

**2026-2027 American Legion Auxiliary
Department of New York
Junior Activities**

Department Chairman

Nicole Ross

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**The Eastern Division Junior Meeting will be in Albany, NY on January 30th, 2027.
Please check the website for more information.**

Purpose: The purpose of the Junior Activities Committee is to inspire active participation in members aged 17 and under so they become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood.

Inspire active participation in members age 17 and under so they will become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood.

- Engage Junior members in activities that support the American Legion Auxiliary mission:
 - Engage in poppy activities that may include making poppy posters, telling the poppy story, and distributing poppies with the assistance of senior members.
 - Promote Americanism through practicing correct flag etiquette and respect.
 - Organize and participate in service projects.
 - Offer help to military families and help military kids entering a new school.
 - Involve Junior members in helping support the needs of veterans in VA hospitals and outreach facilities with handwritten cards, thank-you cards, mementoes, and supplies.
- Engage Junior members in leadership training:
 - Shadow senior member officers at meetings and hold an appropriate unit office.
 - Post colors at senior meetings, conferences, and conventions.
 - Lead opening ceremonies (the Pledge, prayers, National Anthem, ALA Preamble).
 - Shadow senior committee chairs and assist with their program plans.
 - Promote the ALA scholarship benefits of remaining a member.
 - Encourage Juniors to attend their ALA Girls State program the summer between their junior and senior years of high school.

Build the Junior Activities program one member at a time by giving Junior members a voice and opportunity to participate.

- Plan mission-related activities that are interesting and inspiring to Juniors.
- Participate in Wreaths Across America Day by volunteering to lay wreaths at local cemeteries.
- Hold graduation ceremonies to recognize Juniors who will move to ALA senior membership status.
- Pay first year of senior membership to encourage retention.
- Share information about the ALA's scholarship programs
 - Member Loyalty Scholarship
 - Spirit of Youth Scholarship
 - Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship
 - Samsung Scholarships
- Pair older Juniors with less experienced Juniors to promote mentorship.

Promote and encourage Junior participation in the ALA's national Junior Member of the Year award.

- There will be five division Junior Members of the Year (ages 14-17).
- From those five division winners, a national Junior Member of the Year will be chosen.
- Four division winners will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The national winner will receive a \$5,000 scholarship, plus invited to the ALA's National Convention.
- All five division winners will receive a citation plaque, plus an invitation to a national Junior meeting.
- This scholarship is to reward ALA Junior members who are contributing to the organization and our mission, with a long-term goal of increasing Junior participation.

Promote and encourage Junior participation in the ALA's national Rising Star Junior award.

- There will be five division Rising Star Juniors for members ages 8-13.
- All five division winners will receive a citation plaque, plus an invitation to a national Junior meeting.
- This award is to recognize younger ALA Junior members who are contributing to the organization and our mission, with a long-term goal of increasing Junior participation.

Promote and encourage Junior participation in the ALA Patch Program to teach them about the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

- Work on the Patch Program at unit meetings. Include senior members to educate Juniors about the importance of participation in the Patch Program and to learn about ALA programs.
- Encourage Juniors who are unable to attend unit meetings to work on the Patch Program at home.
- Work with Sons of The American Legion (SAL) squadron leaders to inform them of the opportunity for young SAL members to participate in the ALA Patch Program.
- All Juniors and SAL members attending a National Junior meeting will earn a National Junior Meeting Patch to acknowledge what they have learned at the meeting.

Make Junior meetings fun and informative.

- Explore mission service and how they can impact our mission at each meeting.
- Encourage friendships and mentoring by planning fun team-building activities (games, learning Junior songs, etc.) and/or provide age-appropriate crafts.
- Highlight the numerous ALA learning opportunities available to members in the ALA Academy, including the ALA Juniors eLearning Course.

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR ACTIVITIES AWARDS

Department Award 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 a folder.
- Pictures, newspaper 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.

THE MARY LOU PLATT AWARD: To the Unit, County or District advisor with the most outstanding report on her junior activities emphasizing the American Legion Auxiliary programs.

2026-2027 NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES 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. The narrative can also be the department chair's report. You may also upload other supporting documentation that will give the committee a full picture of the important mission work 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>

Member Award: Junior Member of the Year

- One national JMOY will win a \$5,000 scholarship and a trip to the ALA's National Convention.
- Four division JMOY winners will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.
- Nominees must have been a junior member at the start of the current ALA administrative year.
- Juniors must be at least in eighth or eighth-grade equivalent and may win only once.
- Juniors may be nominated by any member, unit, or department.
- The narrative should detail the Junior nominee's ALA participation and activities during the past year. Document with photographs, screenshots, and other evidence of Junior's ALA participation and activities.
- All entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.
- Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.
- **National Junior Member of the Year Awards Form Link:** <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program (per division)

Presented: One unit in each division.

Materials and guidelines:

- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words that includes specific examples of how the unit involved Junior members as part of their unit's programs.
- Should include high-resolution action photos, scans/links to news articles, etc.
- All unit entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.
- Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.

