

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES
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During the next year, it is important that we continue to promote the Junior Activities program within our Units. National Chairman, Martha Corriher, has challenged all of us to embrace the main purpose of the program this year: To interest eligible young women (under the age of 18) in adult membership through positive experiences of mission-based volunteer opportunities that install the ideal of the organization.

This purpose is not much different than we have always done, but this year we must focus on retention of Junior members as they become eligible for Senior membership. We need an increase of retention rate to continue to grow our organization. That can be done by involvement and encouragement of our Juniors as well as ensuring they understand the importance of their membership and the activities they perform as members of our organization.

I will once again encourage Units to actively invite their Junior members to participate in Unit, District, Department and National meetings. We started with special activities at Mid-Year and Department Convention this past year, and plan to continue with those Junior-focused activities. Please encourage Juniors to consider attending the 2010 National Junior Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and find ways to help raise funds to help defray her costs.

Our National program in 2009-2010 places special emphasis on recruiting new Juniors, community service activities and expanding knowledge of services we can provide to our veterans.

Recruiting/Retaining Juniors:

- Encourage each Junior to recruit one new Junior member prior to National Convention
- Encourage retention of Junior members upon graduation to Senior membership
- Encourage friendship between Juniors by participation in American Legion Auxiliary sponsored Facebook sites

Encourage Community Service Projects:

- Plan and execute a community fund raiser and report results
- Encourage participation in the Junior Patch program

Learn and Practice the Point of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program:

- Senior members hold monthly activities to promote education of the VA&R program
- Discover volunteer opportunities at Veteran Homes and V.A. Medical Centers

The patch program will be available again this year and Juniors should be encouraged to start working toward those patches as soon as they become available. Activities for qualifying for the patches run from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010. Patches can be earned for activities including Americanism, Community Service, Field Service, Leadership, Membership, Physical Fitness, Poppy and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Completed activity sheets should be sent to Barb Washburn, 455 County Road 7, Ashland, NE 68003 by **May 1, 2010**.

Junior Activities Awards

ALL Juniors are eligible to enter all of the contests whether as a part of an organized Junior Group or not.

National award entries, Department and Personal award winners will be announced at the Department Junior Meeting and Department American Legion Auxiliary Convention 2010.

All National and Department Award entries must be postmarked on or before **May 1, 2010** and sent to Junior Activities Chairman Barbara Washburn, 455 County Road, Ashland, NE 68003. The only exception will be the poppy corsages, centerpiece contest entries and the craft display contest. All three of these separate contest entries will be judged at the Department Junior Meeting and must be in place by 8:30 a.m. on Saturday for judging. Please follow the rules and guidelines carefully for each contest as it is important that Junior leaders give correct guidance to Juniors entering the various contests. If you have questions, or do not understand something, contact the Department Junior Activities Chairman.

NATIONAL JUNIOR AWARDS

Junior Member of the Year. In order to recognize the dedicated service, efforts and talents of a Junior member and increase Junior participation at the National Junior Meeting, each Unit may submit one nominee for Junior Member of the Year to this Chairman. National will not provide funding to the Department for the nominee to attend the National Meeting. The National Junior Member of the year will receive a \$100 Savings Bond. The rules are as follows:

1. Only Junior members in good standing for 2009-2010 are eligible.
2. Current year of membership dues must be paid.
3. Each Unit is limited to one nomination.
4. Selection should be based on the outstanding contribution the Junior has made through a program or project other than the office she is holding (based on the current year ONLY)
5. Nominee may not be serving as Honorary Department Junior President.
6. Length of membership is not a criteria.
7. Her Junior group will select the Junior nominee with the assistance of the Unit Junior Activities Advisor.
8. Each Junior group will submit to this Chairman the following information:
 - a. Name and complete address of nominee.
 - b. Narrative typed, double-spaced, essay not to exceed 500 words describing nominee's accomplishments during the current administrative year.
 - c. Nomination must be signed by Unit Junior Activities Advisor and the Junior Group President and submitted to Department Junior Activities Chairman postmarked on or before May 1, 2010.

