

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Minnesota

2026-2027
Department President
Linda Kelly
November 2026 Unit Mailing

State Veterans Service Bldg. 20 W 12th St #314
St. Paul, MN 55155

November is always a busy month. We should be honoring our veterans every month, but Veterans Day gives an extra special time to honor them. Many of you will be involved in a Veterans Day program and/or dinner. Be sure to thank the veterans around you for their service – it is just two small words, but they mean a lot.

November is also Past President's Month, and some districts will be honoring those that led our districts in the past. It is a great time to recognize any of your unit past presidents at your November meeting.

I am writing this in October, but by the time you are reading it, the Fall Conference will be just a memory – a good one, I hope. A lot of planning goes into this annual event, and I assume that our Past presidents will agree that it is time well spent. This event is meant to be a learning opportunity for all of us.

In the Legionnaire magazine that you should have received before our fall event, I stated that SHARE was the operative word for the Fall Conference, and I hope I was right. I challenged all to share their successes for the programs with others and then take back to their units what others shared with them. We should be looking for new ideas - new ways to honor and help our veterans, new ways to encourage our youth into our programs, and new ways to make an impression on our community.

Many districts will be having Family events. No matter whether they call them membership rallies or gatherings, these are chances to renew old friendships, make new friends, and encourage our members to be active in their posts, units, and squadrons.

Veterans Day is one of the Auxiliary's target dates for membership. PLEASE don't sit on memberships that you have received. Get them sent into the Department Office so Minnesota gets credit for those payments on time.

And, of course we end the month with Thanksgiving – a time to be thankful for our family, friends, and American Legion Family.

Program Chairman: (1) Don't forget to get any new ideas for your program into Christie so it can be part of the unit mailing. (That's the share concept again.) (2) All National program chairman hold three quarterly zoom meetings. PLEASE attend these if at all possible. If you are unable to attend, either find someone that can sit in on zoom meeting in your place or let me know and I will try to attend.

I was able to sit in on the Children and Youth's quarterly meeting earlier this week. The meetings start out with the entire group and then split off into the five division. Every department in our Northwest Division is asked to give a short report on their plans. I relayed what I learned to Cari Lamb and she planned to put the idea to use on her display. Did you see it?

NOV 11

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION



VETERANS DAY

of Giving

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

This Veterans Day, November 11, support the Veterans Day of Giving by donating in honor of the sacrifices of our nation's heroes.
Your gift to the ALA Foundation's Veteran Projects Fund makes a direct impact on the lives of veterans.

Scan the QR code to make your gift today!

To learn more about the ALA Foundation's Veteran Project Fund visit: www.alafoundation.org/grants

Department of Minnesota
November 2026 Unit Mailing
Americanism Chairman,
Barbara Klehr
babsklehr@hotmail.com

"On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, the world rejoiced and celebrated" in 1918. This is a phrase not attributable to a single person but a declared date of the armistice of World War I and later called Veterans Day. Woodrow Wilson said it was the wart to end all wars and later declared it a permanent Veterans Day and not a floating holiday. It is a day England calls Remembrance Day and their distribution of poppies. As you all know, we decare poppy day in May.

But before November 11th, we celebrate November 10th: our own American Legion Auxiliary's birthday which we share with the Marine Corps. So many special days upon each other! If you have purchased those American Legion Auxiliary Deck of Cards, Americanism has one way to celebrate these holidays together. Celebrate with a "Red, White and Blue" day. A birthday party of red, white and blue cakes, cookies, mini flags and decorations at our post homes, veterans' homes and our schools or town halls. Students can color patriotic or flag or poppy pictures to distribute to our veterans.

November also boasts general and national elections, set by an act of Congress in 1845. We celebrate Lincoln's Gettysburg Address on November 19th (how many of us had to memorize that for our history classes?) and November 22nd was the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Education week this year is November 16th-20th. Did you know Education Week was originally set up by several national organizations of which our American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary were part of? A formal national Thanksgiving was issued by George Washington first in 1789. And on November 30th we celebrate Thomas Edison's invention of the light bulb. Where would we be today without his innovation?

November is also the month of National Aviation and National Stamp collecting (remember when we used to save stamps for Department to raise money for our veterans programs?). It is a month of many presidential birthdays: James K. Polk, Warren G. Harding, James A. Garfield, Franklin Pierce, Zachary Taylor and just for extra history fun, the birthdays of Will Rogers, Samuel Clemons (Mark Twain) and William Cullen Bryant. Does your history remind you of who those fellows were?

November is a month of deep roots in our patriotic history for us. That tree keeps spreading its roots and reminding us to keep it alive for our future members.

Remember to send me your pictures of your events with a few short sentences to tell me of the fun events you have accomplished so far. I can't follow all of your facebook posts, so please send me that information.

Department of Minnesota
November 2026 Unit Mailing
Community Service Chairman,
Brandi Christensen
brandichristensen21@gmail.com

On November 11, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation will celebrate Veterans Day of Giving, and this year, we're inviting ALA members to make it personal by asking themselves one question:

Who is the veteran whose service made your ALA membership possible?

Maybe it's a parent, grandparent, spouse, child, or sibling. Whoever that veteran is, their service is part of your story and the reason you're part of the American Legion Auxiliary. This Veterans Day, you have an opportunity to honor their service in a way that extends beyond a simple thank-you. By making a gift to the Veteran Projects Fund in their honor or memory, you can help make a difference in the lives of other veterans today.

Your gift to the ALA Foundation's Veteran Projects Fund helps eligible ALA entities address newly identified needs of veterans in communities across the country, turning your personal tribute into meaningful support for those who served.

And this year, your gift can go twice as far!

Every dollar donated to the Veteran Projects Fund on November 11 will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to **$3,000** by the ALA Foundation Board of Directors.

As national leaders, you have a unique opportunity to help make this campaign a success. You are the movers and shakers of our organization! Your enthusiasm, participation, and willingness to lead by example can inspire others to get involved. When our leadership shows up in support of a campaign, our members take notice.

I'm asking each of you to consider making a gift on November 11, but just as importantly, to help us spread the word. No gift is too small, and every act of participation helps build momentum.

Make Your Veterans Day of Giving Gift

I've also attached a flyer that you can share with your departments, units, and fellow members. Please consider forwarding this email, sharing our social media posts, including the campaign in your local communications, or simply encouraging someone to participate.

Thank you for everything you do to support the American Legion Auxiliary and its Foundation. I'm excited to see what we can accomplish when our leadership comes together to champion this campaign!

Holiday COMMUNITY SERVICE IDEAS

Service Not Self

Spread Joy ★ Lend a Hand ★ Make a Difference!

HALLOWEEN

- Clean up community and neighborhoods by clearing fallen leaves and preparing for colder weather projects
- Host a trunk-or-treat for local families
- Collect and donate candy to shelters or community centers
- Create care packages for homeless shelters
- Volunteer at a local haunted house or fall festival



Thanksgiving

- Collect and distribute food baskets
- Volunteer at a community meal or food bank
- Adopt a family in need
- Create and deliver "Thank You" cards to nursing home and shut-in residents
- Donate warm clothing, blankets or hygiene items



Christmas

- Sponsor a family and provide gifts
- Make cards for seniors or nursing home residents
- Volunteer at a local shelter or food bank
- Donate stockings or personal care items
- Deliver holiday cheer to nursing homes
- Organize a holiday adopt-a-family project



New Year's

- Start the year with a community cleanup
- Host a winter clothing drive
- Donate to local shelters
- Organize a New Year's resolution service project
- Support local families in need
- Help at a local food bank or community kitchen



Together We Can Make the Holidays Brighter!

Department of Minnesota
November 2026 Unit Mailing
Education Chairman
Kelly Kauss
kelly.kauss@gmail.com

It has been a whirlwind of weather, activities and heartfelt conversations this past month that have guided me to this moment. Please support any opportunities for your own leadership or educational opportunities. I had the pleasure of participating in a recent Program Information Conference sponsored by the Third District Past Presidents Parley for 6 hours and it was truly informative. One of the most asked questions to me was “How can our unit receive more recognition and awards? Check out the *NEW for 2026-2027 below.*

Let's help give the tools to make dreams come true. This is why we do what we do. Kelly

NEW for 2026-2027
There is a new certificate available to participants in the **"Give 20 to Education"** signed by **Dr. Coral May Grout,** National President **& Debra Rumery,** National Education Chair. This is a community service initiative by the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) celebrating the 20th anniversary of their ongoing support programs for students and teachers. If you need help with donation ideas, check out the *Give 10 to Education Suggested Donation Items and Tracking Sheet*.
Key Details

- **The Campaign:** For the 2026–2027 school year, we are celebrating the Give 10 to Education 20TH ANNIVERSARY.
- **It is Easy**: Print out the American Legion Auxiliary Give 10 to Education Suggested Donation Items and Tracking Sheet. Share with your unit members. Twice is nice. Twenty is Plenty!
- **The Goal:** Collect new school supplies—such as 20 pencils, 20 notebooks, 20 folders, or other essential classroom items—to help local students and educators.
- **Participation:** Please invite other programs and the American Legion family to get involved. Anyone from the community can donate supplies.
- **How to Help:** Your unit can drop off new donated school supplies at your local American Legion Auxiliary unit and take them to local schools.

