



Junior Activities Chairman Guide

Junior Activities Purpose:

To engage eligible young women (under the age of 18) in positive mission-based volunteer opportunities so that they will be inclined to continue their membership into adulthood.

Committee:

Recruit at least three senior members, preferably from your committee, to serve as helpers for different age groups. Age groups should correlate with the patch program age groups: kindergarten through third grade, fourth grade through eighth grade, and ninth grade through graduation to a senior member.

Committee members, or at the very least the chairman, need to be familiar with national awards, the patch program, and other opportunities available to Juniors. Further information can be found in the Plan of Action on the national website (www.ALAforVeterans.org).



Planning Activities:

Create a list of local Juniors that can participate in events, and invite them to a meeting using e-mail or Facebook. When planning activities and service projects, plan one activity for each age group. For instance, if your unit is hosting a holiday party for servicemembers' kids, elementary-aged Juniors could make cards, middle school-aged Juniors could help wrap the presents, and high school-aged Juniors could make desserts.



Keep in mind that younger children have very short attention spans and require short, varied activities and breaks for physical activity. Most Tiny Tot members will be too young to participate in focused activities. Aim for fun rather than formality in meetings.

Have pictures taken at any event you have; sharing the pictures on Facebook will help others get ideas for Junior service projects. Submit your pictures and stories to the *Auxiliary* magazine (e-mail to alamagazine@ALAforVeterans.org).

As the future leaders of our organization, Juniors should learn protocol and Auxiliary traditions; emphasis should be placed on engaging Junior members while making meetings meaningful and fun. Activities could include: giving presentations on flag symbolism, flag etiquette, or the

national anthem; participating in the pocket flag program; volunteering at VA medical centers; or participating in the Veterans History Project.

Funding:

In nearly all units, Junior Activities does not have an operational budget, but there are many fundraising events and ideas that you can do to raise money. An example is hosting a food/beverage booth at a local fair. Any money raised by or for the Juniors should be kept as a separate line in the unit account(s), similar to poppy funds.

Junior Hierarchy:

Honorary Junior officers on the unit level include president, vice president, chaplain, historian, secretary, treasurer and sergeant-at-arms. Department Junior officers may vary by department, but are likely to reflect the structure of the unit. Nationally, there is an honorary Junior president, five honorary Junior division vice presidents, honorary Junior chaplain, and honorary Junior historian. Juniors indicate their intent to run for national office and are elected during the Junior Meeting at National Convention.

Emblem Use:

Used in its entirety, the Auxiliary Emblem must be encircled by a solid color without a border. Controlled by National Headquarters, written approval from the national secretary is needed put the emblem on an item to be manufactured. Contact your department secretary for more information on this approval process. These restrictions apply equally to the Emblems of The American Legion, the Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Riders. For more information, visit: www.legion.org/emblem.

National Convention:

The Junior Meeting is held during pre-con meetings at National Convention (the two days before convention begins). Juniors share ideas and have fun while honoring the traditions of the Auxiliary, elect honorary Junior officers, and, in conjunction with Operation: Military Kids, assemble Hero Packs for children of deployed servicemembers.

Contact:

Looking for more ideas? Contact your district, county, department, and then division chairmen. E-mail the national chairman at JuniorActivities@ALAforVeterans.org

Additional Resources:

For more information, become a fan on Facebook (www.facebook.com/alajuniors), and check out the Unit Handbook, Junior Activities Handbook, and Plan of Action. Juniors are encouraged to implement aspects from all of the Auxiliary programs into their projects throughout the year.