CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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Mission:  Knowledge is power. A core element of the Auxiliary’s mission, caring for our children and youth, is sharply focused on educating adults about the needs of our young people. We believe that the more people know and understand about the needs of the children in their communities, the more interest they will have in learning how they can help meet those needs.

Mid-Year Report:  Each Unit Children & Youth Chairman is required to submit a narrative report by December 15, 2020 to me at the above address so I may in turn submit a narrative report to the National organization. Thank you all in advance.

Annual Report:  Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the Department, and may result in a National award for participants if award requirements are met.

Each Unit will submit to your District Chairman your tally sheets and narrative report by April 1, 2021. The District Chairman will in turn submit their tally sheet and narrative reports to me no later than April 15, 2021. Please add up and total your tally sheets.

April is Children and Youth Month:  During this time, The American Legion Family emphasizes its commitment to our nation’s children. Search “April Children” at www.legion.org for a list of all brochures that are available.

Josh dogs:  Due to circumstances beyond our control, the company that manufactures and distributes Josh Dogs/GI Josh is closing operations. It is our hope that this is a temporary situation and Josh will simply be in hiatus for a year.
DEPARTMENT CHILDREN AND YOUTH AWARDS

District Awards: Presented to the Unit in each District with the best report.

Perham Trophies: One trophy in each of the following categories based on the Unit membership as of March 30th with the best Children & Youth report submitted by a Unit.

- **Category 1:** 1 to 49 members
- **Category 2:** 50 to 99 members
- **Category 3:** 100 to 199 members
- **Category 4:** 200 + members

**Dennis R. Dumais Jr. Trophy:** To the Unit in District 3 that has done the most for sports involving children up to the age of 16.

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

- How did your units and department promote the Youth Hero/Good Deed Award?
- How did your unit promote the “Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2” program
- What success stories do you have regarding support for military or homeless Veterans’ children?

**Children & Youth National Awards**

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just three simple steps to add your part to our national success story:

1) Please follow instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet found in the awards section of the Programs Action Plan.
2) Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the award’s materials and guidelines section.
3) Submit to the Department Chairman.

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

- 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.
  * May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.
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.
HOW TO CONDUCT A "KIDS OF DEPLOYED ARE HEROES 2" PROGRAM:

Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2): honoring military children who may experience a separation from one or both parents, whether deploying to a war zone, having a short tour or extended TDY (temporary duty assignment).

1. Make preparations for a supply of "recognition buttons" for distribution.
   Visit the Children & Youth page of the Members Only section at www.ALAforVeterans.org for more information.
   Buttons may be ordered through the Auxiliary, a commercial vendor or made locally with the following content:
   I’m a Hero 2.
   Proud Parent of a Military Child with a picture.
   Proud Grandparent of a Military Child with a picture.

2. Call a planning meeting: include the Legion Family, especially Junior members. Consider the following ideas to recognize military kids:

   Make or purchase and distribute 'I’m a Hero 2' buttons.
   Make or purchase and distribute 'Proud Parent/Grandparent of a Military Child' with picture button. Can’t afford buttons? Make or purchase and distribute stickers.

3. Decide the best location for recognition of military kids:

   Coordinate with Family Readiness Groups for button distribution during family days.
   Coordinate with Legion Family members for local community days/fairs etc.
   Consider having an activity day/dinner for military families at your post home.
   If your unit is in close vicinity to a military installation, contact Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) for a listing of activities in which you might have a concession or table.
   Make buttons available for ALA Girls State and The American Legion Boys State programs and Junior members.
   Consider suggestions from Junior members for school activities and locations.

Plan a public relations campaign around your event. Consider having Auxiliary membership applications available. Community events provide the best opportunity to sign up new members.
**HOW TO REACH OUT TO MILITARY CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Some ideas for reaching out to military children and youth:

1. Sponsor a "You're My Hero" event, similar to the Youth Hero Award, but for military children.
   
   Present them with certificates and medals.
   Be creative.
   Ask your Junior members to participate.
   Use your public relations tools to inform the community. Refer to the Public Relations Toolkit at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).

2. Host a movie and popcorn night for teens or a board game night.
   
   Many military kids can't afford new prom dresses. Get the community involved in collecting and distributing gently used prom dresses.
   Ask local radio stations and newspapers to donate time and space to help advertise your initiative.
   Get local bridal shops involved.
   Involve your high school counselors.
   Your unit may also want to help with transportation expenses, flowers, etc.

4. Contact your local homeless shelter. Ask if there are any veterans there with children.
   
   Since one in five homeless are veterans, there is a good chance they will be living in local shelters. Find out what your unit can do to help the children.
   VA hospitals have homeless coordinators and/or directors of voluntary services.
   Meet with them to establish a method in which the coordinator/director will coordinate with your unit whenever a homeless veteran with children is identified. Offer to provide school supplies for the child, through the homeless coordinator or director of voluntary services.

5. Maybe the best thing you can do is get your Legion Family together and brainstorm ideas that might work in your community. Sometimes, school-aged children might be your best link to finding military children in your community. Be creative.

Plan a public relations campaign around your event. Consider having Auxiliary membership applications available. Community events provide the best opportunity to sign up new members.
Additional Resources You Can Use

1. “I’m a Hero 2” stickers template and instructions can be found on the Children & Youth program page at www(ALAforVeterans.org).

2. Your national Children & Youth committee members (see Children & Youth program page on the national website or Annual Supplement for contact information.)

3. The national Children & Youth Committee Facebook group, search “ALA Children and Youth”

4. The American Legion Children & Youth programs: www.legion.org/programs

5. The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation: www.legion.org/cwf


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 send completed applications to their department secretary.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY CERTIFICATION

Name ___________________________ Date: __________________

Department secretary mails nomination to National Headquarters, 8945 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46260. Awards will be shipped at no cost to unit or department.

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 children&youth@ALAveterans.org or (317) 589-4500.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY

Date received ___________________________ Date shipped ___________________________

Youth Hero Award □ Good Deed Award □ By ___________________________
American Legion Auxiliary
National Report and Award Cover Sheet

Please note, your report will also be viewed as an award entry.

Complete the following if you are applying for a member award. Be sure to give the complete name of the member. The award certificate will be prepared using the information you include below.

Unit #: __________________ Full official unit name: ____________________________

Name of state where you are a member: ____________________________

Member Name: ____________________ ALA member ID#: __________________________

Nominating Member (if different from above): ____________________________

Nominator’s Phone number: (___) __________________________

Nominator’s Email address: __________________________

National committee sponsoring award: __________________________

Type of Award: [ ] Department [ ] Unit [ ] Member

Name of the award you are applying for: __________________________

For a unit award or to submit a year-end unit narrative report, please complete this section. Be sure to give the complete name of your unit. The award certificate will be prepared using the information you include below.

Unit #: __________________ Full official unit name: ____________________________

Name of department: __________________________

Unit president/chairman (circle one) name: __________________________

Above listed person’s ALA member ID#: __________________ Phone number: (___) __________________________

Email address: __________________________

For a department award or to submit a year-end department narrative report, please complete this section:

Name of department: __________________________

Name of department chairman: __________________________

Chairman’s phone number: (___) __________________ ALA member ID#: __________________________

Chairman’s email address: __________________________