

## ALA Junior Member Activities

ALA Junior members volunteer with other girls in their age group in many engaging activities:

- Learning about patriotism and how to show respect for the American flag
- Helping military families in practical ways such as mowing yards and helping military kids become acclimated at a new school
- Distributing poppies and raising awareness, especially on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, so our veterans know we care about them
- Practicing leadership by organizing service projects
- Earning service patches while learning about ALA programs
- Demonstrating responsibility for future scholarship, college, or military service applications

### **Junior Activities Program Engagement Plan (National)**

<https://www.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Junior-Member-Activities/Get-Involved-Juniors>

**Member Site:** <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/junior-member-activities>

**Public Side:** <https://www.legion-aux.org/Juniors>

**Junior Activities Email Address:** [JuniorActivities@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:JuniorActivities@ALAforVeterans.org)

### Get Involved

**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. *Standing Rule 6, National Committees – Mission Outreach*

**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.**

- **Mission-related:**
  - Distribute poppies with assistance from senior members.
  - Organize and participate in service projects.
  - Offer computer/technology help to veterans with assistance from senior members. See article from [Auxiliary magazine on Veterans Tech Support](#), plus more information here: <https://veteranstechsupport.com>.
  - Offer help to military families and help military kids entering a new school.
- **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 chairmen and assist with their program plans.
  - Promote 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 wreath-laying ceremonies.
- 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](#)
  - [Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship](#)
  - [Spirit of Youth](#)
  - [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 now be five division Junior Members of the Year.
- 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.
- 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 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 as a way for Juniors to learn about ALA programs.
- Provide year (1st, 2nd 3rd) attachments to Juniors who have achieved a patch at the same level for more than one year.
- 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.

**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 Courses](#)

**Deadlines/Important Dates**

- April 15: Purple Up! Day for Military Children
- May 15: Department chairmen reports due to division chairmen, cc: national chairman
- June 1: Awards submissions due, including Junior Member of the Year
- August 1-15: Honorary National Junior Division Vice President elections. Open to any Junior who attended a 2023-2024 national Junior meeting. Winners will be announced at National Convention.
- 2023-2024 National Junior Meetings: [See dates and locations here](#) (*January 27, 2023 Western Division, Las Vegas*)

**ALA Department of CA Code**

2. The Department endorses the formation of Junior groups statewide and promotes the use of the Junior Activity Handbook as a necessary guide for the development and participation of Junior members.
4. Junior members are encouraged to participate in all programs and contests sponsored by the National Organization, including the junior patch program and attendance to junior mission training, following all rules pertaining to these programs and contests. The Department Chairman shall advise the Districts of contests, rules, programs, deadline dates and junior mission training location, dates, and registration information. (2017)
7. Junior members when requested by the VA Medical Centers, Children's Hospitals, etc., shall be encouraged to participate in providing tray favors, scrapbooks, poppy corsages or arrangements and other handicraft items.