National Plaque Award. This award is presented to the Unit reporting the best overall Junior Activities program. The report is to be in narrative form, typed, double-spaced, with 1,000 words or less. Do not include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc. Please provide the Unit name, number, Unit Junior Activities Chairman's name and address and the name of the Department. Judging will be based on the following factors.

Americanism...35%

- 5% Memorizing Preamble
- 5% Memorizing the National Anthem

15% Knowledge of Flag Code, History of Flag, knowing and giving correctly the Pledge of Allegiance

5% Participation in Pocket Flag Project

5% Proper observance of National Holidays

Veterans Affairs And Rehabilitation...35%

5% Christmas or holiday activities

5% Donations and collections

5% Veterans History Project

5% Field Service/Home Service/VA Hospital Activities

Poppy activities

10% Children and Youth

Community Service...25%

5% Safety programs and health programs

10% Ecology/beautification programs

10% Senior citizens

General Activities...5%

5% Other projects – as related to Junior Projects

Outlined in this plan of work

Scholarship Opportunities

Spirit of Youth Scholarship – One four-year scholarship will be awarded to a Junior Member in each division. This information is available from Department Secretary.

Americanism Youth Conference – A scholarship awarded to one representative per department to students in grades 10, 11 and 12 to attend Freedoms Foundation. This annual conference is hosted by the Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. This information is available from the Department Education chairman.

Junior Volunteer Scholarship Award – A scholarship awarded to a Junior Member Volunteer in each division serving the greatest number of volunteer hours in a VA facility, through home or field service. This information is available from the Department VA&R chairman.

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR AWARDS

“Turning the Page” Awards. These are personal awards from this Chairman.

1. One award to the Junior, Unit or District who develops a new way to promote the Junior patch program. Please submit a report of 250 words or less describing your new program(s).
2. One award to the Junior who recruits the most new Junior members prior to the Department Junior Convention. Please submit the Junior's name along with the list of the new member(s).
3. One award to each Unit or District that organizes a new active Junior group. Please submit a report of 250 words or less describing your new Junior group.

NARRATIVE REPORTS

DUE MAY 1, 2010

Plaques or trophies will be awarded at the Department Junior Meeting to the Junior Group submitting the best report in the categories listed below. Entries must be written in narrative form and not to exceed 1,000 words. Must be one per Junior Unit. The entry must be prepared

by a Junior and include activities from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010 only. **PLEASE BE SURE THAT TO FOLLOW ALL RULES PROVIDED IN THE 2009-2010 ABC BOOK: DO NOT USE PRIOR YEAR'S ABC BOOKS.**

Only one report per Unit in each contest; the same report can not be submitted in more than one contest.

Entries will be judged in the following age categories unless otherwise stipulated.

Group I Ages 6 - 8 years, no contest Group III Ages 13 - 15
Group II Ages 9 - 12 years Group IV Ages 16 - 18 years

A cover sheet must be attached to each narrative report and include the following information.

1. American Legion Auxiliary Seal
2. Name of Contest
(example: Best Americanism Program - Group IV)
3. Name of Junior Member
4. Name and Number of Unit
5. Unit Town
6. On final page, include signature of Junior member and age.

Most Outstanding Report of Year's Activities. A plaque will be presented to the Junior Group in each age category reporting the best year-round Junior Activities program.

AWARDS: Group II Winona Brecht Plaque
 Group III Ruby Paul Plaque
 Group IV Carol Van Kirk Plaque

Best Americanism Program. A plaque will be presented to the Junior Group in each age category reporting the best year-round Americanism program.

AWARDS: Group II Jan Auer Plaque
 Group III Margie Swanson Plaque
 Group IV Cleo Craigie Plaque

Best Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program. An award will be presented to the Junior Group in each age category reporting the best year-round Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program.

