



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA- POPPY PROGRAM**  
**NOVEMBER BULLETIN**

Greetings Free Spirits,

Thank you to all Units who submitted their poppy orders. I have opened all envelopes and emails sent to me. It greatly helps with knowing how many poppies we'll need for distribution. Unit orders not received are being assed \$30 for 100 poppies.

The Poppy Program guide was revised in 2024. You can download it from the National website. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with the new guidebook. I have received many questions on how Poppy Funds can be used.

**How Poppy Funds can be used. Please be sure to follow the five criteria:**

1. For the rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917;
2. For the welfare of the families of veterans of the above named period;
3. For the rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals;
4. For the welfare of veterans, active military personnel, and the families of veterans and active military personnel of the above named period where financial and medical need is evident or;
5. For the purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the Poppy Fund.

I look forward to our Poppy Hat contest at DEC. Guidelines were put on the website last month. As the holiday season approaches, let us incorporate poppies in our decor.

Respectfully,

Gabriella Ramos

Poppy Chairman, Department of California 2024-2025



# HOW POPPY FUNDS CAN & CANNOT BE USED

Per Poppy Program Guidebook revised 2024

## **The Legion set forth five criteria for the use of poppy funds:**

1. For the rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917;
2. For the welfare of the families of veterans of the above named period;
3. For the rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals;
4. For the welfare of veterans, active military personnel, and the families of veterans and active military personnel of the above named period where financial and medical need is evident or;
5. For the purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the Poppy Fund.

Therefore, scholarships (or funds to aid with higher education) would have to be for a veteran or their immediate family member who demonstrates an immediate financial need. For example, if a unit is met with a situation in which a student meets Poppy Fund eligibility and demonstrates a financial need (e.g., delay in delivery of post 9/11 GI Bill funding impacting their academics), the unit may decide to use Poppy Funds to assist the student.

If units wish to create their own scholarship(s) as a way to use their Poppy Funds, please keep in mind the criteria that must be met by recipients in order to stay within the guidelines for proper usage.

## **Poppy Funds CANNOT be used for:**

1. Any general operating fund of a department, unit, or post.
2. Any community service project that does not strictly benefit the welfare of an individual veteran/military servicemember or the welfare of his/her family.
3. General maintenance, beautification, or improvement projects of American Legion or Auxiliary facilities, including adding ramp(s) to a post home.
4. Investments, even those that would bring profit to the unit or post.

- 5.** POW/MIA programs.
- 6.** Memberships, including other veteran support organizations such as Gold Star Mothers.
- 7.** Contributions to, or payouts from, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.
- 8.** ALA Girls State/ALA Girls Nation fees.
- 9.** Flags or flagpoles.
- 10.** Scholarships which do not restrict eligibility solely to military servicemembers or their children, or where financial need is not evident.
- 11.** Mileage, travel, or lodging expenses; registration of conference fees; or costs incurred by a person – including ALA members, volunteers, and staff – to attend any meeting, conference or event, even if it is about veterans, military, or any other topic.
- 12.** Attire or uniforms used by volunteers or staff in promoting or conducting ALA program activity or business.

Use of Poppy Funds is allowable for care packages only when it is for a welfare need (such as first aid topical treatment or vital hygiene items), as opposed to a comfort need, and not comfort/leisure items (such as baked goods or books).