

2017~2018 Children & Youth Bulletin

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Year-End report is due to me no later than April 25th

Purpose Statement

To work collaboratively with The American Legion to direct and sponsor programs and services that provide care and protection for our nation's children, especially those of our military and veterans.

It is our responsibility to draw our Unit's attention to the children and youth in our area and come to their aid when necessary. Keep notes on your activities from the beginning of the year, to make mid-year and year-end reporting easier for you.

National Areas of Focus:

- **Youth Hero and Good Deed Awards**

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 recognizes someone less than 18 years of age who performs a heroic act of physical bravery. The Good Deed Award is for youths 18 years of age or younger who have contributed in a special way to society through community service. It is often said, "Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders." Every year, we see examples of youth in this country making a positive difference by doing some pretty amazing things. Kids like Bryce, age 7, who asked his friends to bring care package items for our troops to his birthday party rather than presents. Or Kayla, age 12, who donated 10 inches of her hair for children suffering from hair loss due to a medical condition. These acts remind us of the power of one person's example, and that's why the American Legion Auxiliary created the Youth Hero and Good Deed awards. We recognize young girls and boys who are demonstrating a kind of intentional selflessness, and then we tell their stories to inspire others.

- **Star Spangled Kids**

"Star Spangled" Kids is an initiative to educate children and youth in the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution. Auxiliary members can partner with the American Legion Family, team with their Education chairman, and bring veterans or active duty military into the classrooms to talk about what their service means to defending the Constitution.

Activities to enrich "Star Spangled" Kids:

- Encourage students to test their knowledge of the Constitution.
- Test your own knowledge of the Constitution.

- Print mini Constitutions that can be handed out to the students you visit with.
- Celebrate U.S. Constitution Day on September 17th.
- Perform a skit or musical about the Constitution and its signers.
- In conjunction with the local schools, create a Unit Citizenship Award for children and youth who have demonstrated the ideals of the U.S. Constitution.
- At the high school level, promote student participation in The American Legion Oratorical Contest.

- **Recognize Kids of Active Military**

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. Recognition buttons or stickers with “I’m a Hero 2” can be distributed to these kids to recognize their sacrifices.

What can you do?

Host an event to recognize these military children. Be sure to include the Legion family, especially your Juniors. Have a supply of the “I’m a Hero 2” buttons or stickers ready to hand out. You might also want to have on-hand the “Proud Parent/Grandparent of a Military Child” button.

Consider these ideas:

- Coordinate with Family Readiness Groups for button distribution during family days.
- Coordinate with Legion Family members on local community days/fairs etc.
- Have an activity day/dinner for military families at your post home. (KDH2 buttons may be ordered through a commercial vendor or made yourself. You can get information from the National website at: alaforveterans.org)

Department Awards are due to me by May 1st / National Awards by May 15th.
(Be sure to specify if they are Department or National entries and include a cover sheet)

Mid-Year and Year End Questionnaires are included in this report. Be sure to include photos of your activities, if you wish. These are important, so I can include your Unit’s information in my reporting to National.

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MID-YEAR QUESTIONNAIRE

Unit Name & #: _____ **District #** _____

C&Y Chairman: _____

Hours spent on Children & Youth activities _____

Number of children involved in Children & Youth activities? _____

Dollars spent on C&Y activities? \$_____ **In-Kind donations? \$**_____

Do you have any children of military in your Unit? _____

What activities has your Unit been involved in for Children & Youth?

Did you participate in April's Children & Youth month challenge? _____
How?

Have you focused on any National programs?