American Legion Auxiliary SmileAssociate
Support American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) while shopping on Amazon through the official American Legion Auxiliary SmileAssociate Page. [1] This program will feel familiar to those who used AmazonSmile, but it comes with significant improvements. Through this program, every eligible purchase generates a 1.5% donation to the ALA, tripling the impact of AmazonSmile’s 0.5% return. There is no alternate login or searate portal — just click, shop, and give automatically.



How It Works

- **Donations:** Every eligible Amazon purchase made through the ALA SmileAssociate link generates a **1.5% donation** to the organization. [1]
- **Designated Fund:** Proceeds support the **Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund**, helping empower students and young leaders. [1, 2]
- **No Extra Cost:** You get the same Amazon prices, products, and Prime perks with no extra fees or alternate logins required. [1, 2]

“Box Tops for Education” is a successful program that allows families to earn cash for their school by purchasing participating products and scanning their receipts with the Box Tops app. Buy the brands you already love and make a difference for your school! Just scan your receipt within 14 days of purchase to earn cash for your school with every participating product



you buy. To get the app go to: www.boxtops4education.com

Several of you requested more information about the recent recipient of the Children of Warriors National Presidents’ Scholarships from the October Unit Mailing that aid the children of our servicemembers and veterans with financial support to pursue higher education. The ALA offers 15-$5,000 scholarships. To learn more, go to www.ALAforVeterans.org/scholarships.



Rachel Anderson from Alaska received a 2026 Children of Warriors National Presidents’ Scholarship to help her pursue a bachelor’s degree in aviation science at Southern Utah University (SUU). Eligible through her parents — both U.S. Air Force veterans — the scholarship will assist Anderson’s career goal of being an emergency helicopter pilot. SUU’s program will provide Anderson the means and support to obtain her helicopter license and the specialty training required for her to enter the workforce.

How does this scholarship benefit you?

This scholarship will help me cover my college costs so that I have more flexibility in how I want to use my aid. This is especially the case since flight fees for my degree are expensive.

What advice do you have for others in the transitional phase from high school to college — especially military children?

Research your options. I didn’t realize just how many scholarship opportunities are available to military dependents. I’d also recommend starting early — when you’re a sophomore or junior — researching the different schools you might be interested in, what they require for applications, deadlines, things like that. It really helped to practice essay writing for scholarship applications too. Over the last year, I’ve done courses on financial management to prepare for real-world things, like loans and managing my assets. In my senior year, I’ve been working to set short-term and long-term goals for the steps to being a college student to prepare for my freshman year. It is important, though, to make sure to still live in the moment, even while you’re preparing for the future.

What would you like ALA members to know about this scholarship’s impact?

This is a generously sized scholarship that is flexible in how I can use it to cover my college expenses. The application process was straightforward, and the scholarship committee was very responsive and easy to get a hold of.

Is there anything else you’d like to share?

I want to say “Thank you” for awarding this scholarship to me. I am grateful and will do my best to make the most of what I was given.

American Legion Auxiliary
Give 10 to Education
Suggested Donation Items and Tracking Sheet

Suggested Item	Quantity	Monetary Value
Books		
Backpack/Book bag		
Loose Paper		
Notebooks		
Folders		
3-Ring Binders		
Pencils		
Pens		
Erasers		
Highlighters		
Crayons		
Colored Pencils		
Markers		
Pencil Box/Pencil Case		
Scissors		
Glue/Glue Sticks		
Ruler		
Calculator		
Craft Supplies		
Kleenex/Paper Towels		
Hand Sanitizer		
Disinfecting Wipes/Baby Wipes		
Mentoring/Reading		
Donation to School		
Donation to Library		
Donation to Scholarship		
Clothing		
Patriotic Item		
Sports Equipment/Games		
Box Tops 4 Education		
Totals:		

Updated 11/2/2026

Department of Minnesota
November 2026 Unit Mailing
MN American Legion Auxiliary
Girls State Chairman, Jennifer Stolz
jstolz.de@gmail.com

Help open doors for Minnesota's future leaders

Minnesota Girls State gives young women the opportunity to discover their leadership potential through hands-on government, elections, public service, and connections with peers and mentors. The 2027 session will be held June 13–18, with Capitol Day on June 17. But creating this experience takes all of us. Units can make an especially meaningful difference by sponsoring students, sharing information in their communities, and encouraging young women to participate.

Every act of support matters

There are many ways to help strengthen Minnesota Girls State, and every contribution can make a difference.

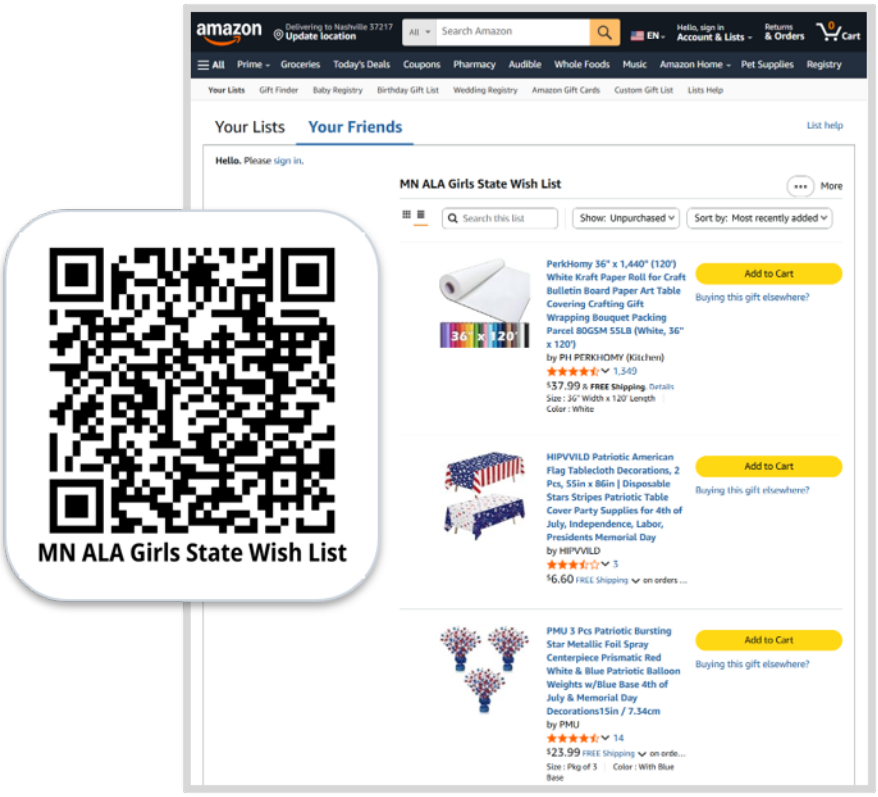
- **Become a Girls State All-Star**. Make a tax-deductible contribution at any level, from **Citizen ($1–$49)** to **Future Builder ($250 or more)**. Gambling funds may be used for this program.
- **Shop with purpose.** Start Amazon purchases through **SmileAssociate** so Minnesota Girls State receives a donation at no additional cost to you.
- **Purchase a needed item.** Choose an item from the **MN ALA Girls State Amazon Wish List** to directly support the program.
- **Sponsor a snack night.** Help provide a special experience for Girls State citizens during their week together.
- **Show your Girls State pride.** Shop the ALA MN Girls State Online Store during three ordering windows: **Now through November 16, 2026; April 1 – May 10, 2027; and June 12 – July 31, 2027.** Orders will be processed after each ordering window closes, with delivery approximately three weeks later. Merchandise will continue to be adjusted over time. For smaller appreciation items, such as pens for school representatives who assist with recruitment, units are encouraged to purchase ALA-branded items through Emblem Sales or other retailers.
- **Give your time.** Consider joining the Girls State staff. Former Girls State citizens are especially encouraged to share their experience with the next generation.
- **Spread the word.** Share information with schools, libraries, churches, businesses, and service organizations, and encourage young women in your community to participate.