AWARDS: Group II 9-12 years of age
 Group III 13-15 years of age
 Group IV 16-18 years of age

Community Service Award. An award will be presented at the Department Junior Meeting to the Junior submitting the best overall Community Service Program. Entries must be written in narrative form and not to exceed 250 words. Must be one per Junior Unit. The entry must be prepared by a Junior and include activities from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010 only.

**HISTORY BOOK
DUE MAY 1, 2010**

A History Book is a story of what your Junior Group did from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010. All Juniors, whether organized or not, should record their activities in a History Book. Follow the instructions carefully in preparing your book.

RULES **Scoring Points**

I. INTRODUCTION...10 Scoring Points

1. Title Page -- include the following information –
doubled-spaced and centered on the page (See Example 1)
 - a. Name of Junior Group of Unit _____
 - b. Name of Town_____
 - c. District Number_____
 - d. Junior Historian or Junior preparing the History _____ Book_____
 - e. Year (2009-2010)
2. Foreword or Dedication page - single spaced and _____ centered (See Example 2).
This page is optional.
3. Picture of Unit Honorary Junior President in the center of the page. Picture must be 5" x 7" either color or black and white. The name of the Honorary President must be printed or typed below the picture. (If your Junior Group does not have an elected President, omit this.)
4. Prayer
5. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
6. First verse of "The Star Spangled Banner"
7. Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary
8. Table of Contents

Example 1 - Title Page
HISTORY OF JUNIOR GROUP OF UNIT 000
ANYTOWN, NEBRASKA 11111
DISTRICT NO. 99
ROXANNE MAY, HONORARY JUNIOR HISTORIAN
2009-2010

Example 2 - Foreword or Dedication Page

A foreword is a short paragraph used as an introduction to our book. A dedication is a short paragraph of a single sentence used to honor a person or group of people who are special to your Junior Group.

II. HISTORICAL CONTENT...70 Scoring Points

1. List your Honorary Junior Officers and Chairmen for 2009-2010. This must be double-spaced, centered and in _____ the following order:
 - a. Elected Unit Honorary Officers
 - b. Appointed Unit Honorary Junior Officers

c. Unit Junior Chairmen

2. On the next page, list your Junior members who hold any National, Department and/or District Honorary Junior Office, Chairmanship, or appointment for 2009-2010. This page must be double-spaced, centered and in the following order:

- a. Elected National Honorary Junior Officers
- b. Appointed National Honorary Junior Officers
- c. Appointed National Junior Committee members
- d. Elected Department Honorary Junior Officers
- e. Appointed Department Honorary Junior Officers
- f. Appointed Department Junior Committee members
- g. Elected District Honorary Junior Officers
- h. Appointed District Honorary Junior Officers
- i. Appointed District Junior Committee members

3. On the following pages, list all awards, citations and honors received by your Junior Group from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010. Include awards received at the 2009 Department Junior Meeting and your 2010 District Junior Meeting. This page must be double-spaced and centered. (Omit any of the above areas or pages which do not apply to your Junior Group.)

4. The final portion of the History Book is the written story of your Junior Group's activities beginning May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010. Write about activities and programs your Group participated in, in the order in which they happened. Make your story fun and interesting to read. Make sure you spell correctly and use good grammar and punctuation. Your story must be double-spaced.

DO NOT include newspaper articles or pictures in your history except for the picture of your Honorary Junior President as explained in the Introduction Section.

5. The Honorary Junior Historian or the person writing the History Book must sign her name and list her age after the final paragraph of the History.

6. Add an Index page after the written story. (Optional)

III. APPEARANCE...10 Scoring Points

1. Cover: Soft cover notebook for loose leaf paper. Blue is the most appropriate color for the cover. A 2-1/2" American Legion Auxiliary Seal must be centered on the cover. This seal can be ordered from Department Headquarters. No other decorations are permitted on the cover. A regulation American Legion Auxiliary notebook with an emblem already imprinted may also be used. These are available through Emblem Sales.

2. Paper: 8-1/2" x 11" plain paper. DO NOT use colored paper.

3. It is preferred that the History Book is typewritten (word processors are permitted) with black ink. Handwritten entries that are clear and easy to read are also acceptable.

