

Youth Activities Program 2010 – 2011

In today's world, it is tougher than ever to "Just Be A Kid!" This is why the Ladies Auxiliary to Veterans and Foreign Wars is more important THAN ever!!! National Youth Chairman Tami Elliott hits the nail right on the head!!!! We MUST "Encourage Our Youth to Step Up and Be *United by Love for Our Veterans and Country!!*"

The youth of this GREAT Nation, are smarter than ever and facing very different challenges than we did as kids....With their own ideas and thoughts on the issues that affect not only themselves, but our country – it is definitely time for us to increase the active role that we have taken as Ladies Auxiliary Members to the Veterans of Foreign War and our youth!!

We do this, by asking them to share their dreams for their future and goals that they have set for the future of their country. Then we take an active part in making those dreams and ideals become a reality. We must encourage, acknowledge and reward all of their efforts – as they take each milestone forward in their lives we must educate them and teach them to understand the Honor and responsibility that comes with being a citizen of the GREATEST Country on Earth, and share with them how we got here and who made it possible!! Our Servicemen and Veterans!!

We show them that the rewards come in many forms – from scholarships, to the sense of accomplishment!! Whether they are sitting listening to the stories of a Veteran, putting on a J.R. R.O.T.C. uniform, or accepting a National Award – the euphoria of Service to a Veteran should never get lost in the glory of self.

From the Clouds Above to the Ocean Floor – we CAN insure the future of our Country with the youth of today and tomorrow.

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

This contest is for students in grades 9-12. Be sure students are instructed to follow the Federal Flag Code. There will be eight scholarships awarded on the national level. First place is \$10,000, plaque, airfare and lodging to the National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Also, the first-place artwork will appear on the cover of the national magazine and Web site. There will be seven more prizes given ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. Brochures, entry forms, posters, information on common mistakes and helpful hints are all available on the Auxiliary Web site at www.ladiesauxvfw.org.

JUNIOR GIRLS UNITS

When I first heard about the Junior Girls Unit to the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I was so excited!! Having been raised in a military family, I understood many of the sacrifices that came with being a daughter of a serviceman!! The thought of instilling Americanism, teaching flag etiquette, cancer fundraisers, youth contests, and

showing them how to be active members of their community, Buddy Poppy drives, and hospital volunteering was inspiring.

At first, no one thought we could get enough girls to form a complete unit!! That did NOT stop us!!! We immediately did the research and within months, we had a Unit!! That was only three short years ago and these young ladies have NOT stopped inspiring or amazing me yet!!

I am a proud Veteran who served my Country, I am now a Proud, active Auxiliary member who is serving the future of My Country through the Jr. Girls Unit.

Girls must be ages 5 – 16, and have the same eligibility as we do as Auxiliary Members. If you are interested in organizing a unit, please feel free to contact me and we will provide you with the information needed to start your own Jr. Girls Unit. HOW awesome would it be for EVERY District in Ohio to have a Junior Girls Unit!!

A Scholarship is available to a Junior Girl aged 13 – 16. Information will be available on line, and the winning application must be to the Department Chairman no later than Friday, March 25, 2011. The Department winner is then advanced to National Headquarters for the national judging. The first-place winner will be awarded \$7,500. In addition, \$100 will be awarded to each Junior Girl who is selected as the Department winner and entered in the national competition. National first-place winner of the scholarship will not receive the \$100 award.

GIRL SCOUT AWARDS (GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE)

The Girl Scout Troops who have earned their Bronze (Junior), Silver (Cadet) and Gold (Senior) awards need to be recognized by the Ladies Auxiliary VFW. This is a perfect way to recognize our youth for how they are “paying it forward.” Request the date of the awards ceremony and complete the request form for the Girl Scouts Award and submit to National Headquarters. The Auxiliary must present these citations. Here’s a thought, throw a Award Banquet at the end of the school year, honoring not only the Girl Scouts but all of the Outstanding Youth in your Community.

YOUTH GROUPS SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY CITATIONS

There are so many youth groups we can encourage include Jr. ROTC, Girl and Boy Scout Troops, sports teams, Special Olympics, classrooms and children of military families. Through our leadership, we can help them all step up in our communities and promote patriotism, support deployed troops, respect veterans and allow them to have their thoughts and voices heard. Please present these well-deserved citations to as many youth groups as possible. The deadline to request a citation signed by our National President will be April 1, 2011.

ADDITIONAL YOUTH PROGRAMS

Becoming involved with the Youth of America only solidifies our strength for a stronger tomorrow!! We can assist a Big Brother/Sister Special Event, put together a Youth Disaster Preparedness Program where kids set-up and establish the program.

Don't forget to work with all the Chairmen; Americanism, Community Service, Hospital, Veterans and Family Support and in doing so, from the Clouds Above to the Ocean Floor – WE WILL BE SERVING OUR VETERANS EVERY MORE.

The following forms are available from your Department President, Department Secretary or Department Youth Activities Chairman:

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest Information
Young American Creative Patriotic Art Judge's Scoring Sheet
Young American Creative Patriotic Art Common Mistakes & Helpful Hints
Junior Girls Scholarship Contest Information
Junior Girls Recruiter Form
Junior Girls Hospital Volunteer Pin Request Form
Junior Girls "How to Organize" Information
Junior Girls Inspection Form
Junior Girls Installation Form
Girl Scouts Awards Request Form
Youth Groups Supporting Our Military Citation

AWARDS

MID-WINTER

Citation to each Ladies Auxiliary who participates in Youth Program by December 30, 2010

JR. GIRLS CONFERENCE

Youth Supporting Our Troop Citation to each UNIT – Who participates in an event Supporting Our Troops by December 30, 2010.

JUNE CONVENTION

Auxiliary Awards

**Outstanding JROTC Participation/Promotion
Outstanding Junior Unit Participation
Outstanding Youth Program by Membership Group**

District Awards

**Best School of Instruction/Promotion of Junior ROTC Unit
Best School of Instruction/Promotion on Creative Patriotic Art
Best School of Instruction/Promotion on Junior Girls Unit
Best Overall School of Instruction/Promotion on the Youth Program**

Moving forward into the future takes all of us – we must share our experiences, our sense of Americanism, patriotism, and the Love of Our Veterans!

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