Support comes in many forms. Whether you sponsor a citizen, donate, volunteer, shop, or simply tell someone about Girls State, **you are helping give a young woman the opportunity to discover what she can accomplish.**

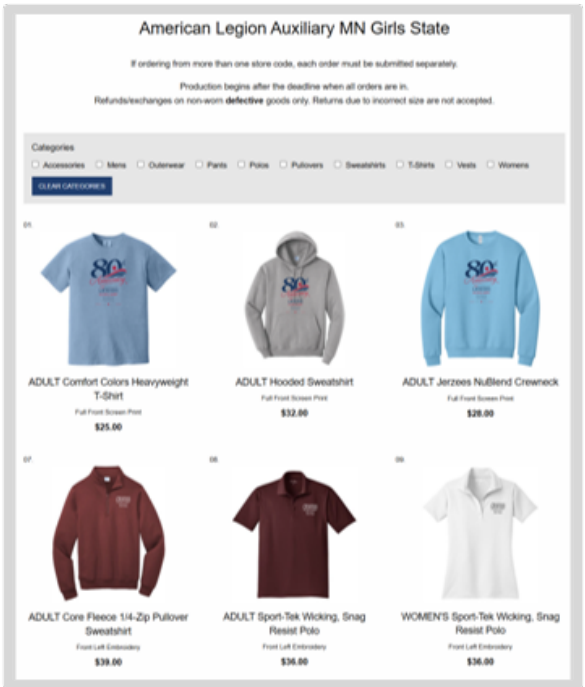
Together, we can open doors, inspire leadership, and help prepare the next generation to lead.

Girls State Committee Contacts

Jen Stolz, Chairman | jstolz.de@gmail.com | 763-234-1198
Robin Dorf, Director | RobinLDorf@yahoo.com | 612-483-4076
Renee Seuss, Education Director | rsuess3@gmail.com | 763-300-2226
Kelli Frederickson, Committee Member | ksfred98@gmail.com | 651-829-7778
Ashley Kuperus, Committee Member | ashleypaige309@gmail.com | 320-894-7850
Yolanda Dailey, Americanism Chairman | Yolanda.dailey@icloud.com | 262-227-6815







Invest in the Next Generation of Leaders: Become an ALA MN Girls State All-Star

American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State empowers young women to discover their leadership potential, understand civic responsibility, and build lifelong connections. Our program thrives because of dedicated supporters who believe in the power of civic education and mentorship.



Your tax-deductible gift directly funds the 2027 session, providing hands-on government education and essential resources for our delegates. Whether you give as an individual, American Legion Family, business, or corporate partner, your support ensures our mission continues to grow.

Giving Levels

Citizen: $1 – $49
Delegate $50 – $99
Current Builder: $100 – $249
Future Builder: $250+

Donation Form & Donor Details

Name / Organization / Unit / Post:

Contact Name (if different):

Email Address:

Phone Number:

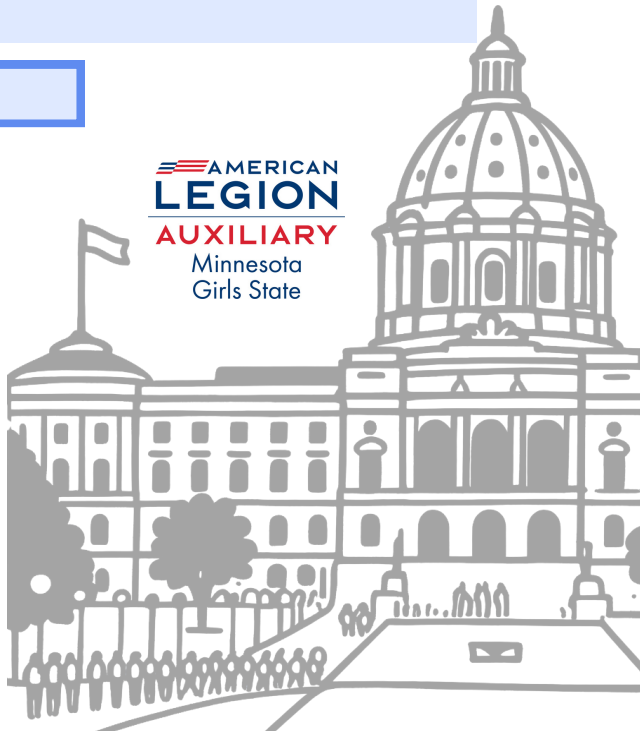
Mailing Address:

Giving Amount Enclosed:

Submission Instructions

Make checks payable to: ALA Dept of Minnesota
(Please write "Girls State All-Star" in the memo line)
Mail your check and this completed form to:
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Minnesota
20 W 12th St, Room 314
St. Paul, MN 55155

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Minnesota Girls State



QUICK REFERENCE CARD

Shop Amazon through SmileAssociate

Support Minnesota Girls State through purchases you already make.

SmileAssociate-MN Girls State

How it helps

SmileAssociate turns eligible Amazon shopping into recurring donations for the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State program. There is no extra cost to you or the organization.

Before you begin

Choose the device that is easiest for you to use: a mobile phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer. You only need to set up the saved link once.

Open the Minnesota Girls State shopping page

1

Open the page

Scan the QR code above with your device camera, or use the web link below.

Open the SmileAssociate Minnesota Girls State page

2

Confirm the page

Look for the Department of Minnesota Girls State name before you continue.

3

Save the page

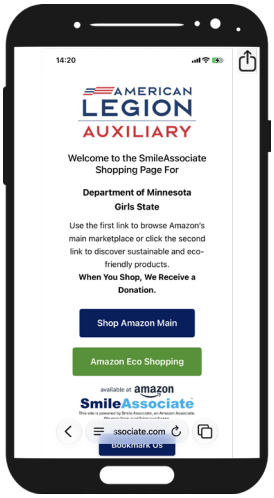
Create a favorite, bookmark, or Home Screen shortcut. This makes it easier to return to the correct page each time you shop.

Save the link on your device

The buttons may look slightly different depending on your device or browser. Choose the instructions that best match what you see.

On a mobile phone or tablet

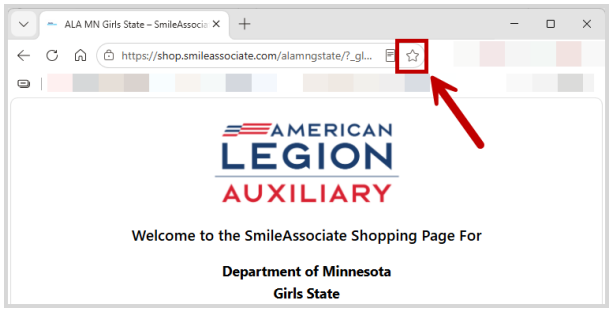
- Open the SmileAssociate Minnesota Girls State page.
- Select **Share**. If you do not see Share, select **Menu**, and then select **Share**.
- Select **Add to Favorites** or **Add to Home Screen**.
- Follow the prompts on your device to save the shortcut.

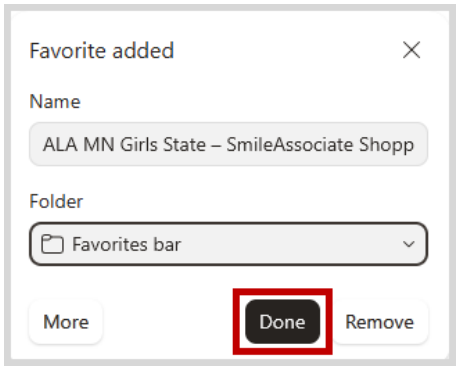




On a computer or laptop

- Open the SmileAssociate Minnesota Girls State page.
- Select the **Star icon** near the web address.
- Choose where you want to save the bookmark.
- Select **Done**.





Shop and support Minnesota Girls State

1

Start with your saved link

Always open Amazon from the SmileAssociate favorite, bookmark, or Home Screen shortcut you created.

2

Select Shop Amazon Main

This opens Amazon from the Minnesota Girls State SmileAssociate page.

3

Shop as usual

Browse and complete your purchase as you normally would.

Important reminder: Use your saved SmileAssociate link every time you shop on Amazon so your eligible purchase can support Minnesota Girls State.

Process owner: ALA Department of Minnesota Girls State Executive Committee

Department of Minnesota
November 2026 Unit Mailing
Historian, Karla Otterness
t.d.news2share@gmail.com



Why Old Photographs Matter

Old photographs bring history to life by offering a personal glimpse of former American Legion Auxiliary members. Details such as uniforms, meeting spaces, and community events show how members served their communities and advanced the organization's mission. Preserving and sharing these images connects today's members with that legacy and keeps its stories alive.

- **Daily life:** how people lived, worked, dressed, gathered, and served their communities
- **Historical context:** buildings, signs, tools, uniforms, and decorations that reflect an era's customs, technology, values, and major events
- **Personal stories:** the faces and experiences of people who might otherwise be forgotten.

Five Simple Ways to Preserve Your Photos

Protecting your unit's photographs does not have to be complicated. A few careful habits can help ensure that today's memories remain available to future members and historians.

1. **Identify each photo.** Record names, dates, locations, events, and other known details.
2. **Handle with care.** Use clean, dry hands and hold photographs by the edges.
3. **Use safe storage.** Choose acid-free albums, sleeves, or boxes, and avoid tape, glue, and paper clips.
4. **Protect from damage.** Store photos in a cool, dry, dark place away from sunlight, moisture, and extreme temperatures.
5. **Create digital copies.** Scan important images, use descriptive file names, and keep backups in more than one location.

