

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Subject: Enhancements to the American Legion Auxiliary Junior Activities Patch Program

Date: 8/1/2017

National Junior Activities Chairman, Pam Ray and Kristin Hinshaw, Junior Activities Program Coordinator have announced some exciting enhancements to the Junior Activities Patch Program. The National Junior Activities Committee has worked hard to add new activities that will continue to engage our junior members.

1. New Star Spangled Kids patch
2. Undated National Security patch
3. New Community and Family Safety patch
4. Young SAL members may participate

1. A Star Spangled Kids patch is now part of the patch program. Designed to reflect the Children and Youth program initiative in the action plan, this brand new patch focuses on the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of independence, and what it means to be a good citizen. It is available for Level 2 Gold, 4th through 8th grade
2. The updated National Security patch will be available for Level 3 Blue, 9th through 12th grade. This patch has been revamped to more closely align with our National Security program. This patch will replace the previous patch of the same name that was available to all levels. The new patch will challenge Juniors to help service members by sending care packages, researching the history of the Blue Star Banner, helping with welcome home events, and more.
3. Levels 1 Red and 2 Gold, kindergarten through 8th grade, will be able to earn a Community and Family Safety patch in place of the former National Security patch for these levels. The requirements are the same as the former National Security patch, but the patch itself has been updated to better reflect the requirements.
4. And a very new initiative of the Centennial Strategic Plan, school-aged Sons of the American Legion members who often work alongside Junior members can now earn the same patches if your unit wishes to do this. Patches for sons should be claimed by ALA leaders through the usual process. It is up to each participating unit to decide how/when to award them.

When implementing these changes in your unit, please remember that patches are meant to be fun and educational. They are not intended to be a source of anxiety. The patch program is designed to teach our junior members, and now our SAL members about the mission of the ALA and these new patches are expanding on that.