

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Junior members are a vital part of this organization.
Junior members are a vital part of this organization.
Junior members are a vital part of this organization.

The sentence above should be repeated over and over again and it still would not begin to show how important our juniors are and will continue to be. Their membership helps when trying to make quota, but we need to recruit junior members because of their energy, their enthusiasm, their input and their willingness to help. They are our future! They determine if the services and programs of our Auxiliary will continue.

ELIGIBILITY

The eligibility and age requirements are easy to remember. The prospective junior can be an extended family member of any honorably discharged U.S. armed services disabled veteran, non-disabled veteran, or Auxiliary member. A junior must be 17 years of age or under. If a junior turns 18 during a membership year they must be signed up as a senior member.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

The key person to assist our juniors is the Unit Junior Activities Chairman. This chairman could even be a junior member. They should have tact, ability, energy, enthusiasm, understanding and patience. Through their leadership other juniors will be encouraged to participate in all phases of our work.

The Chairman should be selected with care. They should be the type of person who can earn the respect of the youth and yet be young at heart in order to understand and guide them. Never discourage their ideas or efforts. Possibly they might have the experience in a youth organization or a parent of small children or teenagers. When you find such a leader give them the reins. They should visit junior meetings but should not interfere. Should they wish to give

constructive advice then do it after the meeting in order not to embarrass the member/s. Below you will read the procedure in obtaining a junior charter and discussion concerning meetings, etc.

Remember that a unit does not have to have a junior charter to have active juniors. Any junior that can be encouraged to attend the unit meetings and participate should be encouraged and kept involved.

JUNIOR CHARTERS

Any senior auxiliary can request a junior charter if they have the following:

1. A minimum of ten (10) juniors under the age of eighteen (18). The membership year is July 1 to June 30 of the following year. If a junior turns 18 within the membership year, they then must convert to senior membership.
2. All juniors must have their dues paid for the current membership year. Delinquent junior members cannot be on the charter.

When requesting a junior charter, submit the names (in typed or printed form) of the juniors that are paid for the current membership year.

A completed application plus \$3.00 for each shall be submitted for any new junior members. **Remember**, any junior that is delinquent cannot be on the charter.

Once we have received the information above, a charter will be issued by National Headquarters. **THERE IS NO COST TO THE UNIT FOR A JUNIOR CHARTER.**

SELECTION OF OFFICERS

The older juniors should be selected as Commander and Senior Vice Commander and for any other key positions in the Junior Auxiliary with the exception of a Treasurer. The younger members could accept a chairmanship giving more detailed chairmanships to the older members and the smaller jobs to the younger ones. In large junior auxiliaries, have several members working together on one committee with a chairman. Give as many titles as possible. It makes juniors feel important and they are.

MEETINGS

There should be at least four meetings per year and whenever possible more monthly meetings would be ideal. Normally, juniors meet at the same time that the senior auxiliary holds their meetings.

JUNIOR FUNDS

Juniors do not have or cannot have their own accounts. All funds must be given to the treasurer to be deposited in the Unit account. The treasurer shall deposit these funds and earmark them for the use of the juniors and junior activities. It is also the Junior Activities Chairman's responsibility to keep the juniors informed of their financial standing.

Let the juniors express for themselves how they would like the money disbursed. You will be amazed with the ideas they will offer. It is a good idea to have a project of some type at each meeting.

UNIFORMS

At this time there are no standard uniforms for the junior auxiliary members. However, an inexpensive and effective uniform could consist of a navy skirt/slacks, white top and Auxiliary hat. Most children have these items (with the exception of the hat) in their wardrobes. NOTE: A navy blue baseball cap with the embroidered Auxiliary logo sewn on could be used. Some juniors wear yellow tops, navy blue slacks and a navy

scarf. It is something that the juniors can decide.