Start now: Select a few photographs at your next meeting and invite members to help identify the people, places, and stories they contain.

"Saving old photographs preserves more than images—it keeps our stories, connections, and history alive for



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

October 2026 Issue #2

FROM THE 2026-2027 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE



2026-2027 National President
Dr. Coral May Grout

Leadership is Personal... The Power of Connection

Rebecca Farley
Central Division Chair

Leadership is not simply about standing in front of people. Some of the most powerful leadership happens when we choose to stand beside them. Throughout my leadership journey, I have learned that one of our greatest tools is something that cannot be found in a handbook, taught through a presentation, or measured on a report. It is personal connection.

Great leaders learn to meet people where they are. Not everyone enters our organization with the same experience, confidence, skills, or desire to lead. Some members are ready to step forward and take charge. Others may need someone to walk beside them for a while. Leadership means recognizing the difference and adapting how we encourage, mentor, and support each other.

Continued on Next Page . . .

What Does Leadership Look Like to You?

Dept of CO President -
Ashley Flores

Leadership is the capacity to translate a vision into reality while paving the way for others to follow. Growing our future to honor their service and sacrifices. It is about serving others, listening, setting an example, and helping those around you grow.

Leaders become great not because of the power they hold, but because of their ability to empower others. To me, leadership means leading with compassion, integrity, and purpose. It means being willing to step forward when needed, while also knowing when to step back and allowing others to shine.

Leadership Continued

Sometimes leadership is giving direction. Sometimes it is asking, “What do you think?" or it is opening a door. And sometimes it is simply noticing someone who may feel invisible and saying, “I see what you are doing, and it matters.” That is the power of personal connection.

As leaders, we should become students of the people around us. Who needs encouragement? Who needs an opportunity? Who has a talent that has not yet been discovered? Who accomplished something worth celebrating? Who has been quietly serving without recognition? And our celebration should not stop with the people we directly lead. Strong leaders celebrate the success of others, across Units, Districts, Departments, programs, and communities. Someone else's success does not diminish our own. In fact, when we celebrate one another, we strengthen the entire American Legion Auxiliary.

Building relationships also builds our network, and our network becomes one of our greatest leadership resources. Every conversation, introduction, shared idea, encouraging word, and genuine connection creates another bridge. Those bridges connect people to people, people to opportunities, and ultimately people to our mission.

Meaningful connections require something from us, it requires our presence. Put down the title for a moment. Look beyond the position. Listen to the person standing in front of you. Learn their story. Recognize their strengths. Notice when they need an extra word of encouragement or a little confidence borrowed from you until they discover their own. People may join our organization because they believe in its mission, but relationships often give them a reason to stay, serve, grow, and eventually lead.

Our American Legion Auxiliary is filled with potential leaders. Some already know it. Some are still discovering it. And some may simply be waiting for another leader to see something in them that they have not yet seen in themselves. Make the connection. Celebrate the person. Build the relationship. You never know when one simple moment of encouragement will become the beginning of someone else's leadership story.

Quarterly Leadership Zoom

Oct 13 – 7 pm Eastern

Click Here to Register today

What Does Leadership Look Like to You?

Dept of NE President - Vicki Cyboron

Leadership for me is to be a cheerleader. It is important to encourage people and help them understand the programs and the need to help our veterans, communities and children and youth. When you are excited on the programs it helps bring the excitement to all other members.

ALA Academy

Knowledge Builds Stronger Members

ALA Academy courses are a valuable resource for every American Legion Auxiliary member, whether you are brand new to the organization or have served for many years. These courses help members better understand the ALA’s mission, history, programs, leadership practices, and organizational responsibilities. By taking advantage of ALA Academy, members gain the knowledge and confidence to become more engaged, serve effectively at the Unit, District, Department, and National levels, and share the ALA mission with others.

ALA Academy is an investment in yourself—and in the future of our organization.

Get Started With These Suggestions . . .

ALA 101: Member Orientation

ALA Leadership: Living Our Motto of Service Not Self

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota

Leadership Workshop

Saturday, January 23, 2027
Morison-Ario-Strand VFW Post 950
1900 North Riverfront Drive
Mankato, MN 56001

Workshop 10 AM – 3 PM
$20.00 pre-registration
Includes lunch & course handouts

Deadline to register: January 16, 2027
Hosted by
Mankato American Legion Auxiliary Lorentz Unit 11
Please register early:

Topics to be covered will be:

New officers training – what you need to know and who to ask.

V&R – The program and how to report service given

Membership – New membership regulations and how to recruit more members.

Children and Youth & Girl State – What's new and coming up.

Cut and return this portion with $20 registration fee to:
American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota
20 W. 12th St., Room 314, St. Paul, MN 55155-2000

or register ON-LINE With ZEFFY

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Unit _____ Unit Location _____ District# _____

Legion _____ SAL _____ Auxiliary _____ Senior _____ Junior _____

Cell Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Department of Minnesota
November 2026 Unit Mailing
Membership Chairman,
Wendy Grittner
wgrittner@gmail.com

Happy Thanksgiving Tribes!

What an amazing Fall Conference!
The Tribal names were awesome, and you wore your buffs with pride! We had some fun, played some games and everyone's torch stayed lit!! You made your Tribal Chief PROUD!!

I want to also Thank Michelle Weaver for her fantastic job she did on the certificates for our Units who made a goal for Membership. These numbers were based on the report prior to Fall Conference, and not the bulletin you will see with this Unit mailing.

I know we are having some challenges with ALAMIS, but as we continue to work out the issues, please continue to send those memberships in. Everyone is working really hard to make sure our numbers stay as accurate as possible.
I am truly grateful for all the work that our Department office does for us.

I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and keep up the great work! I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Pearl Harbor Rally!



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Membership Bulletin 8 as of 10/21/2026
2027 Membership
Survivor Minnesota
Outsmart~Outmaneuver~Outlive
Leading the Tribes Wendy Grittner

DISTRICT	# of Units	Goal	Period Gain	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership LY 10/7/2025	Difference from Last Year
One	47	3,114	330	1416	45.47%	1,273	143
Two	68	3,073	510	1329	43.25%	1,093	236
Three	42	3,267	388	1279	39.15%	1,070	209
Four	5	414	80	172	41.55%	159	13
Five	7	303	47	115	37.95%	123	-8
Six	57	4,274	580	2022	47.31%	1,880	142
Seven	47	2,260	267	746	33.01%	907	-161
Eight	20	1,035	96	405	39.13%	397	8
Nine	42	2,707	412	1253	46.29%	942	311
Ten	40	2,969	257	1243	41.87%	1,172	71
1982	1	371	24	196	52.83%	183	13
Depart. Total	**376**	**23,787**	**2,991**	**10,176**	**42.78%**	**9,199**	**977**
Group 1 (Even) *Hope Wilson*	**190**	**11,765**	**1,523**	**5,171**	**43.95%**	**4,701**	**470**
Group 2 (Odd) *Jodi Hassing*	**186**	**12022**	**1468**	**5005**	**41.63%**	**4,498**	**507**

RANKINGS

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
47.31%	46.29%	45.47%	43.25%	41.87%
6th District	**9th District**	**1st DIstrict**	**2 nd District**	**10th District**
6th	**7th**	**8th**	**9th**	**10th**
41.55%	39.13%	38.99%	37.95%	33.01%
4th District	**8th District**	**3rd District**	**5th District**	7th District

Department of Minnesota
November 2026 Unit Mailing
Memorial Chairman/Chaplain,
Sandy Wersal
sandywersal@gmail.com

Veterans Day Prayer

Almighty God, today we pause to honor and thank the brave men and women who have selflessly served in the United States Armed Forces. We express our profound gratitude for their service, sacrifice, and dedication to defending our nation, freedom, and values. We pray for all veterans who have worn the uniform, asking that You grant them comfort, healing, strength, and peace. Bless those who carry the physical and invisible wounds of war. We remember with reverent hearts those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and we pray for their families, that they may find solace and support in the legacy of their loved one's courage. Guider our nation to honor and care for our veterans always. Inspire us to uphold the ideals they fought for. Protect those currently serving in harm's way and bless all who have stood on guard for our liberties. We ask this with humble and grateful hearts. Amen

Thanksgiving Prayer

Dear (I say God, because that's my faith, but please insert your faith's leader here),

As we may gather with family and friends, mindful of the sacrifices made by our veterans and their families, and grateful for the freedom and prosperity we enjoy. Let us remember the less fortunate among us and strive to make a positive impact in our communities. May our table be filled with love, laughter, and a spirit of generosity. Bless our troops, past and present, who have protected our nation and its values. And let us always remember the true meaning of Thanksgiving: to count our blessings, to share them with others, and to give thanks to our gracious God.

