



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SUPPORT TOOLS

A collection of resources from National Headquarters to assist and guide members and volunteers in serving veterans, servicemembers and their families.

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How to Serve Veterans and Military Families as a Junior Member

Ever wonder how you can make a difference as a Junior member? Look no further. Listed below are some ideas for how to help veterans and military families. Some of these activities may help you receive patches in the Junior Patch Program. Check with your patch program level sheet.

Show new military children around your school

- Contact a guidance counselor at school and tell them you are a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Explain that we are the largest patriotic women's organization in the world and that our mission is helping veterans, active duty military and their families. Tell them that you would like to show them around the school and help them if they have a question.



Talk to community businesses about why they should hire a veteran

- Print out the list of the Top 10 reasons to Hire a Veteran and send/deliver it to any businesses in your town that have help wanted signs or ads. Share copies with members of your unit and ask them to do the same. Post it on the bulletin board at the grocery store, your American Legion Post and other places where people might see it.

Visit this link to find the Top 10 reasons,

<http://hvrpindianapolis.wordpress.com/category/hvrp-veterans-program/>. If you will be delivering the list, have a parent or an adult unit member go with you.



Help military children feel supported

- Ask the guidance counselor to help you gather students who would be interested in helping students who have parents serving in the military. Host a meeting where you explain the volunteer work that you do and how much you admire the sacrifices of our military heroes. It is not only the military service members who serve, but their families do too. Ask these kids to help you reach out to students who may be missing a parent or worried about a deployed parent. Some things to look for—kids who dress with any camouflage or have flags/yellow ribbons on lockers, backpacks, or the car that drops them off at school. Ask the guidance counselor to help you give some tips on what to say and what not to say when approaching these kids.

Get your school or unit involved in making Pocket Flags

- For Veterans Day at your school, see if you can have all of the classes in your school fold flags for military personnel. Talk to your principal or counselor, and explain that you are a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Explain that you want to teach classmates about Veterans Day and that they can make a difference in a military service member by doing little projects like folding Pocket Flags. You could also use this as an opportunity to work towards a patch. You could give a presentation about what the flag represents and the meaning behind it. Your school may not be able to pay for the flags, so talk to them





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about fundraising ideas. You could sell suckers at lunch on every Friday for a month. Visit the link <http://www.pocketflagproject.com/> to find the website for more information.

Write thank you letters

- Contact a nursing home or veteran's home near your unit, and ask how many veterans live there. Then get other Juniors in your unit or friends together and write thank you letters to them. To tell how much you appreciate their service and sacrifice they gave to our country. You can even include drawings of flags, or a picture of poppies.



Organize Poppy making

- Find out who is in charge of Poppies for your Unit and ask them to contact the Department Poppy Chairman on your behalf. Ask if they need new veteran Poppy makers. Brainstorm with members in your unit on how to locate new Poppy makers. Then contact those places to see if you can go to meet with veterans who might be interested in earning a bit of income making poppies. Bring some materials so you can demonstrate how poppies are made, and familiarize yourself with the rules about poppy distribution ahead of time.



Become a student volunteer at your local Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service

- Ask permission from your parent or guardian to become a student volunteer at a veteran's hospital or VA facility in your area. Contact your local Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service by going to this link <http://www.volunteer.va.gov/StudentProgram.asp> to find instructions for applying.

Participate in the Veterans History Project

- Capture a piece of history by interviewing a veteran in your community. Follow the link <http://www.loc.gov/vets/> to find out how you can participate. You can also search through the veteran's collection to learn more about articles that have been put into the data base already.



Collect items for the Give 10 to Education project

- With other Juniors in your unit or with friends collect items for students in your school who has a parent in the military or National Guard. Work with your teacher or school counselor on how to get the items to the students.

Talk to your high school counselor about scholarship opportunities

- Contact your high school guidance counselor; explain that you are involved with the American Legion Auxiliary. Give them information about scholarship opportunities the Auxiliary has for students going into college. Information for scholarships given out by National Headquarters can be found at http://www.alaforveterans.org/what_we_do/scholarships/Pages/default.aspx. Gather information from your local unit as well to take to your counselor.



Get involved with Operation Military Child



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- Operation Military Child has several programs that you can get involved with. You can make hero packs or get trained in their program called Speak Out for Military Kids. Follow the link <http://www.operationmilitarykids.org/public/getinvolved.aspx> to find out how you can get involved in your state.

Help with events going on in your local American Legion Family

- If you know of events that will be taking place, contact who may be in charge and ask if you can help in some way. You may be able to help set up before a dinner or event.