

## SERVICE THROUGH MEMBERSHIP: JUNIORS UNDER AGE 18

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

If you are a female ALA member 17 years of age or younger and love our country, imagine attending a regional or national meeting focused on Junior Activities with a hundred girls who could become your lifelong friends!

The American Legion Auxiliary encourages young women to lead the way in continuing its legacy of serving veterans, the military, and their families. For more information about Junior Activities, visit [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) or follow us on Facebook at American Legion Auxiliary Juniors.



*Millions of hours of Auxiliary outreach service are volunteered annually for veterans and military families. Will you step up and join us?*

Read more about the American Legion Auxiliary at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).

Email your questions or comments to [alahq@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:alahq@ALAforVeterans.org).

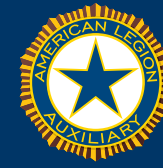


Your Local American Legion Auxiliary Contact:



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## American Legion Auxiliary

**Junior Member Activities**  
ALA Girls Nation / ALA Girls State  
Children & Youth  
Education and Scholarships

# Youth Programs



**A Community of Volunteers  
Serving Veterans, Military,  
and their Families**

## PERPETUATING OUR VALUES

For more than a century, The American Legion Family, which includes The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American



Legion, has been steadfast in support of our nation's military. Our members promote patriotism, responsible citizenship, and national security while educating youth and advocating for veterans' rights.

While members of The American Legion Family are individually unique, collectively we are a multimillion-member powerhouse of caring advocates dedicated to service.



In the spirit of *Service Not Self*, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.

## ALA GIRLS STATE

American Legion Auxiliary units in all 50 states proudly host ALA Girls State, an amazing week of learning focused on responsible citizenship, leadership, and love for God and country. Female high school students who have completed their junior year are competitively selected and sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary units for this program, where they learn about the political process by electing officials for all levels of state government and actively running a mock government. The girls are assigned to mock cities and either the "Federalist Party" or "Nationalist Party." Assistance from dedicated ALA volunteers ensures the program's nonpartisan governmental, patriotic, and civic objectives are carried out through interactive learning. Though the week is filled with many learning opportunities, there is always time for fun and the formation of long-term friendships.

The art of civil debate is one of the main skills learned at this premier program, hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary since 1937. Many ALA Girls State participants have gone on to a lifetime of service to our country in the military, civil service, or advocacy.

Candidates should be keenly interested in government and current events, have high moral character, and show strong leadership abilities. Because the structure of state and local government varies, ALA Girls State



programs may vary in content and method of procedure, but each adheres to the same basic core values.

Two outstanding girls are selected from each ALA Girls State program to attend ALA Girls Nation. These "senators" meet for a week in Washington, D.C., where they run for political office, campaign and debate for the passage of legislation, and meet with their real-life counterparts on Capitol Hill. Capping off the week of ALA Girls Nation is a possible meeting at the White House with the President of the United States.



Local businesses and community organizations ensure maximum participation by contributing to the ALA Girls State program, ultimately benefitting their communities

and ensuring educated leaders for future generations. [www.ALAforVeterans.org/ALA-Girls-State](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/ALA-Girls-State)

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUTH

The American Legion Auxiliary offers thousands of dollars in scholarships at the national level, including:

- Fifteen \$5,000 Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarships for direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans.
- Five \$5,000 Spirit of Youth Scholarships for Junior members of the ALA. Learn more about eligibility and other scholarship opportunities: [www.ALAforVeterans.org/scholarships](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/scholarships)

Additional scholarships are offered in each ALA department (state) and through many community ALA units and Legion posts. Please contact your local American Legion Auxiliary unit for more information.



Also available:

- The James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship,

awarded to a student who has volunteered at least 100 hours at a Veterans Affairs medical center.

[www.volunteer.va.gov/ParkeScholarship.asp](http://www.volunteer.va.gov/ParkeScholarship.asp).

- The Samsung American Legion Scholarship, awarded to ALA Girls State and American Legion Boys State participants who are direct descendants of wartime veterans.

[www.legion.org/scholarships/Samsung](http://www.legion.org/scholarships/Samsung)

## ALA OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE COMMUNITIES BEYOND OUR LEGION FAMILY

To recognize and reward the positive actions of our youth, the American Legion Auxiliary has two special national awards which are presented locally to deserving youth who are under age 18:

The **Youth Hero Award** recognizes youth who perform a heroic act of physical bravery. The **Good Deed Award** is for youth who contribute in a special way to society through community service. **More information:**

[Children&Youth@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:Children&Youth@ALAforVeterans.org)

**ALA Americanism Essay Contest** (grades 3 to 12): Students explore the fundamental rights and freedoms we enjoy today. Each year's contest has a different theme; one student in each category per division is awarded a prize.

There is a category for students with special needs. **More information:** [Americanism@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:Americanism@ALAforVeterans.org)

**National Poppy Poster Contest** (grades 3 to 12): Students showcase their artistic talents on an 11"x14" poster board using the poppy. One student in each category per division will be selected as a winner. Students' artwork will be showcased on the ALA's



national website. **More information:** [Poppy@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:Poppy@ALAforVeterans.org)

**The American Legion Oratorical Contest** encourages deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students under age 20. More than \$138,000 in scholarships is awarded each year to participants by The American Legion National Organization. **More information:** [Oratorical@Legion.org](mailto:Oratorical@Legion.org)

**American Legion Baseball** instills in the nation's youth a sincere desire to develop within themselves a feeling of citizenship, sportsmanship, loyalty, and team spirit. **More information:** [www.Legion.org/Baseball](http://www.Legion.org/Baseball)



**The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports** is a gun safety education and marksmanship program for male and female high school students. **More information:** [Juniors shooting@Legion.org](mailto:Juniors shooting@Legion.org)