Brister Thomas, national chaplain, American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota
November 2026 Unit Mailing
National Security Chairman,
Wanda Seidler
claricekeith2014@gmail.com

November is **National Veterans and Military Family Month.** Established by the Armed Services YMCA in 1996, each November a proclamation is signed by the President declaring it the National Veterans and Military Family Month. It is a time of celebration of our nation's servicemen and servicewomen in uniform. It is also a time of solemn honor and recognition for the sacrifices our active-duty armed forces make. Last but certainly not least, it is a time of appreciation for veterans and military families.
...Ideas to cerebrate, honor, and recognize can be as simple as flying a U.S. Flag, or a handshake and "thank you for your service" to veterans and servicemembers in uniform.
...If you have children or grandchildren visit a military memorial, giving them a deeper understanding of service and sacrifice.
...Purchase Blue Star Banners, officially called the Service Flag, and donate to Blue Star Mothers/Families.
...Manufacturers' coupons are not as readily available in this digital age; however, Coupon Cabin still takes active and expired coupons. On their website it states that food and baby supplies coupons are the most important coupons our troops need. Go to Couponcabin.com/troops to read what they do/do not accept and where to mail coupons.
...Make a personal or Unit monetary donation or volunteer your time to the Armed Forces Service Center at the MSP Airport to support their important mission.
...Maybe one of your Unit members has a family member serving in the armed forces or knows of a military family that would appreciate being "adopted for the holidays".
...Contact area colleges/technical colleges to inquire if the campus has a dedicated military/veteran's resource center for military-connected students, eligible dependents and spouse to utilize. Ask what your Unit could provide for the resource center. Ideas could include single-serve convenience snacks, bottled water, gift cards, etc.

Established in 1919 and initially known as Armistice Day**, Veterans Day** observances will be held across our country on November 11th. We honor all deceased and living American veterans, who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces during war and peacetime.

December 7th, 2026, marks the 85th anniversary of the surprise military attack by Japan on the **U.S. Naval Base Pearl Harbor.** We solemnly remember and honor the 2,335 military personnel and 68 American civilians killed and 1,178 wounded.

Department of Minnesota
November 2026 Unit Mailing
Past Presidents Parley Chairman,
Darlene Wondra
news4darlene@earthlink.net

Past Presidents who have served as Unit, District or /and Department Presidents, make up the Past Presidents Parley. The purpose of the Past President's Parley is for their members to use their experience, knowledge and training to mentor the members by answering and mentoring their questions of the who, what and why of our organization. Encouraging our members to take part in committees, chairmanships and leadership by asking them to be part of a project with you. Make them feel comfortable at meetings and activities and with the members are all part of good mentoring.

We have a special interest in our female servicemen, making sure they receive all the benefits they are intitled to. Recognize your community female veterans with greeting cards, include them in your Unit activities and if they are in need of any assistants. Invite a female veteran in the Veterans home to become a member of your Unit.

We, the Past Department Presidents sponsor a Department Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarship, a $1,000 scholarship is given out, for up to 10 members (3year of membership) for any course of study in the medical field. Our ALA department office has an application and is included in this mailing. We depend on donations from you, our members to fund this scholarship. Consider adding to your Unit budget a donation towards the Past Presidents Parley Healthcare Scholarship Fund. Your Past President Parley can organize a fund raiser with your Unit to benefit this scholarship. Another suggestion is memorials of your deceased members can also benefit this scholarship. Below is the application for the scholarship. More information and applications will be sent out to units with the 2026-2027 Plaques and Awards material in a Unit Mailing.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY HEALTH CARE SCHOLARSHIP
RULES AND REGULATIONS 2026-2027

1. The Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarship has been established to assist needy and deserving students or adults to commence or further their education in **any phase** of the health care field including the entire medical, nursing and dental support fields such as registered nurses, nursing assistant, licensed practical nurse, X-ray or other technician, dieticians, physical or other therapist, dental hygienist or dental assistant, etc.

2. The Scholarship is a one-year scholarship for $1,000.00.

3. The applicant must be a member of an American Legion Auxiliary in the Department of Minnesota, for a minimum of three (3) years; and maintain a "C" or better average in school if a student.

4. The Scholarship must be used for the purpose of continuing education, beyond high school, in a post-secondary educational facility.

5. **Applications must be signed by the Unit President of which you are a member and received in the Department Office of the American Legion Auxiliary by MARCH 15th.** They will be reviewed and scholarships will be awarded by a committee appointed by the Past Presidents Parley Chairman.

6. When notified that a scholarship application has been approved, the winners must send a letter of acceptance to the Department Office before any monies are released (up to ten recipients per year based on based on donations received this Auxiliary year).

7. The Scholarship will be awarded in the following manner: The $1,000.00 will be sent directly to the school after the **first quarter** has been completed and proof of satisfactory grades via a transcript has been sent to the Department Office.

8. **APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE**:
   - A. A letter from either the superintendent, principal or counselor of the school now attending, or have attended, regarding scholastic record, aptitude and ambition.
   - B. A letter from either a business, clergy or professional person (not a relative) with whom you have been associated.
   - C. A brief **TYPED** essay from the applicant telling of his/her plans for higher education, career goals, and the need for financial assistance (see form with application).
   - D. A copy of high school or college transcript.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15TH

Applications must be sent to:

American Legion Auxiliary
State Veterans Service Building
20 W 12th Street, Room 314
St. Paul, MN 55155

PAST PRESIDENTS HEALTH CARE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2026-2027

1. PERSONAL DATA:

Name: _____Birthdate:_____

Address: _____City_____State_____Zip_____

Marital Status: Single_____Married_____ (Maiden name)_____

Phone for contact (home) _____ (cell)_____

Email Address: _____

If you work outside the home, what is your occupation: _____

Parents/Spouse's Name: _____

Parents/Spouse's Occupation: _____

Names and Ages of Dependents: _____

_____

Number and Location of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit to which you belong:

UNIT NUMBER_____ UNIT LOCATION _____

MEMBERSHIP ID NUMBER _____YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP_____

2. Name and address of Post High School Education Institution you plan to attend or are attending:

_____

(NAME) (ADDRESS)

3. Course of study or major you intend to follow:

a._____ (length of program) _____(estimated cost per year)_____

4. Amount of Financial Aid package you expect to receive from the school you will attend. (print or type).

- Student Work $_____
- Student Loan $_____
- Scholarships $ _____
- Grants $ _____

5. List other scholarships you have been awarded and the amount of each:_____

_____

6. List other financial assistance you expect to receive: _____

_____

7. EDUCATION

Name(s) of School Dates Attended

High School: _____

Colleges (if applicable): _____

8. List the activities you have participated in, both in and out of school (including dates, employment, offices held and awards - you may type this on a separate sheet) (PLEASE **TYPE** USING THIS FORM ALSO)

Employment	Community	School	Awards

9. **HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**: Please furnish the following information:

A. To be completed by the **High School Guidance Office**:

Grade Point Average: _____ Class Standing: _____ Percent in Class: _____

Graduation Date: _____

COUNSELOR'S SIGNATURE _____

(Please attach your high school transcript)

B. If you are not 18 years old, please have your parents or guardian complete the following:

I, the parent/guardian of (please print)_____

DO HEREBY GIVE PERMISSION FOR THE RELEASE OF MY CHILD'S educational records.

_____ _____

(SIGNATURE) (DATE)

10. **COLLEGE STUDENTS:** Applicants enrolled in college must send a copy of their current college transcript.
***** If you are not a high school senior and this is your first college enrollment, please include your high school transcript.

11. I certify that the foregoing information is true and correct. I also agree that if I am awarded a Health Care Scholarship by the Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary and decide not to seek further education, or change my course of study from the Health Care Field, I will **immediately** notify the State American Legion Auxiliary office at 651-224-7634.

_____ _____
(APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE) (DATE)

Applicant Name_____

This section is REQUIRED for Applicant Award Selection.

You must furnish 2 letters of reference of non-family members (see rules and regulations sheet), along with the applicant statement. Name and relationship of those furnishing letters of reference:

	Name	**Relationship**
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____

APPLICANTS STATEMENT: On the space below and if additional space is needed use another page. Please **TYPE** this statement indicating:

- What your future plans are?
- What are your career goals?
- The need for financial assistance?

This statement must be a **minimum of 75 words.**

_____ _____
(UNIT PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE) (DATE)

Department of Minnesota
November 2026 Unit Mailing
VA&R Chairman, Jody Hassing
jodyhassing@gmail.com

Our Hospital and Home Representatives are busy getting ready for Gift Shop. Gift Shop is held at the different facilities at the beginning of December. Each Veteran who is a resident of the facility will receive a gift and the opportunity to pick a gift to give to their spouse or caregiver. Please consider donating to the Gift Shop program. I want to thank Karen Foss for creating gift tags for our gift shop this December. They are so appreciated by all. I hope she will agree to do the same for next year. Please keep any non-religious Christmas cards so she can recycle them into tags for our veterans. They can be dropped off at any ALA event.

