & Youth month and Month of the Military Child and Purple Up. All entries must be received by May 1, 2026. All entries are to be mailed to the Department President at her home address.

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. Awards may include but not limited to greatest monetary donation, volunteer hours, and 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.

2025-2026 NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH AWARDS

Deadlines and Submission Requirements

All award submissions must include a narrative (either a PDF or Microsoft Word document) explaining why the department or unit you're nominating should receive the award. You may also upload other supporting documentation that will give the committee a full picture of the important mission works your department, or unit has accomplished this year. These files can be photos (JPG, JPEG or TIFs -- no larger than 14MB) or PDF documents. If you have more than three supporting files, please email the committee email address listed in the form.

National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

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

All unit entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted.

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

All department entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted.

Photos (in a high-resolution format) that show unit mission Children & Youth Committee activities accompany these reports.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE YOUTH HERO AND GOOD DEED AWARD ARE SUBMITTED ON THE NATIONAL WEBSITE VIA FORMSTACK

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 on the National Website.
 - 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.

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 on the National website
 - 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.

Child Well-Being Foundation

Established in 1954, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation now renamed The Child Well-Being 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 Well-Being Foundation.

IMPORTANT DATES

April is the Month of the Military Child
 April 15: Purple Up! Day for Military Children

2025-2026 UNIT CHILDREN & YOUTH REPORT FORM

Reporting dates: **November 1, 2025** **March 1, 2026** **May 1, 2026**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Unit: _____ County: _____ District: _____

_____ *Unit does not have a Children & Youth Chairman*

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/youths served _____
6. Donations to all other child service charities \$ _____
7. Dollar amount of direct cash aid to help a needy child \$ _____
8. Total hours members volunteered _____ (multiply X \$34.79 hour) \$ _____

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

- What events were held to support children and youth? This includes Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDHD). Please include how many children were helped, volunteer hours, funds raised and used, and online materials you used.
- Please separate programs for veterans and military families from other children and youth activities.
- What was the amount of money raised or donated for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation? How was the Child Welfare Foundation promoted?
- How did you celebrate the Month of the Military Child in April, including Purple Up! Day on April 15?
- How did you promote the ALA's Youth Hero and Good Deed awards?
- Is there something your members accomplished this year for which you are exceptionally proud? Attach pictures if possible

******* 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 UNIT expenses (parties, dinners, paper goods, trophies)	From Line #4	\$
Line 17	Total number of children/youths 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**

2025-2026 COUNTY CHILDREN & YOUTH REPORT FORM

Reporting dates: November 10, 2025 March 10, 2026 May 10, 2026

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

County: _____ District: _____

_____ County does not have a Children & Youth Chairman

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/youths served _____
6. Donations to all other child service charities \$ _____
7. Dollar amount of direct cash aid to help a needy child \$ _____
8. Value of a volunteer hour is \$34.79 X total hours members volunteered \$ _____
9. Any additional county expenses \$ _____

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

- What events were held to support children and youth? This includes Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDHD). Please include how many children were helped, volunteer hours, funds raised and used, and online materials you used.
- Please separate programs for veterans and military families from other children and youth activities.
- What was the amount of money raised or donated for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation? How was the Child Welfare Foundation promoted?
- How did you celebrate the Month of the Military Child in April, including Purple Up! Day on April 15?
- How did you promote the ALA's Youth Hero and Good Deed awards?
- Is there something your members accomplished this year for which you are exceptionally proud? Attach pictures if possible

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

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 UNIT expenses (parties, dinners, paper goods, trophies)	From Line #4	\$
Line 17	Total number of children/youths served	From Line #5	
Line 18	Donations to all other child service charities	From Line #6	\$

3. Our ALA Service for Youth

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

Julianne Barton

9354 Capron Rd.

Lee Center, NY 13363

C: 315-794-5116

nyalachildrenandyouth@gmail.com

