



Ohio Unit Plan of Action



CHILDREN & YOUTH

CHAIRMAN

Mary Lee Mercier
3674 Colonial Dr.
Hilliard, Ohio 43026
(614) 777-1596 (home)
(614) 579-3382 (cell)
Email – mlmoh6140@gmail.com
REPORT DUE :

VICE CHAIRMAN

Kristen Little
17324 Independence Ct.
Brook Park, Ohio 44142
(216) 265-9611 (home)
(440) 781-1327 (cell)
Email – kll721@yahoo.com
April 15, 2017

SEND REPORT TO :

Your District Children & Youth Chairman
(address shown below)

CITATION OF MERIT



REQUIREMENT

District Children and Youth Chairmen

01	045	RIDENOUR	JANE	17070 MERCER RD	BOWLING GREEN	43402	(419) 409-0572	prezjane@yahoo.com
02	268	CYNTHIA	SCHAEFFER	1815 GREELY CHAPEL	LIMA	45804	(419) 303-5208	schaeffercds@gmail.com
03	598	RHONDA	HUNTER	50 WEIDNER LANE	CENTERVILLE	45458	(937) 435-2732	rhts@aol.com
04	194	MARSHA	GIEHLS	118 SOUTH WEST ST	MASON	45040-3688	(513) 398-6566	aux194@embarqmail.com
05	012	SHIRLEY	MESSAROS	1129 HUNTING HOLLOW	GRAFTON	44044	(440) 458-4914	
06	254	JANET	PIPER	75 LEWIS DR	JOHNSTOWN	43031	(614) 325-5441	jal012@aol.com
07	757	GLORIA	ALBRIGHT	1778 LIBERTY HILL RD	CHILLICOTHE	45601	(740) 663-4302	galbright@horizonview.net
08	637	CAROL	KITZMILLER	12126 SIXTH AVE	MILLERSPORT	43046	(740) 467-2234	ckitz62@aol.com
09	336	ALECIA	CUTLER	2570 HALE RD	PAINESVILLE	44077	(440) 477-2198	cutlera@ccf.org
10	718	PATRICIA	CARPENTER	PO BOX 99	MARSHALLVILLE	44645-0099	(330) 855-3491	
11	064	SUZANNE	WAGNER	211 VAN BERGAN AVE	MARIETTA	45750	(740) 374-8814	suzannewagner4575@yahoo.com
12	144	JUDY	LEDDY	85 MARILLA RD	COLUMBUS	43207	(614) 444-4459	jal85@aol.com
13	196	KAYLA	YANISH	2542 LAUREL RD	HINCKLEY	44233-9548	(440) 667-4344	kryanish@yahoo.com
14	685	SAMANTHA	KANIA	833 FROST RD APT 101	STREETSBORO	44241	(330) 212-7929	amusestudio@hotmail.com

SEE BACK SIDE FOR REPORT FORM & NARRATIVE INFORMATION

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2016 – 2017 Department Report Form

This form should be attached to each narrative that is submitted for information, Citation of Merit requirements and possible Department award. Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. If a Unit only completes this form and does not do a narrative, they will still receive credit as having completed a report. However, if the report shows all zero's or blank information this will not qualify as an actual report.

Please complete the following. Be sure to give the complete name of your Unit.

District # _____ Unit # _____ Membership Goal _____

Full Official Unit Name: _____

Unit President/Chairman (circle one) Name: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____ Email: _____ Member ID # _____

Specific Award Name (if applicable) _____

PROGRAM:

CHILDREN & YOUTH

CITATION OF MERIT



REQUIREMENT

Answer the following Questions in your narrative and fill in the boxes at the

- How did your Unit promote "Star Spangled Kids," educating children and youth about the U.S. Constitution from the aspect of patriotism and Americanism? _____
- How did your Unit promote the Youth Hero/Good Deed Award? _____
- What success stories do you have regarding support for military and or homeless veterans' children? _____

Program Summation:

Total Number of Volunteers	Total Number of Jr. Volunteers	Total Number of Volunteer Hours	Total \$\$ Given in Direct Aid of Children ***	Total Number of Children Served	Total \$\$ Raised Benefiting All Children

*** Please include the assessment of \$0.25 per paid member

If you would like to be considered for a Department or National Award attach your narrative to this report form. Follow all criteria when composing your Unit Program Narratives. Criteria for ALL narratives are as follows:

Narrative must be typed written in narrative form.

Narrative must not exceed 1,000 words. (Can be fewer words if program dictates)

Narrative may include photographs and news articles.

Optional-A copy of your Unit ALA Impact Form (Only necessary if it requires it based on the Plan of Action Directions)

Report Deadline: April 15, 2017

Narrative Deadline: April 15, 2017

MAIL TO DISTRICT CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIRMAN

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

The Children & Youth Program emphasizes protecting, caring for and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans' and military families.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

What is this program, and why do we have it?

