

American Legion Auxiliary Programs Action Plan for 2020-2021

Department of North Dakota

Education

What is this program and why do we have it?

The Education Program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's role in providing quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion and support of education beyond high school, with a special emphasis on children of veterans and servicemembers. [2017-2022 National Auxiliary Programs Action Plan for Education]

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Ideas for Education:

1. **Promote the “Veterans in Community Schools” program at local North Dakota schools. This helps children in our communities see the value of the military and gives them a chance to meet military heroes and learn of their sacrifices for our country.**
 - a. Members
 - i. Work with your local American Legion post or unit to find volunteer veterans that may be willing to speak about their experiences.
 - ii. Talk with veterans in your family and encourage them to share their stories.
 - iii. Find contacts in local schools and see if they would be willing to host an event. Do this by reaching out to the school or through friends, family and social media that may have contact information. If a school is not able to host, consider another venue such as a community center or church. Consider collaborating with local junior Auxiliary members or other local youth organizations.
 - iv. Work with the veteran volunteers to help them feel more comfortable about the program. Invite them to a unit meeting to practice their presentation.
 - v. Make recordings or write articles of veterans' stories to share with schools during this time of COVID-19 concerns. This could be done in place of in-person events.
 - b. Units
 - i. Work with educators in your community to get a “Veterans in Community Schools” program started. Sometimes it helps to speak with educators prior to the beginning of January as curriculum/program spots fill up quickly in the classroom.
 - ii. Work with members of your unit to promote and spearhead the event. Utilize local media and other sources for advertising, making recording, or publishing articles.
 - c. Department
 - i. Promote the “Veterans in Community Schools” program through unit mailings, articles in the quarterly newspaper “The Message” and at Department meetings and events.

- ii. Utilize materials from National for promotion (Attachment 1).
- iii. Present award citations at the Department Convention for units that have participated successfully in this program.

2. Education about and promotion of the American Legion Auxiliary scholarships available at the National, Department and Unit level. Be consistent with requirements, dates, and deadlines.

Scholarships available from National include:

- Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship
- Spirit of Youth Scholarship
- Non-Traditional Student Scholarship
- Junior Auxiliary Member Loyalty Scholarship

Applications for these are available for download at www.alaforveterans.org/scholarships/ They are also available at www.ndala.org/education/ and will be included in a fall Department mailing to units, high schools, and colleges (where applicable). National applications are due to your local unit no later than March 1st, 2021. **Units-** Applications must reach the Department Office no later than March 15th, 2021. The Department Office and Education Committee shall have the entries submitted to Northwestern Division Chairman Jean Walker no later than April 1st, 2021.

To make it easier for students to apply, all applications are now available in fillable-PDF formats. The links for these scholarships may be digitally shared directly with prospective applicants. The program wishes to provide more options in a time when many students may be attending school through distance-learning and online-only classes.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is a national scholarship that is restricted to high school juniors that attend the 2021 session of ND American Legion Auxiliary Flickertail Girls State or ND American Legion Boys State. More info is available at www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung

Scholarships available from the Department of North Dakota include:

- Department of ND Education Program Scholarship - Application due to Department Education Chairman no later than April 1st, 2021.
- Past Presidents Parley Nursing Scholarship - Application due to Parley President no later than April 1st, 2021.
- Past Presidents Parley Dr. Grace Holmes, MD, Nursing Scholarship - Application due to Parley President no later than April 1st, 2021.

Applications for these Department scholarships are available for download at www.ndala.org/education/ and www.ndala.org/ppp/ They will be included in a fall Department mailing to units, high schools, and colleges (where applicable).

a. Members

- i. Work with contacts in your local school district to distribute scholarship information. These contacts can include principals, guidance counselors, and career counselors. Some scholarships apply to college students, so do not forget to talk with your local college or technical school.
- ii. Post links to scholarship opportunities on your unit or personal social media pages.
- iii. Share scholarship applications with friends and family that may be eligible.
- iv. Encourage donation to scholarship funds or help promote sales of the book "North Dakota Nurses Over There 1917-1919". Proceeds of this book sale go directly to scholarship funds.

b. Units

- i. Create a scholarship fund for your unit.