I will be introducing our Hospital and Home Representatives during the year. In the meantime, I want to thank each of them for everything they do for our Veterans. You represent the American Legion Auxiliary and demonstrate Service Not Self in all you do for our Veterans.



Your home and hospital representatives had their annual meeting at the end of September to plan the coming year. Any donations to the VA&R program should be mailed to the Department office. You can earmark your donation for a specific facility, and the money will be credited for the use of that facility. Thank you in advance for your monetary donations. Throughout the year, I will share in the Unit mailings what, if any, physical goods are needed at each of the Minnesota facilities. Attached is the most current sewing needs for each facility.

It is not too late to sponsor a wreath, go to www.wreathsacrossamerican.org for Wreaths Across America. It is only 17.00 dollars to Sponsor a wreath. On that same website, you can also register to volunteer to lay wreaths at one of the Cemeteries on Saturday, December 19, 2026.

2026-2027 Hospital/Home Sewing Needs

Revised October 2026

					VA Homes							
Description:	**Fargo VA**	**Mpls VA**	**Sioux Falls VA**	**St. Cloud VA**	***Bemidji***	***Fergus Falls***	***Hastings***	***Luverne***	***Mpls***	***Montivideo***	***Preston***	***Silver Bay***
PATTERN #1-2021 Bed Throw		X									X	
PATTERN #2-2021 Childrens Activity Bags		X										
PATTERN #3-2021 Comfort Boxes												
PATTERN #4-2021 Coverups (Formerly Bibs)												
PATTERN #7-2021 Heart Pillow-**VERY FIRM**		X					X					
Pattern #8-2021 Laundry Bag												
PATTERN #9-2021 Neck Pillow - **VERY FIRM**		X		X			X		X	X	X	X
PATTERN #10-2021 No Sew Fleece Poncho												
PATTERN #12-2021 Port Pillow												
PATTERN #13 -2021 QUILTS70 x 90	X		X			X	X					
PATTERN #14-2021 Tote Bag												
PATTERN #15-2021 Urine Bag Cover												
PATTERN #16-2021 Wheel Chair/Walker bag									X	X	X	

PATTERN #1-2021

Bed Throw

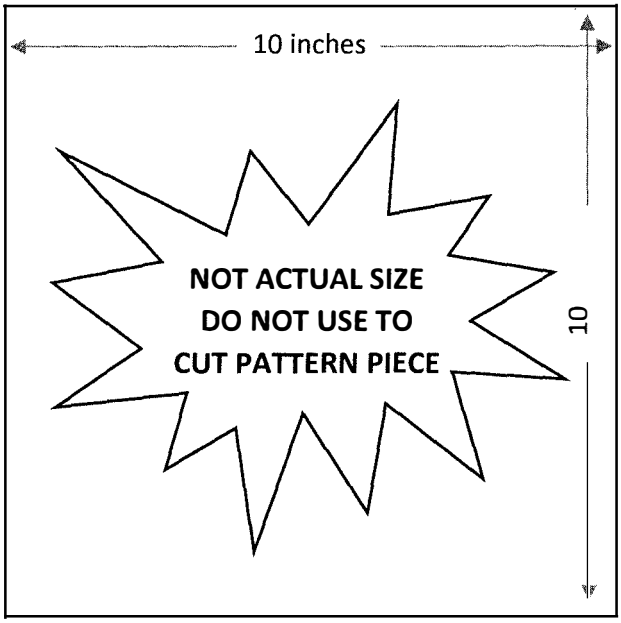
(as always contact facility to be sure they are in need before spending your $$ and time)

Needed:
4 ¾ total yards washable Quilting cotton fabric enough to cut 42 10x10 inch squares Patriotic or appropriate fabric
5 yards washable Quilting cotton or flannel for back should be 65x 75 inches
¾ Yard Washable fabric for binding to be cut in 2 ½ inch lengths stitched together to go around quilt.
Cotton batting
Fabric scissors or rotary cutter
Thread
Sewing machine
1/4-inch seam allowance for seams unless noted
Finished Should be 60x70 inches

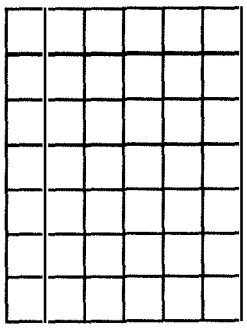
Cut from Fabric:

1. Cut 42 – 10x10 inches squares (Main body). (See A)
2. Stitch squares together with right sides facing together.
3. Press seams to one side.
4. Make 7 rows of 6 squares each. (see B)
5. With right sides together stitch the rows together. Press.
6. Make a sandwich of the top, batting and backing. (Backing face down; batting, top face up)
7. Quilt or tie in all corners to hold sandwich together.
8. Add the binding. (See C) Here is a video on how to bind your quilt in six easy steps. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWh90tXr7g4
9. If backing is large enough you can fold over to make the binding.

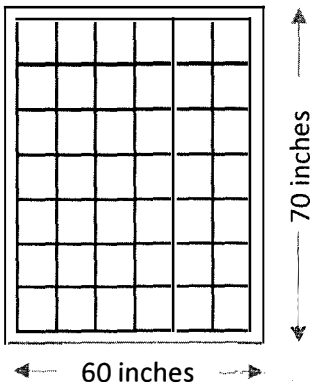
A



B



C

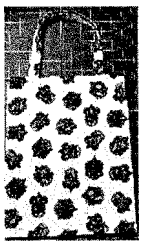


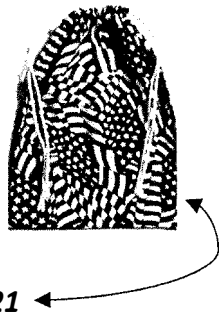
PATTERN #2-2021

Children's Activity Bag

(as always contact facility to be sure they are in need before spending your $$ and time)

Needed:
½ yard of Fabric or Felt 18x36 inches
Fabric scissors or rotary cutter
Thread
Sewing machine
1/4-inch seam allowance for seams unless noted
Finished will be approximately 11 1/2x14 inches





To make the drawstring bag see directions for the ***Tote bag Pattern #14-2021***

Cut from Fabric/Felt:

1. Cut 1 – 12x30 inches
2. Cut 2 – 4x18 inches
3. Fold 12x30 inches in half (measures 12x15 inches)
4. With right sides together stitch Side seams using ¼ inch seam allowance. Serger may be used.
5. Turn right side out and press.

Strap handles:

6. On wrong side of the 4-inch strip mark center of fabric (long edge)
7. Fold both edges to center of fabric and press (See A & B below)
8. Fold in half and press (will now look like bias binding).
9. Top stitch 1/8 inch around the strap handle
10. Repeat 6-9 for 2nd strap handle

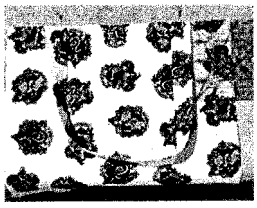
Attach Handles and finish Bag:

11. Place one end of strap handle at the top of bag 2 inches from side seam and pin in place. Repeat for the other end of strap handle being careful not to twist the handle. (See C below)
12. You can flip the bag over and match up the handles to the first side.
13. Zigzag or serge ¼ inch around the top of the bag. Okay to stitch if you do not have zigzag on your machine
14. Turn top down ¾ inch. Press and pin in pace
15. Top stitch ¼ inch around the top of the bag which will hold the straps in place. (See D below)

To give bag a more finished look you can zigzag the side seams to keep from fraying. To make the handles more secure I do another line of stitching ½ from top.

A 

B 

C 

D 

Children's Activity Bag Items

PATTERN #2-2021

Here are some *suggestions* of activities that can be put together for distribution to children in our busier clinics. Fill you bags with some or all the items listed. ***NOTE: Please do not include small items or pieces that can be swallowed.***

- Small mini books
- Stickers
- Word search pages/books for children
- Dot-to-dot puzzles
- Foam shapes (self-adhesive)
- Notebook or paper for the shapes and stickers
- Coloring pages or coloring book
- Non-toxic crayons
- Lacing cards
- Homemade mini felt board with shapes or face parts
- Ziploc bags (sandwich size)

PATTERN # 3-2021

Comfort Boxes

(as always contact facility to be sure they are in need before spending your $$ and time)

Use plastic school boxes with the following items enclosed:

- Notepad with pen
- Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- Lotion and Shampoo (small size)
- Comb and Brush
- Chapstick plain (not flavored)
- Deck of Playing Cards
- Unisex Deodorant
- Chapstick

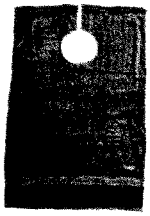
PATTERN # 4-2021

Coverups

(formerly called bibs)

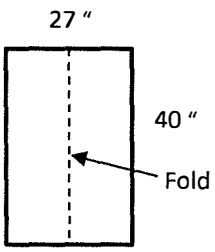
(as always contact facility to be sure they are in need before spending your $$ and time)

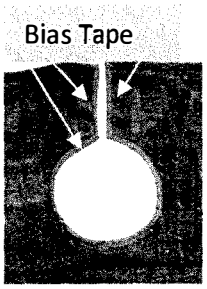
Needed:
1 Bath Size towel
Bias tape
Fabric scissors or rotary cutter
Thread
Sewing machine
Finished size is 27x40 inches



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1. Attach the patterns pieces together.
2. Fold Towel in half lengthwise.
3. Cut towel from the top edge so it measures 40 1/2 inches
4. Place pattern on fold.
5. Cut out circle.
6. Cut a slit on fold from top edge to circle.
7. Turn "slit" edges ½ inch and sew (no bias on these edges).
8. Sew bias tape around the circle only.