The Children & Youth Program emphasizes protecting, caring for and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans' and military families.

What can you do?

1. Support Children and Youth in your community.

- **“Star Spangled Kids”**: This is an ALA program to educate children and youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism and the U.S. Constitution.
- **Youth Hero Awards/Good Deed Awards**: This is an ALA program to recognize youth who demonstrate a heroic act of physical valor or who exemplify community service in action.
- **Josh dogs**: An American Legion Family alliance, GI Josh is a plush dog and accompanying storybook used to help ease separation fears for the military children.
- **April is The American Legion’s Children and Youth Month**

Ideas:

Member

- Offer to make a “Star Spangled” presentation to your local schools. Invite post members to help students learn how their military service was meaningful in defending the U.S. Constitution.
 - Refer to the Star Spangled Kids how to sheet at the end of this program Plan for more information.
- Contact local high schools to invite them to encourage their students to use their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution by participating in The American Legion Oratorical Contest.
 - Refer to www.legion.org for information on the Oratorical Contest.
- Monitor newspapers, TV and neighborhoods for children and youth who have performed a heroic act of physical valor, such as performing CPR, helping evacuate in the event of a fire, calling 911 for an emergency, etc. Work with your unit to nominate them for a Youth Hero/Good Deed Award.
- Contact local schools, churches and youth groups to make them aware of the Youth Hero/Good Deed Awards. Make sure to leave unit contact information.
- Identify children in your community who may be or are facing hospitalization for the first time and who may benefit from a Josh and friends dog and book.

Unit

- Create a Unit Citizenship Award for children and youth who have learned the ideals of the U.S. Constitution.
- Share a constitutional fact each month in the unit newsletter, the newspaper editorial and/or on social media.

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- September 17 is Constitution Day (Citizenship Day). Host a party that revolves around the U.S. Constitution for children.
- Print and distribute pocket constitutions to schoolchildren.
 - Refer to the Star Spangled Kids how to sheet at the end of this program Plan for more information.
- Once a child has been identified as a Youth Hero/Good Deed applicant, complete the nomination form. See the Youth Hero/Good Deed nomination form at the end of this program Plan to submit the name of the child. Have the form signed by two unit members, and then submit the form to your department secretary.
- When a Youth Hero/Good Deed award is approved, contact local media, community school leaders and the child's parents, and plan for a public presentation of the award.
- Plan a special celebration of children during the month of April in honor of Children and Youth Month.

2. Support military children and youth

- **Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2):** This is a recognition program for military children who experience extended separation from their military parent or parents.
- **GI Josh:** An American Legion Family alliance, GI Josh is a plush dog and accompanying storybook used to help ease separation fears for the military children.
- **April is the Month of the Military Child**

Ideas:

Member

- Volunteer at a Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) camp program.
- Volunteer at a Family Readiness Group event where KDH2 "I'm a Hero 2" buttons/stickers can be distributed.
- Give a GI Josh to the child of a deployed servicemember.
- Wear purple on April 15 in honor of Purple Up! for Military Kids day.

Unit

- Host a dinner, game night, community fair, etc. that will bring military and non-military families together.
- Host a KDH2 celebration with recognition buttons/stickers to let military kids know we appreciate their sacrifices.
 - Refer to the how to sheet at the end of this program Plan for more information.
- Support G.I. Josh – Identify military children who may have a parent or sibling deploying.
- Plan a special celebration of military children during April in honor of the Month of the Military Child.
- Encourage members to wear purple on April 15 in honor of Purple Up! for Military Kids day.

3. Support veterans' children and youth.

- **Homeless veterans' children**
- ***Klinger, a Story of Honor and Hope*** – Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) is affiliated with the American Legion Family

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Ideas:

Member

- Contact your local churches, homeless shelters and food pantries to identify homeless veterans' children. Ask what their specific needs are, and offer them your services as an ALA member.
- Contact your local news sources (newspaper, community television, community websites and social media accounts) and town council. Offer to give a presentation about you and your unit's work for homeless veterans and their children.
- Contact your voluntary services representatives at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Offer to work with them to help meet the needs of children of homeless veterans who come to the VAMC.
- Contact local schools to access their need for supplies and extra clothes for homeless children. Offer to supply items as needed.
- Volunteer at a TAPS camp program.

Unit

- Train unit members to be a resource for front-line agencies who receive requests for help.
- Contact local schools to access their need for supplies and extra clothes for homeless children. Offer to supply items as needed.
- Contact your post service officer to offer help with the needs of children for veterans who need financial help. (The American Legion - Temporary Financial Assistance)
- Help raise awareness for the needs of homeless children in your community by sharing unit activities on the unit website, social media pages and newsletters.
- Purchase the book, *Klinger, a Story of Honor and Hope*, from TAPS with the companion plush horse for children who are grieving the loss of a military parent or loved one.

