



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
District 28
Junior Activities**

September 2022

Madame President, Officers and Members of the Auxiliary,

The junior activities program is one that this chairman feels many units find challenging to work. The senior members far outnumber the juniors in our units. In many instances, there are only a handful of juniors (if any) but they are not involved. On the national website, the Junior Activities Program Committee has listed the key program statements. They are:

- To inspire active participation in members age 17 and under so that they will become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood.
- To build the Junior Activities program one member at a time by giving Junior members a voice and an opportunity to participate.
- To promote and encourage Junior participation in the Patch Program in order to teach them about the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- To make Junior meetings fun and informative.

How do we do this? The first way is to become with Junior Activities resources. In your unit packets, you will find a printout of the Junior Activities Patch Program for each level. Be sure your Junior Activities Chairman receives them and encourage them to look them over. There may be an upcoming event in your unit that a Junior could help with and earn a patch.

How many of you will coordinate and/or participate in a Veteran's Day Ceremony at your Post? Have you thought of asking a junior member to join and recite the pledge to the flag? What about teach them and have them help retire the colors at the end of a meeting? Think of how special a younger junior member would feel to be honored with this request. Or better yet, can you imagine how happy the veterans would be to see a junior member demonstrate patriotism? Side note, there is a patch that a junior can earn for activities along these lines.

Does your unit have older junior members? Have you invited them to attend your meetings and perhaps to shadow a chairman? What about asking them if they would like to be your Unit Historian? Use their strengths and interests when figuring out a way to encourage their participation. Perhaps they could help veterans or older members with learning to use their cell phones, texting, navigating the website or Facebook.

Include all junior members in whatever you can. Ask them to come help serve a meal. Ask them to come help sort collected supplies such as for Palo Alto, the VTC, StandDowns, Blue Star Mom boxes, Give 10 to Education drives, or participate at Poppy Booths in May just to name a few. Let them know, that you know, that they exist and aren't just a body that you count for making membership goals. Remember, junior members are the future of our organization, and we have to prepare them so they are ready.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Glenny
Junior Activities Chairman