

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

April 2026

Issue # 8

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

April is recognized as the Month of the Military Child, honoring the resilience and sacrifices of children in military families. Communities across the nation celebrate their unique contributions with special events and activities throughout the month. Include Juniors in your celebrations and events.



Purple is chosen for PURPLE UP DAY because it represents the unity and strength of all military branches. It is a blend of the colors from each branch: the Air Force, Navy, Space Force and Coast Guard's blues, the Army's green and the Marines' red. This color signifies that all military children are part of a supportive family, regardless of which branch their parent serves. The tradition of wearing purple began in 2006 and has since grown to be a significant event celebrated throughout April, known as the Month of the Military Child.

Juniors can help a new classmate who's a military child. Juniors can also have military children sit with them or include them in their groups to create a safe welcoming environment, as military children could feel anxious or isolated from always adapting to a new space. Encourage Juniors to recognize military lifestyle showing up for their peers such as participating in purple up day and listening to the unique challenges they face. Remember one small act can make a huge difference in someone's life. *(Char Gladden, contributor)*

National Committee



IMPORTANT DATES

2025-2026 National Junior Activities Program Awards

Junior Member of the Year **DUE ONLINE JUNE 1**

- One national JMOY will win a \$5,000 scholarship and a trip to the ALA 's National Convention.
- Four division JMOY winners will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.
- Nominees must have been a Junior member at the start of the current ALA administrative year.
- Juniors must be at least in eighth or eighth-grade equivalent and may win only once. Juniors may be nominated by any member, unit or department.

Rising Star Member of the Year **DUE ONLINE JUNE 1**

- Like the Junior Member of the Year program, the Rising Star Junior Award recognizes our younger members and their active participation in the ALA's Mission.
- Five Rising Star Juniors, one in each ALA division, will be selected by the national Junior Activities Committee.

National Junior Member of the Year/Rising Juniors Awards Form Link:

https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/2025_2026_jmoy_rsj

Unit Award: Most Outstanding **DUE ONLINE JUNE 1**

- Presented: One unit in each division.
- Materials and guidelines:
 - Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words that includes specific examples of how the unit involved Junior members as part of their unit's programs.
 - Should include **high resolution** action photos, scans/links to news articles, etc.

**NEW Department Reports and Awards Submission Option:
Department Reports Due Online by May 15th, 5:00 p.m. EST
AND include Department Award Submission OR**

Department Award: Best Department **DUE ONLINE JUNE 1**

- Presented to: One department in each division.
- Materials and guidelines:
 - Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words that include examples of how the department chair shared information with departments about the Junior Activities program; may include the department chair's report.
 - Should include action (**high resolution**) photos, scans/links to news articles, etc.
- All department entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted.

National Awards Form Link:

<https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

- April 15: Purple Up! Day for Military Children
- May 15th Department chairman reports due to division chairman, cc: national chairman by 5:00 PM EST - Include awards submission if desired
- June 1: Awards submissions due, including Junior Member of the Year and Rising Star Juniors

All entries/reports must be sent to your Division Chair and the National Chair

Division Facebook Groups

Remember to join the Division Facebook Groups!

Share what your Junior Activities Program is doing to support the mission of the ALA. Find valuable information from the national committee and garner ideas from other happenings in the division!

[ALA Central Division Junior Activities Group](#)

[ALA Eastern Division Junior Activities Group](#)

[ALA Northwestern Division Junior Activities Group](#)

[ALA Southern Division Junior Activities Group](#)

[ALA Western Division Junior Activities Group](#)