4. Margins: One inch (1") margins from the top, bottom, and right side of the paper.

5. Spacing: Follow directions for spacing given for each section.
6. Page numbers: Pages should be numbered in Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3) in consecutive order beginning with the first page FOLLOWING the Introduction pages. Numbers are to be centered 1/2" from bottom of each page.

IV. JUDGING...10 Scoring Points

History Books will be judged using the following criteria:

1. Neatness
2. Correct spelling, grammar, punctuation
3. Following instructions regarding appropriate cover, paper, page numbering, margins and spacing
4. Introduction and foreword (if included)
5. Interesting and factual written story
6. Arrangement and attractiveness of book.

Age Categories

Group I	Ages 6 through 8 years, no contest
Group II	Ages 9 through 12 years
Group III	Ages 13 through 15 years
Group IV	Ages 16 to 18 years.

PRAYER BOOK DUE MAY 1, 2010

Making a Prayer Book is a very easy, fun and meaningful project for all Juniors of any age. It should be a group effort and every Junior member is encouraged to submit an idea for her Junior Group's Prayer Book. Each Prayer Book must be prepared and signed by a Junior in that age group. One entry per Junior Auxiliary Unit.

RULES

1. COVER...Scoring Points - 5

Hard bound or theme style cover of your choice. Art work or decorations are optional.

2. PAPER...Scoring Points – 5

Standard 8-1/2" x 11" typing paper; either white or a color of your choice. Page protectors are a nice touch, but are not required.

3. PRINTING....Scoring Points - 5

Handwritten, typed, or prepared on a word processor. Be sure to spell correctly.

4. INTRODUCTION PAGE...Scoring Points - 5

Double-spaced and centered on the page and include the following; information: See Example 1).

- A. American Legion Auxiliary Seal
(Seal available through Dept Hdqtrs).
- B. Name of Junior Group

- C. Town
- D. Name of Honorary Junior Chaplain or Junior preparing the Prayer Book.
- E. Year -- 2009-2010

5. CONTENTS

The Prayer Book should be divided into two (2) sections as follows:

A. PRAYERS...Scoring Points - 10

The first section includes prayers either written by a Junior member or copied from another source such as a book, magazine, devotional or religious materials.

B. DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS.... Scoring Points - 10

The second section is for devotional thoughts such as Bible verses, poems, short essays, etc. These can be written by a Junior or copied from another source.

C. SPECIAL DIVIDER SHEETS...Scoring Points - 10

A special page or divider should be used to identify each section. Decorations or art work on these two sheets are optional.

D. AUTHOR RECOGNITION...Scoring Points - 10

The name of the author of anything copied from a book, magazine, etc., must be given at the end of the item. If the author's name is unknown, use "Author Unknown".

E. JUNIOR RECOGNITION...Scoring Points - 10

On every entry submitted by a Junior member, put her name at the end of the entry.

F. SUMMARY PAGE....Scoring Points - 5

This is the last page of the Prayer Book, should be double-spaced and centered on the page including the following information:

(See Example 2).

1. Name of Junior Group
2. Number of Junior Members
3. Number of Junior Members providing entries for the Prayer Book
4. Percent of Junior Participation
5. Age category (use the age of the Junior preparing the book to determine the age category. If it is a group effort, use the average age of the Juniors to determine the age group).
6. Signature of Honorary Junior Chaplain or Junior preparing Prayer Book for each age group.