VAVS

Volunteer ideas for junior members can be obtained at the VA Medical Center through the VAVS Representative. Crafts for the patients can be made by juniors. Regular visits by juniors to help with patients are possible providing the juniors meet the age requirement. It is possible that juniors can also help in some departments at the VA Medical Center. Contact the VAMC Director or Chief of Voluntary Services for specific regulations concerning junior volunteers.

HOSPITAL WORK AT NON-VA

Young juniors can add to your Hospital Program to a great extent. Those junior members who are old enough to be active in the hospitals are happy to be part of this real life experience. The cheerful smiles and friendly ways of these young members are a great lift to the hospitalized patient. Those who are not old enough to be active in the hospitals are very capable of helping to make tray favors, cheer cards, planters, bookmarks, bedside decorations and other items to be taken to the hospitals. This provides them with constructive channels for their energies. These projects are an inexpensive means of bringing a smile into the hearts of the hospitalized and yet you may take credit for the amount that you would pay for these articles if you purchased them in a store. There are many items to be collected for use in crafts and hobbies in hospitals and institutions. During vacation a number of juniors work as volunteers. The younger juniors who cannot visit the hospital can visit the nursing home shut-ins. Contact your local nursing homes; we find that many welcome the young people to visit the residents. However we use our juniors in our hospital program, it means a lot to both the junior and the patient, when they take time out from their busy schedule to do something for the hospitalized.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Your Community Service Program will also benefit by the help of your juniors. Do you know a better contribution to your community than civic-minded young citizens? Community Service projects benefit churches, schools, the handicapped veterans and non-veterans and their families. Community Service includes assistance to victims of floods, fires, tornadoes and other disasters. Encourage them to help you in various "drives" in your community. They also make good envelope stuffers for the various mailings done by community groups.

AMERICANISM

The Junior Auxiliary will stimulate your Americanism Program. Our organization is rich in patriotism and Americanism. We are qualified to teach our young juniors that they should not take our great country for granted, that our men and women fought and died to preserve their precious freedom. Encourage them to study about the Flag, the history of it, the proper way to display it and the correct way to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. NOTE: We should always remember that a good way to start our juniors to take pride in veteran and country begins at home.

PUBLICITY

We do not know of any better publicity than articles regarding the activities of our junior members in our programs. The news of today is so negative that it is more important than ever to show that our juniors are an asset to the community. Be sure to label or stamp the name and unit of your Junior Auxiliary on all projects.

FORGET-ME-NOT DRIVES

The juniors can be a big help on Forget-Me-Not drives. You will find that the juniors are successful in obtaining contributions on these drives.

OTHER SUGGESTED PROJECTS

If your unit should be giving a dinner, ask the juniors to help set the tables and assist in serving the meal. They might even be part of your entertainment. Not every Junior group will be able to carry on all of the projects suggested and will depend on the adaptability to the community, size of the Junior Auxiliary and age of the juniors.

They cannot do all of their work without funds and must have help in raising funds. Some of the money-making projects the juniors could have are bake sales, selling candy, selling cards, a paper drive, car washes or anything that will give them some money they can call their own.

To instill unselfishness and good citizenship, you must have Hospital and Community Service projects. Don't forget the importance of recreation and good fun such as parties, cookouts, ball teams, tours, etc. Refreshments of any kind make any meeting a party.

When planning any transportation of your juniors, it is wise to issue permission slips so that they may be signed by the parents or guardian.

It is the sincere hope that many more Junior Auxiliaries will be organized in the ensuing years. Juniors that are active now should be the senior members of tomorrow to carry on the great work of our organization.

NATIONAL JUNIOR AWARDS

National Outstanding Junior Awards will be selected at the National Convention. The recipient of the award need not be present to win. The candidates for these awards should be recommended and voted on by the senior members at a regular auxiliary meeting. A form (supplied by National Headquarters) should then be completed covering the activities for the current membership year. Judging is based on voluntary hours spent at VAMC's and Non-VA hospitals. Note: This could also include

hours spent in collecting or helping to make requested articles for the respective facilities, volunteer hours spent in church activities, school activities, community service, Americanism, forget-me-not drives and chapter and auxiliary functions for special holidays such as Veterans Day.