Children & Youth Reporting

As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:

1. How did your units and department promote "Star Spangled Kids," educating children and youth about the U.S. Constitution from the aspect of patriotism and Americanism?
2. How did your units and department promote the Youth Hero/Good Deed Award?
3. What success stories do you have regarding support for military or homeless veterans' children?

NATIONAL AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINES

Unit Award: Supporting Military Children Unit Award

Type of Award: Citation Plaque

Presented to: One unit chairman in each division (5 overall awards)

Materials and guidelines:

- Awarded to the unit chairman in each division with the best program supporting military children.

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- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.
- May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.
- Deadline April 15, 2017. Please submit to Department Vice-Chairman, Kristen Little, 17324 Independence Ct, Brook Park OH 44142.

Unit Award: Star Spangled Kids Unit Award

Type of Award: Citation Plaque

Presented to: One unit chairman in each division (5 overall awards)

Materials and guidelines:

- Awarded to the unit chairman in each division for the most outstanding program promoting Star Spangled Kids.
- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. Include specific examples of Star Spangled Kids activities and programs.
- May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.
- Attach a cover sheet, including the name of the award, name, membership number and contact information for the unit Children and Youth chairman.
- Deadline April 15, 2017. Please submit to Department Vice-Chairman, Kristen Little, 17324 Independence Ct, Brook Park OH 44142.

Additional Resources You Can Use

1. The American Legion Children & Youth programs: www.legion.org/programs
2. The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation: www.legion.org/cwf
3. Josh and Friends (American Legion Family alliance): www.joshandfriends.com
4. Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (an American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant recipient for *Klinger*): www.taps.org
5. Print Pocket Constitution for school children: www.constitutionbooklet.com
6. Military Child Education Coalition: www.militarychild.org
7. "I'm a Hero 2" stickers template and instructions can be found on the Children & Youth program page at www.ALAforVeterans.org.
8. See Children & Youth program page at www.ALAforVeterans.org for additional resources.
9. Your national Children & Youth committee members (see front page of this program Plan).

DEPARTMENT AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINES

Leta Zeller Plaque – This plaque will be presented at Department Convention to the District President with the "Highest Percentage" of Units contributing to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation by June 1st. Department Headquarters will calculate all donations and determine winner.

Miriam Junge Plaque – This plaque is a Unit Chairman Award and will be presented at Department Convention to the Unit Chairman promoting the most outstanding report for the "Best Year Round Children & Youth Program". The 2016-2017 Department Report Form and narrative needs to accompany this entry. Entries are to be sent to Department Children & Youth Chairman, **Department Children & Youth Chairman**, Mary Lee Mercier, 3674 Colonial Dr, Hilliard OH 43026 and must be received by **April 15, 2017**.

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Youth Hero And Good Deed Award - The YOUTH HERO AWARD is for a youth, under 18 years of age, who performs a heroic act of physical valor. THE GOOD DEED AWARD is for a youth under 18 years of age, who does not meet the Youth Hero Award criteria, but who displays great examples of community service. Application to be completed at Unit level and mailed to Department Secretary Katie Tucker, American Legion Auxiliary, PO Box 2760, Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760. The Department Secretary will certify the application and forward it to National Headquarters. The National President will sign the Award Certificate and return it to the Unit to be presented to the youth.

When sending in your Unit Narratives, please include photos or email them to the Department C&Y Chairman so they can be included in the Department Report. We hope to recognize your Unit for its work on the Children and Youth Program during Department Convention.

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American Legion Auxiliary Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination Form

NAME OF YOUTH

First Middle Initial Last
Youth's date of birth ____ / ____ / ____ Age ____ ☐ Male ☐ Female
Date of bravery or community service performed _____
Submitted by Unit # _____ Department of _____

Description of bravery and/or deed performed by youth (to be completed by unit)

Please attach news clippings to verify the deed being recognized. Clippings will not be returned unless a self-addressed stamped envelope is provided.

UNIT CERTIFICATION (MUST BE CERTIFIED BY TWO UNIT MEMBERS)

Unit Member _____ Date _____
Unit Member _____ Date _____

Units should send completed applications to their department secretary.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY CERTIFICATION

Name _____ Date _____

Department secretary mails request for medallion and/or certificate to National Headquarters, 8945 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46260, who will ship at no cost to unit or department.

Please ship medallion/certificate to: ☐ Unit ☐ Department

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____ Email _____

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY

Date received _____

Date shipped _____

☐ Youth Hero Award ☐ Good Deed Award

By _____

Please use this form for all Youth Hero and Good Deed Award nominations. For more information, contact National Headquarters at children&youth@ALAforVeterans.org or (317) 569-4500