JUDGING... Additional scoring points will be given for:

- A. Neatness...10 points
- B. Appropriate art work or decorations, if used...5 points
- C. Attractive placement of information on pages...5 points
- D. Percentage of Junior Participation...5 points

Entries will be judged in the following categories:

Group I Ages 6 through 8 years **Group II** Ages 9 through 12 yrs **Group III** Ages 13 through 15 years **Group IV** Ages 16 to 18 yrs

Example 1 -- Title Page

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SEAL

JUNIOR GROUP OF UNIT 000

ANYTOWN, NEBRASKA 11111

NANCY SUE, HONORARY JUNIOR CHAPLAIN (OR JUNIOR MEMBER)

2009-2010

EXAMPLE 2 -- Summary

JUNIOR GROUP OF UNIT 000

JUNIOR MEMBERS – 00

JUNIOR PARTICIPATION – 00

PERCENTAGE OF JUNIOR PARTICIPATION - 00% GROUP 000

HONORARY JUNIOR CHAPLAIN (OR JUNIOR MEMBER)

JUNIOR PUBLICITY SCRAPBOOK

DUE MAY 1, 2010

Junior groups are encouraged to make a scrapbook which can include newspaper clippings, pictures and other mementos of their year's activities from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010. One entry per Junior Auxiliary Unit.

RULES

1. COVER. Hard cover in any appropriate size.
2. INTRODUCTORY PAGE. Double-spaced and centered and containing the following information:

(See Example 1)

- A. Name of Junior Group
- B. Town
- C. Number of Junior Members
- D. Name of Junior Public Relations Chairman or Junior preparing the scrapbook.

E. Age Group

F. Year -- 2009-2010

G. Signature of Junior preparing the book.

3. LIST OF HONORARY JUNIOR OFFICERS. Double-spaced and centered on the page. If your Junior Group does not have elected Junior Officers, omit this page.

4. CONTENTS

A. Newspaper reports for special feature articles about your Junior Group's activities. Each item clipped from a newspaper must have the name of the newspaper and the date placed at the top of the article. You may use the date line from the newspaper or type or print the information. (See Example 2).

B. If a newspaper is not available in your community or does not wish to publish articles about your activities and events, you may write up your own story for your scrapbook. Write in newspaper story form, and use a newspaper article for a guide. Be sure to include a dateline above your story.

C. Pictures which show Juniors and their activities.

D. Souvenirs and other mementos.

E. All entries in the scrapbook should be placed in the order that the events occurred.

F. Newspaper articles and Junior activities must include the name or Unit Number of the Junior Group.

5. APPEARANCE

A. Use uniform margins throughout the scrapbook.

B. Paste and cut neatly.

C. Arrange items on the pages attractively.

6. JUDGING: Judging will be based on the following criteria:

A. Neatness

B. Content

C. Attractiveness of Book

D. Adherence to rules

Age Categories:

Group I Ages 6 through 8 years **Group III** Ages 13 through 15

Group II Ages 9 through 12 years **Group IV** Ages 16 to 18

EXAMPLE 1 -- Introductory Page

PUBLICITY SCRAPBOOK OF JUNIOR GROUP 000

ANYTOWN, NEBRASKA 00000

NUMBER OF JUNIOR MEMBERS – 00

NANCY SUE, PUBLIC RELATIONS

GROUP AAAAAA

2009-2010

EXAMPLE 2. Newspaper Date Line

Daily Nebraskan, Wednesday 9/15/09

APPLY NOW TO GET BASKETBALL TICKETS

Students wishing to purchase basketball season tickets must submit their application today through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tiny Tot Award: An award of \$4 will be presented to the Unit with the most Juniors enrolled who are five years of age or younger. This award will be presented at the Department Convention. Units -- please send the number of juniors in your Unit who are 5 or under to the Junior Activities Chairman postmarked on or before May 1, 2010.

YOU MUST ENTER TO WIN

VolunTeen of the Year: A \$5 award will be presented to the VolunTeen having served the greatest number of hours in the VA Medical Program for 2009-2010. VolunTeen hours of service shall be certified by the VAVS Representative and submitted to the Department Junior Activities Chairman postmarked on or before May 1, 2010.

Membership. The Miriam Kirchhefer Plaque will be presented to the Unit with the highest percentage of Junior membership into Department Headquarters by May 1, 2010, as certified by the Department Secretary.

POPPY CONTEST

Poppy corsages and centerpieces will be judged at the Department Junior Meeting. All entries must be in place by 8:30 a.m. on Saturday for judging. Corsages and centerpieces will be judged separately.