Top of Towel

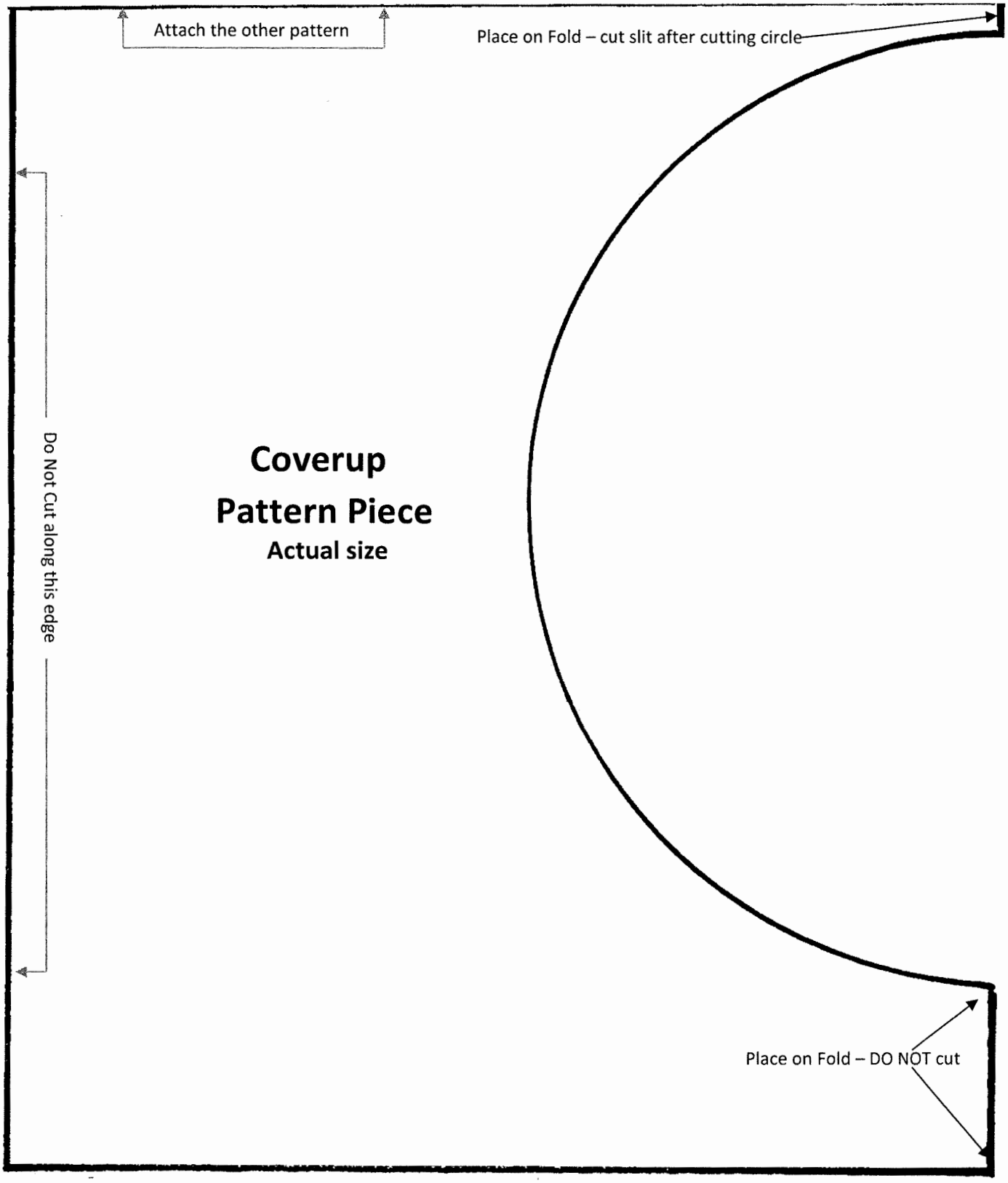
Coverup
Pattern Piece
Actual size

Do Not Cut along this edge

Place on Fold – cut slit after cutting circle

Attach the other pattern

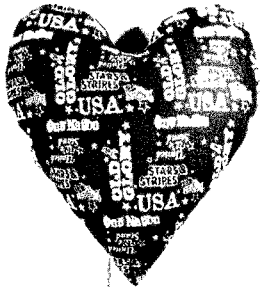
PATTERN # 4-2021



PATTERN # 7-2021

Heart Pillow

(as always contact facility to be sure they are in need before spending your $$ and time)

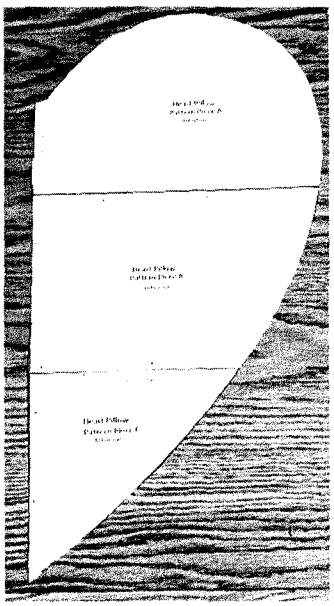


Needed:

- 3/4 yard of Fabric plus ¾ yard of contrasting (Total 1 ½ yards of fabric)
- Polyester Fiberfill
- Thread Needle to hand stitch closing
- Sewing machine
- ¼-inch seam allowance for seams unless noted
- Finished size is approximately 18x18 inches

1. Attach pattern pieces together. Arrows do not match up. (see photo below)
2. Cut 1 from fabric plus Cut 1 from contrasting fabric (Cut 2 total)
3. With right sides together stitch together leaving approximately a 3-4-inch opening on one side.
4. To Reduce bulk clip the top edge curves – do not clip into stitching.
5. Turn right side out and press.
6. Stuff with polyester fiberfill
7. be sure, to make very firm
8. Hand stitch closed.

NOTE: A 50 oz bag of polyfil will fill 3(+/-) pillows.