A handwritten or hand-printed resume, by the candidate, must be attached to the form.

OUTSTANDING JUNIOR AWARDS

Age 7 -10 Age 11 -14 Age 15 - 17

DID YOU KNOW

The oldest junior charter was CA #6 in 1932. Two junior units were issued charters during World War II. Twenty-six were chartered during the Vietnam War. However at this time, junior membership is declining.

A YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS

1. Stand by us; not over us.
2. Make us feel that we are loved and needed.
3. Train us by being affectionately firm.
4. Teach us how to take on responsibilities and become independent.
5. Don't act shocked when we do things we shouldn't.
6. Try to be as consistent as possible.
7. Say "Nice Work" when we do something really well.
8. Give direct answers to direct questions.
9. Show interest in what we are doing.
10. Treat us as a normal person, even when our conduct seems peculiar.
"All God's children have problems. That does not mean we are all problem children."

JUNIOR UNIT HISTORY BOOK

The JUNIOR UNIT HISTORY BOOK GUIDELINE page that follows gives the information in detail concerning the proper procedure for doing the history book. Junior members want to participate in unit activities. They also like to talk about and later remember what they did. **THE BEST WAY TO DO THIS IS TO CREATE THEIR OWN JUNIOR HISTORY BOOK.** The end result would be to create something that is entirely their own.

The junior history book can be a scrapbook purchased at the local store. It should be divided into sections or categories and all information and pictures concerning a section should be included within the section and not scattered throughout the book. **EXAMPLE:** Any photos, documentation or other materials in reference to Americanism events should be together and should be preceded by a title page indicating that this is the section on Americanism.

The categories or sections should be listed in the following order: UNIT INFORMATION; INSTALLATION; MEMBERSHIP; AMERICANISM; VAVS; HOSPITAL; LEGISLATION; COMMUNITY SERVICE; SPECIAL EVENTS/MISCELLANEOUS. Each section should begin with a title page to identify the section to follow.

Label all pictures with names and titles of the people pictured. If it is an event that is pictured, identify the event and give the date.

All junior unit history books should be brought to the National Convention for judging by the committee. **DO NOT MAIL TO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.**

Remember: Let the juniors do it. A little paste and mess is better than an adult taking over the job.

JUNIOR UNIT HISTORY BOOK GUIDELINES

Your junior unit history book doesn't have to be purchased from National Headquarters. Check to be certain that your junior unit history book is correctly assembled per the instructions.

Divide the book into nine sections. Begin with a title page for each section. The name of the particular section and the section number are the ONLY things on that page.

Example:

Section V VAVS

Please include the following sections and information:

I. Unit Information	Name and number of junior unit; city and state; junior commander picture with name and year; senior commander picture and name; junior activities chair picture and name.
II. Installation	Installation date of present junior unit officers; picture of installing officer with junior officers.
III. Membership	Any pictures or materials showing junior unit activity with senior unit.
IV. Americanism	Any pictures or materials showing Americanism activity by the junior unit.
V. VAVS	Any pictures or materials showing junior unit Volunteers at VA Medical Centers.
VI. Hospital	Any pictures or materials showing junior unit Volunteer projects at non-VA hospitals, nursing homes or other health care facilities.
VII. Legislation	Any pictures or materials showing junior unit participation in legislation activities.
VIII. Community Service	Any pictures or materials showing junior unit participation in community service projects.
IX. Special Events/Miscellaneous	Any pictures or materials showing junior unit participation in any other activities that do not fit in the first eight sections.

Be sure to label all pictures with the names and titles of people. If any event is pictured, identify the event and when it took place.

State departments may honor junior unit history books in their own way. However, ALL junior unit history books should be brought to the national convention for judging in committee. DO NOT MAIL THEM TO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.