

YOUTH ACTIVITIES 2011-12



Don't stop thinking about tomorrow – don't stop – it will soon be here!!

Young American Creative Patriotic Art is a program for students to express their patriotism through art. Contact your 9th-12th grades as well as home-schooled students and Art Institutes for participation. There are certificates, patches and wallet cards for participation available from the Ladies Auxiliary Supply Department. National will award higher education scholarships to the top eight winning entries: 1st \$10,000, 2nd \$5,000, 3rd \$2,500, 4th \$1,500, 5th-8th \$500. Department awards will be in Bulletin #1. Check out the National Magazine for the winners. There are promotional posters and helpful hints on the National website www.ladiesauxvfw.org.

Girl Scout Certificates are back! – contact your local Girl Scout Council. The presentation of these certificates can be very rewarding to you and the girls. The projects they have completed will also WOW you.

Youth Supporting Troops – don't wait for the deadline – young people throughout the state are supporting troops through scouts, 4-H, schools and other organizations. Fill out the form – send it to me right away. Please include a list of names of the participants for individual certificates.

* * * Participation in these programs and receiving these awards can make the difference for these young people in getting into the college of their choice. * * * *

Other Youth Programs

How can your Auxiliary participate? Collect Campbell Soup labels for your schools, collect pop tabs...support a local JROTC.....assist at a Big Brothers/Big Sisters Special Event...co-ordinate a student "reading to" program for nursing home residents or veterans or small children – even if for just a day. Have a safety program -- obtain materials from the Red Cross, the State Fire Marshall, your local insurance company... sponsor a trophy for the most patriotic youth group at your home days parade.

Contact Scouts, 4-H, Rainbow, religious groups to have them assist you with activities. Help them with a car wash or a spaghetti dinner. Promote sports activities and D.A.R.E. awards. Provide child safety information for in the car, on the playground and under the sun.

Support Ohio Special Olympics by sending a donation to Department at PO Box 15730, Columbus OH 43215-0730.

Remember, this is a co-operation chairmanship...work with the Americanism, Hospital, Veterans and Family Support chairmen...help each other...show our youth how many hands make light work by working together!!!! Show by example.

Take photographs of your Youth Activity programs to share with those who cannot attend...and then send me a copy with a summation of the program.

Junior Girls Unit

OUR Premier Youth Program

I hear voices all the time – let us be the voices for our youth – advising – supporting – sharing...as well as listening to their voices as they tell us of their hopes, dreams and interests.

Eligibility is the same as ours – but they are not the mothers or grandmothers of the eligible veteran / active duty person. They are ages 5-16. Only 10 young ladies are needed to start the Unit. They do not have to have their eligibility through your VFW Post. Many eligible girls are out there in surrounding communities. Consider starting a Unit – you'll be glad you did!

These girls work very hard to support veterans, active duty military, their families and their communities. They are happy to help. These young ladies learn leadership, patriotism, teamwork, and other values so important to their future. The girls also can earn Hospital Pins and Recruiter Awards from National.

These young ladies are awesome! Although they are not required to participate in Legislative – Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen – they send in donations. The chairman / advisors / helpers are awesome as well. Thank you, ladies.

Auxiliaries can send donations to Department PO Box Box 15730, Columbus OH 43215-0730 earmarked Junior Girls Fund. This will assist the Girls to attend their Conference. It is such a worthwhile experience for them to meet girls from across the state and hear about projects other Units have completed. Come to their Conference in Marietta in April – prepare to be WOW'ed

Auxiliaries can also donate to the Units throughout the state. Please let me know of these donations – they can be of materials that the girls are collecting or using to make hospital / nursing home favors or special treats for veterans as well as monetary donations.

The Junior Girls Scholarship program is open to girls who have been a member for a year and served in an elected position. She must be 13-16 years old. Previous Department First Place winners are not eligible for any additional scholarships, however former applicants may re-apply. The applicant must have achieved a grade point average of 3.2. Ohio scholarship awards are \$5,000 for first place and \$4,000 for second place. The first place winner's application will be sent to National and she will attend the VFW and Auxiliary Department June Convention and Banquet. In addition \$100 will be awarded to each girl who is selected as her Junior Unit's winner but not a Department winner. Each Unit will receive a copy of the Department of Ohio Scholarship Rules.

Check out www.ladiesauxvfw.org "Just for Junior Girls" for word searches, recipes and just fun stuff.

NEW this year- **Junior Unit Merit Program (JUMP!)** There will be digital badges totally free. Send your ideas for badges and questions to juniorgirls@ladiesauxvfw.org.

I am very excited to be doing the Unit inspections this year. See you soon!!!



I would like to suggest reading How to Raise an American, 1776 fun and easy tools, tips and activities to help your child love this country by Myrna Blyth & Chriss Winston. # 649.51 There are websites, books, road trip ideas, movies, and inspiring stories of American courage, honor, and ingenuity. This can be a great gift to your local library. There cannot be enough copies of this terrific book. It includes the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pens programs, too.

AWARDS

Mid-Winter Auxiliary

Citation at Mid-winter for donation to Special Olympics (sent to Department Headquarters) or copy of a cancelled check from a local Special Olympics to me **before December 31, 2011**.

Citation at Mid-Winter for donation to Department Junior Girls Fund or copy of a cancelled check or thank you from a Junior Girls Unit to me **before December 31, 2011**.

Citation at Mid-Winter for reporting a creditable Youth Activity on the LAVFW Program Report to Mary Miller Department Program Coordinator **before December 31, 2011**.

Junior Unit Conference

Award for best Youth project in cooperation with another Youth organization

Awards for overall participation in Americanism, Buddy Poppy, VFW National Home for Children, Veterans and Family Support, Hospital / Nursing Home, and Youth.
Citations for each member listed as participating in these programs.

Award for best scrapbook.

Department Convention

Auxiliary

Citation to all Auxiliaries reporting participation

Citation to each Auxiliary submitting a Young American Patriotic artwork

Awards by membership group:

Best support to a Junior Girls Unit by a non-sponsoring Auxiliary

Best participation / promotion of the Young American Creative Patriotic Art program

Best SINGLE Youth Program

Best OVERALL Youth Program

District

Citation to every District submitting a year-end report showing participation.

1st place award for best promotion/school of instruction on the Youth Program.

1st place award for best promotion/school of instruction on Creative Patriotic Art contest.

1st place award for best promotion/school of instruction on Junior Girls Unit

Remember -- our youth are our future. It is up to us to share our experiences and patriotism...and our spirit of volunteerism.

Jill Householder

575 Blackbrook Rd
Painesville OH 44077

d7jill@msn.com
440-352-9522