Follow the rules and guidelines carefully for each contest.

NOTE: Only one (1) entry per age category per Unit will be allowed. Therefore, it is recommended that a contest be held within your own Junior Group to select your entry in each age category.

Age Categories:

Tiny Tots: Under Age 6 - **Group I** Ages 6 - 8 years
Group II Ages 9 - 12 years **Group III** Ages 13 - 15 years
Group IV Ages 16 to 18 years
Group V Group entry (centerpiece contest only)

RULES FOR POPPY CORSAGE CONTEST

1. Poppy corsage must be made by a Junior ONLY.
2. An odd number of poppies should be used (3, 5, 7, etc.).
3. Poppies must be the major part of the corsage.
4. Remove tags (date labels) from the poppies.
5. Use a corsage pin or other means to firmly attach a tag to the corsage. The tag is to contain the following information:
 - A. Name of the Junior making the corsage
 - B. Age of Junior
 - C. Unit
 - D. Town

Judging criteria for the Poppy Centerpiece Contest and the Poppy Corsage Contest will be based upon appearance, use of poppies and appropriate size.

RULES FOR POPPY CENTERPIECE CONTEST

1. DO NOT use a flag in your centerpiece.

2. The theme of your centerpiece should include the **Honorary Department Junior President's theme for 2009-2010.**

3. Centerpiece should be designed to be viewed from all sides and should be NO MORE than 12 inches high.

4. Firmly attach a label or tag to the bottom of your centerpiece with the following information on it:

- A. Name of the Junior Unit
- B. Town
- C. Name of Junior making the centerpiece

(If the centerpiece is a group project state "Group Project" in place of a name).

- D. Age of Junior (Omit if a group project).

Awards for both contests will be presented at the Department Junior Meeting.

Craft Display Contest. This contest will be held at the Department Junior Meeting. Each Junior group is asked to bring a sample of five craft items as listed in the guidelines below. They should be made between May 1, 2009 and April 30, 2010.

Although the main purpose of this contest is to "Show and Share" the creative talents of our Juniors, the following guidelines should be followed:

1. Items must be made by Juniors ONLY.
2. Items displayed must have been made during the current year May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010.
3. Place item on poster board or other media to make an attractive display.
4. By each item, place the occasion and name of facility receiving the item.
5. Display must include 5 items: one (1) tray favor, one (1) handmade greeting card, one (1) holiday item, two (2) items of group's choice.
6. Place the following information directly on your display:
 - A. Name of Junior Group
 - B. Town
 - C. Number of Junior Members

Awards will be presented to the Junior Group submitting the best overall display and the most unique item.

Junior Activities Resource Materials. The following resources are also available and it is strongly suggested that they be a part of your Junior Activities reference library.

Resources available from National Emblem Sales, The American Legion, PO Box 1050, Indianapolis, IN 46206. 1-888-4LEGION or on-line at: www.emblem.legion.org.

\$1.50 Junior Activities Handbook (#355.208)

\$1.00 Junior Activities Certificate of Participation (#35259)

\$10.95 Past Junior Pin (Unit) (#315.323)

(add \$4 for County, District and Department)

\$10.95 Past Junior Charm (Unit (#31196)

(add \$4 for County, District and Department)

\$9.95q Junior President Pin (Unit, District and Dept) (#315.322) \$12.95 Junior
Auxiliary Shirt (navy only) (#307.301X)
\$2.95 Junior Leadership-Correspondence Course (#355.209)

CITATION POINTS - 25 points assigned

10 pts...Unit has organized Junior Group

2 pts...Unit has Juniors enrolled

3 pts...Unit included Juniors in at least 3 Auxiliary programs and/or activities

2 pts...Juniors provided an opportunity to learn the history of the American Legion Auxiliary

2 pts...Juniors participated in Americanism program as outlined in points of emphasis Juniors participated in some type of community service activities

2 pts...Unit publicized the activities and programs in which Juniors participated

2 pts...Juniors participated in VA&R project

(i.e., tray favors, adopt a vet, etc.)