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

Department Award: Best Department Junior Activities Program (per division)

Presented to: One department in each division.

Materials and guidelines:

- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words that includes examples of how the department chair shared information with departments about the Junior Activities program; may include the department chair's report.
- Should include action (high-resolution) photos, scans/links to news articles, etc.
- All department entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.
- Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.
- **National Awards Form Link:** <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>



**Honorary Junior Officers
ALA Department of New York 2026-2027**

Honorary Junior Dept. President	Jaedyn Vernacotola	Steuben County, 7 th Dist.
Honorary Jr. Vice President	Ailie Hagerty	Oneida County, 5 th Dist.
Junior Secretary	Serena Forest	Monroe County, 7 th Dist.
Treasurer	Serena Forest	Monroe County, 7 th Dist.
Junior Chaplain	Rilie Hagerty	Oneida County, 5 th Dist.
Junior Historian	Ziva Yerdon	Montgomery County, 4 th Dist.
Junior Sgt. At Arms	Adelle Collins	Tioga County, 6 th Dist.

**EASTERN DIVISION NATIONAL JUNIOR MEETING WILL BE IN ALBANY, NY
January 30, 2027**

2026-2027 UNIT JUNIOR ACTIVITIES REPORT FORM

REPORTING DATES: ☐ November 1, 2026 ☐ April 1, 2027

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Unit: _____ County: _____ District _____

_____ **Unit does not have a Juniors Chairman**

Check the activities / programs performed by the Junior members of your Unit

_____ Held regular Junior business meeting	_____ Promoting Americanism
_____ Participated in Pocket Flag Project	_____ Assisted Senior member Projects
_____ Helped develop and maintain a website	_____ Operation Military Kids
_____ Volunteer at VAMC	_____ Attended Senior meeting
_____ Conduct a Cookie Pack for troops or Local Veterans	_____ Held a membership workshop
_____ Increased awareness of Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship	_____ Service to Veterans

_____ # of Juniors in Unit

_____ # of Active Juniors

_____ # of Veterans Served

_____ Total hours Juniors volunteered

Total \$value of volunteer hours (total hours x \$36.14) _____ Total miles driven _____

Total \$ value of goods and materials donated \$ _____

Grand Total \$value of hours + goods and materials \$ _____

_____ Junior members attended the Eastern Division Junior Meeting in Albany, NY on January 30th, 2027.

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

- How did the unit promote the Patch Program?
- What are the various service projects in which Juniors were involved?
- What type of volunteer hours did Junior members perform?
- What ways did senior members mentor the Junior members?
- How does the unit plan to increase Junior member participation in meetings?
- Please include pictures and news articles showing Juniors involved in their activities.
- Describe Projects/activities of Junior Members.

Juniors' hours volunteered, expenses, and donations made which are reportable on the Impact Report Forms, should be combined with those of the Senior members of the Unit or County and reported on the applicable UNIT and COUNTY reports. Separate Junior activities supporting Junior membership and programs should NOT be reported on the Impact Report Forms

Send to your County Junior Activities Chairman

Keep a copy for your records

2026-2027 COUNTY JUNIOR ACTIVITIES REPORT FORM

REPORTING DATES: ☐ November 10, 2026 ☐ April 10, 2027

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

County: _____ District: _____

No. of Units in County _____ No. of Units Reporting _____

_____ **County does not have a Junior Activities Chairman**

_____ **Check Activities/programs carried out by Junior groups in your county:**

_____ Held regular Junior business meeting _____ Promoting Americanism

_____ Participated in Pocket Flag Project _____ Assisted Senior member Projects

_____ Helped develop and maintain a website _____ Operation Military Kids

_____ Volunteer at VAMC _____ Attended Senior meeting

_____ Conduct a Cookie Pack for troops or _____ Held a membership workshop
Local Veterans

_____ Increased awareness of Children of _____ Service to Veterans
Warriors National President's Scholarship

_____ No. of Units w/Juniors in County _____ Total No. of Juniors

_____ No. of Active Juniors _____ Total No. of Veterans Served

Total \$value of volunteer hours (total hours x \$36.14) _____ Total miles driven _____

Total \$ value of goods and materials donated \$ _____

Grand Total (\$value of hours + goods and materials) \$ _____

Total _____ Junior members attended the Eastern Division Junior Meeting in Albany, NY
on January 30, 2027

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

- How was the Patch Program promoted?
- What are the various service projects in which Juniors were involved?
- What type of volunteer hours did Junior members perform?
- What ways did senior members mentor the Junior members?
- How does the county plan to increase Junior member participation in meetings and Activities?
- Please include pictures and news articles showing Juniors involved in their activities.

Juniors' hours volunteered, expenses, and donations made which are reportable on the Impact Report Forms, should be combined with those of the Senior members of the Unit or County and reported on the applicable UNIT and COUNTY reports. Separate Junior activities supporting Junior membership and programs should NOT be reported on the Impact Report Forms.

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