

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

The purpose of the Children and Youth program is to work with The American Legion Family to promote programs that protect, care for, and support children and youth, especially those of our military and veterans.

### Activities and Initiatives

The Children and Youth program has two awards to recognize positive and noteworthy actions of those under 18 years of age. They are the Good Deed Award and the Youth Hero Award. The Good Deed Award recognizes a youth who takes a leadership role in planning and execution of a project to benefit an individual or their community. The Youth Hero Award recognizes a youth who demonstrates a physical act of valor. These awards are bestowed throughout the year; nomination submissions should be ongoing. Membership or eligibility for membership is not a criterion for consideration. More detailed information is available at <https://member.legion-aux.org/youth-hero-good-deed-awards> and the links on that webpage.

Another initiative of the program is The American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation (CWF) whose priority is to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth. The ALA Children and Youth Committee is duty-bound to promote and support the CWF. Detailed information can be found at [www.cwf-inc.org](http://www.cwf-inc.org)

The *Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2)* is another initiative of the Children and Youth program. Detailed information is available at <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/children-and-youth/recognize-kids-of-active-military>

Incorporate the *Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony* at events involving children. The ceremony script is available at [https://www.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Programs/Military\\_Children\\_table\\_setting\\_ceremony.pdf](https://www.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Programs/Military_Children_table_setting_ceremony.pdf)

April is the *Month of the Military Child*. Units should consider contacting their local government officials to request a Proclamation to that effect. Promote activities throughout the month to recognize military children. Promote activities to recognize April 15<sup>th</sup> as *Purple Up! Day for Military Children*.

The Children and Youth program has a special project year. Check the national website for details.

### Other

Download the ALA Youth Programs brochure available at [https://www.legion-aux.org/CMSDesk/ALA/media/PDF/Brochures/Youth\\_Programs\\_Brochure-lp.pdf](https://www.legion-aux.org/CMSDesk/ALA/media/PDF/Brochures/Youth_Programs_Brochure-lp.pdf)

Join the ALA Children and Youth Facebook group and check the National ALA website frequently for updates.

*Excerpted from the ALA Unit Guide (2024, pp. 71-72), <https://www.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Children-and-Youth/Get-Involved-Children-Youth> and links provided above.*