- ii. Assign unit members to be involved with existing scholarships in the community.
 - iii. Get local schools and colleges your unit information along with scholarships so they know who to contact with questions and completed applications.
 - iv. Place advertising in local print and social media platforms regarding scholarships.
 - v. Publicize the winners at local school functions.
 - vi. Track number of applications received for National scholarships and report to Department Education Chairman Shauna Dubuque.
- c. Department
- i. Promote all scholarships including Unit, Department, and National opportunities.
 - ii. Post scholarship opportunities on Department website, Facebook page, and in unit/school paper mailings.
 - iii. Track number of applications received for National scholarships and report to Northwestern Division Education Chairman Jean Walker.
 - iv. Encourage donation to scholarship funds or help promote sales of the book "North Dakota Nurses Over There 1917-1919". Proceeds of this book sale go directly to scholarship funds.
- 3. Show support for education through Teacher Appreciation Week (May 3-7, 2021), American Education Week (November 16-20, 2020) and "Give 10 to Education".**
- a. Members
- i. Offer to be a unit chairman for the "Give 10 to Education" program. Help by collecting school supplies in groups of 10 for local schools.
 - ii. Participate in "Box Tops for Education" program by scanning grocery receipts (<https://www.boxtops4education.com>).
 - iii. Help identify needs for local schools and students.
 - iv. Write thank-you and appreciation cards for local schools and staff during November and May.
- b. Units
- i. Work with members to support the "Give 10 to Education" program and deliver the items to local schools.
 - ii. Have unit events that support local teachers and schools during Teacher Appreciation Week and American Education Week. Consider sending thank-you cards or acknowledging schools/teachers/staff with a recognition event.
 - iii. Work with local schools and Auxiliary members to identify specific needs that the Auxiliary can help address.
- c. Department
- i. Send out information in unit mailings or other media about the "Give 10 to Education" program, Education Week, and Appreciation Week.
 - ii. Provide certificates for units to utilize for recognizing local schools.
 - iii. Present award citations at the Department Convention for units that have participated successfully in the "Give 10 to Education" program.
- 4. Support veterans by providing assistance and information for those pursuing education through colleges, universities, and technical schools.**

(Note: These are not separated out into member, unit, and Department; they can be achieved by any level.)

- a. Work with local higher education institutions to identify veterans that may need assistance.
- b. Sign up through the American Legion to receive Legislative Action Alerts (www.capwiz.com/legion/home/) and consider supporting the GI Bill Actions.

- c. Collaborate with campus groups to provide information on education, career options, and life skills training.
- d. Work with VA systems in your area to identify veterans that may be trying to find out more about higher education and aid them in getting connected to local colleges and universities.

5. Work specifically with military children to provide opportunities through education.

(Note: These are not separated out into member, unit, and Department; they can be achieved by any level.)

- a. Work with your local school to provide resources that may assist educators with students that are military children.
 - i. Educator’s Guide to the Military Child During Deployment (www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oe/homefront/homefront.pdf)
 - ii. Military Child Education Coalition (<https://www.militarychild.org/>)
 - iii. The Helping Hands Guide-Department of Defense Education Activity (https://www.dodea.edu/Offices/Safety/upload/HelpingHandsGuide_DoDEA.PDF)
 - iv. Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3) (<http://www.mic3.net/index.html>)
- b. Have junior members mentor/befriend military children in their school.
- c. Work with local schools regarding military specific scholarships such as the ALA Children of Warriors National Presidents’ Scholarship.
- d. Aid local military children in the form of backpacks, school supplies, clothing, or other items that will help them feel more comfortable at school.

6. Other Education Program goals.

- a. Support and promote literacy programs for youth and adults in your area.
- b. Support and promote legislation that would establish new scholarship opportunities.

Education Awards

1. “Veterans in Community Schools” citation- will be given out at 2021 Department Convention for any unit that reports to the Department Education Chairman about a successful “Veterans in Community Schools” program during this administrative year. Units - please send a narrative about your unit’s achievements to Shauna by April 15th, 2021.
2. “Give 10 for Education” citation-will be given out at 2021 Department Convention for any unit that reports to the Department Education Chairman about a successful “Give 10” program during this administrative year. Units - please send a narrative about your unit’s achievements to Shauna by April 15th, 2021.
3. Most Outstanding Unit Education Program-presented by the National Education Program to one unit in each division. Applications due to Northwestern Division Chairman Jean Walker by May 15th, 2021 (or to Department Education Chairman Shauna Dubuque by May 1st, 2021). Narrative must not exceed 1,000 words and may include pictures, news articles and news releases. Include specific examples of how your unit worked the Education Program. Please follow instructions on the National Report and Award Cover Sheet (Attachment 2).
4. Best Department Education Program-presented by the National Education Program to one department in each division. Applications due to Northwestern Division Chairman Jean Walker by May 15th, 2021 (or to Department Education Chairman Shauna Dubuque by May 1st, 2021). Narrative must not exceed 1,000 words and may include pictures, news articles and news releases. Include specific examples of how your Department worked the Education Program. Please follow instructions on the National Report and Award Cover Sheet (Attachment 2).

The Department of North Dakota Education Chairman Shauna Dubuque is required to submit a mid-year narrative report to the Northwestern Division Education Chairman, Jean Walker, and the National Education Chairman, Debra Albers, by January 5th, 2021. Any Department units wishing to have information included in this report must submit it to Shauna by December 15th, 2020.

Year-End Reporting

The Department of North Dakota Education Chairman Shauna Dubuque is required to submit a year-end narrative report to the Northwestern Division Education Chairman, Jean Walker, and the National Education Chairman, Debra Albers, by May 15th, 2021.

- Units Presidents shall submit their education narratives and impact numbers to their respective District President no later than April 15th, 2021.
- District Presidents shall submit their district narrative reports and all unit narrative reports (electronically is preferred) to Shauna no later than May 1st, 2021. Year-end impact numbers may also be submitted to Shauna by May 1st, 2021. The narrative and impact numbers shall also be reported to the Department Office by May 1st, 2021.