

FROM THE 2025-2026 NORTHWEST DIVISION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIR,
KAYLA KENNEDY

Juniors' vs Community Service

Community Service is a program that is a perfect fit for our ALA Juniors of all ages. Our Junior Activities program helps in their youth development by preparing them to have positive experiences in learning how to volunteer and learning our motto of service above self. Juniors can learn leadership from us by allowing them to plan their own service projects. With our supervision, they can accomplish their projects and have a feeling of accomplishment in a positive way.

Juniors can help their communities by participating in service projects that focus on supporting veterans, and military families, and of course their communities. Our Juniors can be extremely helpful in unit projects! When we include them in our projects, we teach them how to work with others and to be responsible adults. Let us not forget to encourage the young SAL members to participate with your Juniors as well.

Some examples of Community Service projects:

- Volunteering at Post events - They can help by carrying plates and drinks (non-alcohol) for members, helping to clean up the Post after events are held, and helping with fundraisers (after all, who can say “no” to those beautiful Juniors!).
- Volunteering in their community – They can help clean up a local park or participate in other community events like National Night Out, MLK Jr. Day of Service, and holiday events.
- Volunteering with children – They can be a mentor for a child that needs help with schoolwork or sit and read a book to older members who are visually impaired.
- Organizing Events – They can organize food drives, clothing drives, blood drives, back to school drives, and plan fundraisers to help with Post/Unit and National scholarships.
- Supporting local shelters – They can participate in “Stand Downs” for homeless veterans and helping veterans with yard work or other chores.
- Helping Educate Members – They can teach Post/Unit members how to use their smart phone, computer, or other electronic devices.

IMPORTANT Upcoming Deadlines:

- **March 1st** – Deadline for all Scholarship Applications, visit www.alaforveterans.org
- **May 15th** – Department Chairman Reports due to division chairman, cc: national chairman.
- **June 1st** – Junior Member of the Year and Rising Star Juniors awards submissions due*
- **June 1st** – Best Junior Activities Unit and Department award nominations due*

**Award submissions must be submitted through Formstack*

Upcoming Events:

- **March 4th at 7:00 PM EST** – Quarterly Zoom Meeting, watch your email and our Facebook pages for the link to join.
- **August (To be determined)** – Pre Con Meeting



Member Spotlight



Ariyannah from Post 1 B Elizabethtown, KY – Through her hard work was able to collect 6 boxes of supplies for a local animal shelter.

REPORTING

We are getting close to reporting time! Reports don't have to be time consuming and a chore to dread.

Here's some tips for making reporting easier:

- Units/programs chairs can submit event reports after every event to your unit secretary and president. Then, they will already have the information that they need to fill out their report. You as the chairman, can do this as well. File the event report away with your pictures and then go back to that file or folder.
- If it is too late in the year to start the above suggestion, then invite everyone to a "Recovery Meeting". Make it a fun evening by taking every event month by month and remembering what made that event special and the fun that everyone had.
- If the event had a specific person in charge, get that person to do the reporting, such as if it were a coat drive, that person could come to the meeting wearing a coat, etc.
- Always include your Juniors in your events and "Recovery Meetings". If they help during the event, their memory is sometimes better than ours!

Check with your Department for your Department Report Deadline if you do not remember it. The Deadline for Department Reports to be to the Divisional and National Chairman, is May 15th. If a Junior plans to submit for the Junior Member of the Year Award, this must be submitted by June 1st. Please review the criteria for the Junior Member of the Year when making your decision and submitting. There is a new Award this year, Rising Star Junior Award. It will recognize outstanding Juniors ages 8-13 years who are too young to qualify for Junior Member of the Year.