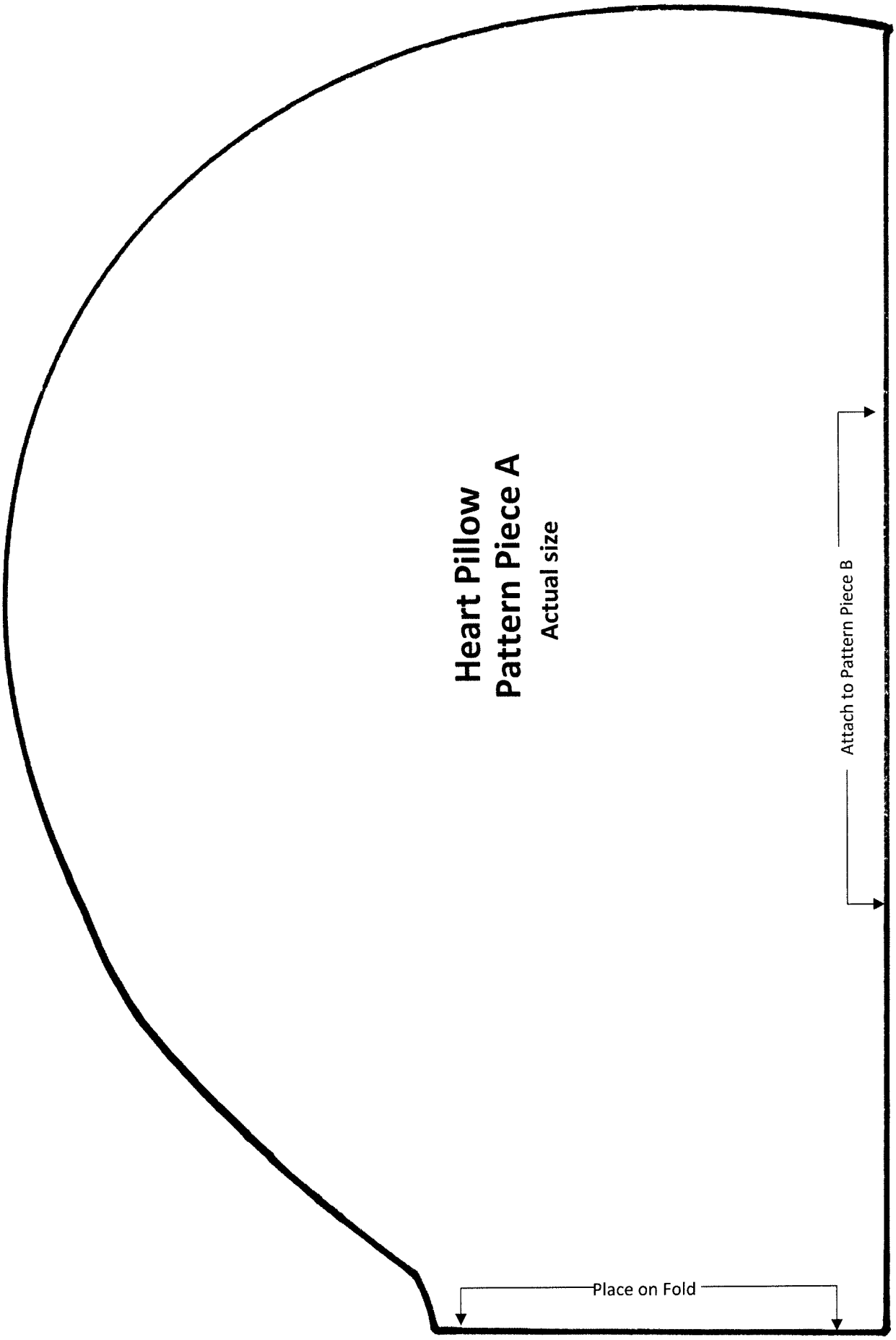


Place on Fold

Heart Pillow
Pattern Piece C
Actual size

Attach to Pattern Piece B

PATTERN # 7-2021



Heart Pillow
Pattern Piece B

Actual size

Place on Fold

Attach to Pattern Piece C

Attach to Pattern Piece A

PATTERN # 8-2021

Laundry Bags

(as always contact facility to be sure they are in need before spending your $$ and time)

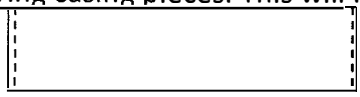
Needed:

- 1 ¾ yard of denim or similar sturdy fabric
- ¼ yard of cotton fabric for drawstring casing (If made from denim they are too hard close)
- Parachute cord or similar for drawstrings. Parachute cord may be purchased at Menards, Amazon, Lowes, and some craft stores. (Do not use yarn)
- Fabric scissors or rotary cutter
- Thread
- Sewing machine
- 3/8 seam allowance unless noted

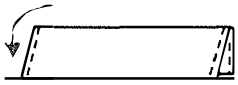
Finished bag should measure approximately 28x38 inches

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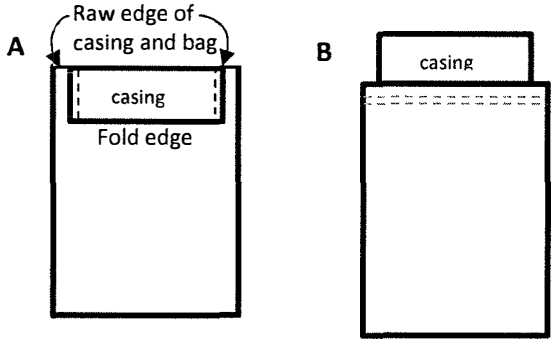
1. Cut 2 pieces of denim fabric 29x40 inches
2. Cut 4 drawstring casing pieces of cotton fabric 2 ¾ inches x 28 inches
3. With right sides together sew the bottom and side seams. Serge or zigzag top (open end) to avoid fraying. Or you may also turn under ¼ inch and stitch.
4. Turn bag right side out and press.
5. Next take drawstring casing pieces and with right sides together sew a 3/8 inch seam across both short ends. Repeat using the other 2 drawstring casing pieces. This will make the drawstring casings. Turn right side out and press.



6. Fold the drawstring casings in half vertically so the long raw edges meet and baste in place.



7. Mark the center along the bottom raw edge. Mark center of bag on top raw edge of bag.
8. Match the raw edge centers of bag and casing. Pin the casing in place then stitch onto the bag at ¼ inch using a zigzag stitch or serger sewing machine. (See A below)
9. Fold the top of the bag down ¾ inch and pin in place. Top stitch the bag at ½ inch and ¼ inch. It will hold the casing securely in place. (See B below)
10. Repeat 5-9 for the drawstring casing on the second side.
11. Add the parachute cord (drawstrings); be sure that it draws from each side. Tie the cords on each side together to prevent them from slipping out of the casing.



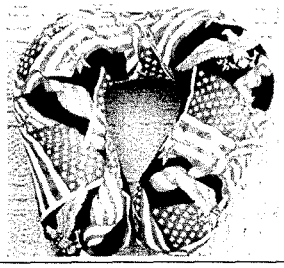
PATTERN # 9-2021

Neck Pillow

(as always contact facility to be sure they are in need before spending your $$ and time)

Needed:

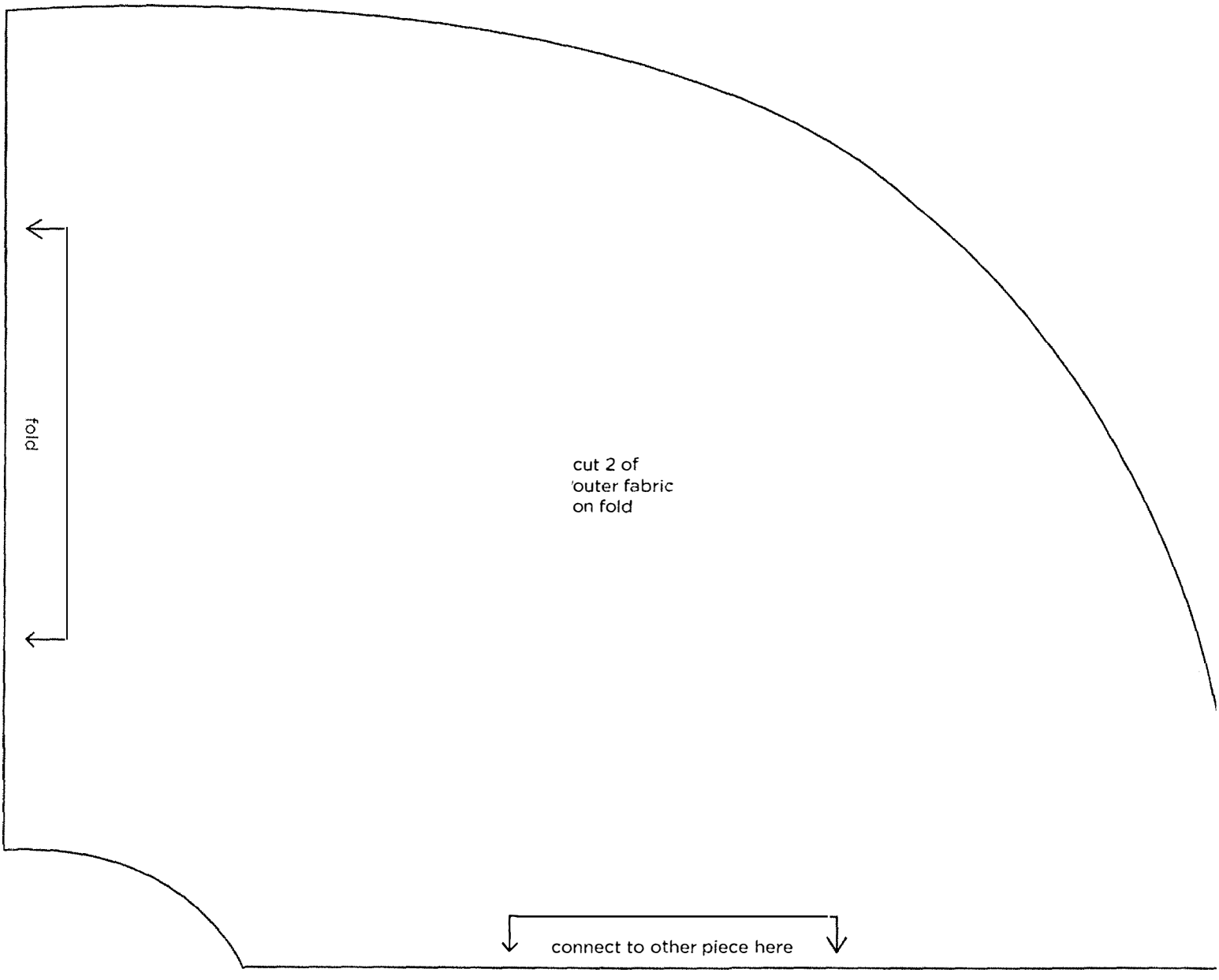
½ yard of Fabric plus ½ yard of contrasting fabric or 2 pieces 18x20-inches
Polyester Fiberfill
Thread Needle to hand stitch closing
Sewing machine
3/8-inch seam allowance for seams unless noted



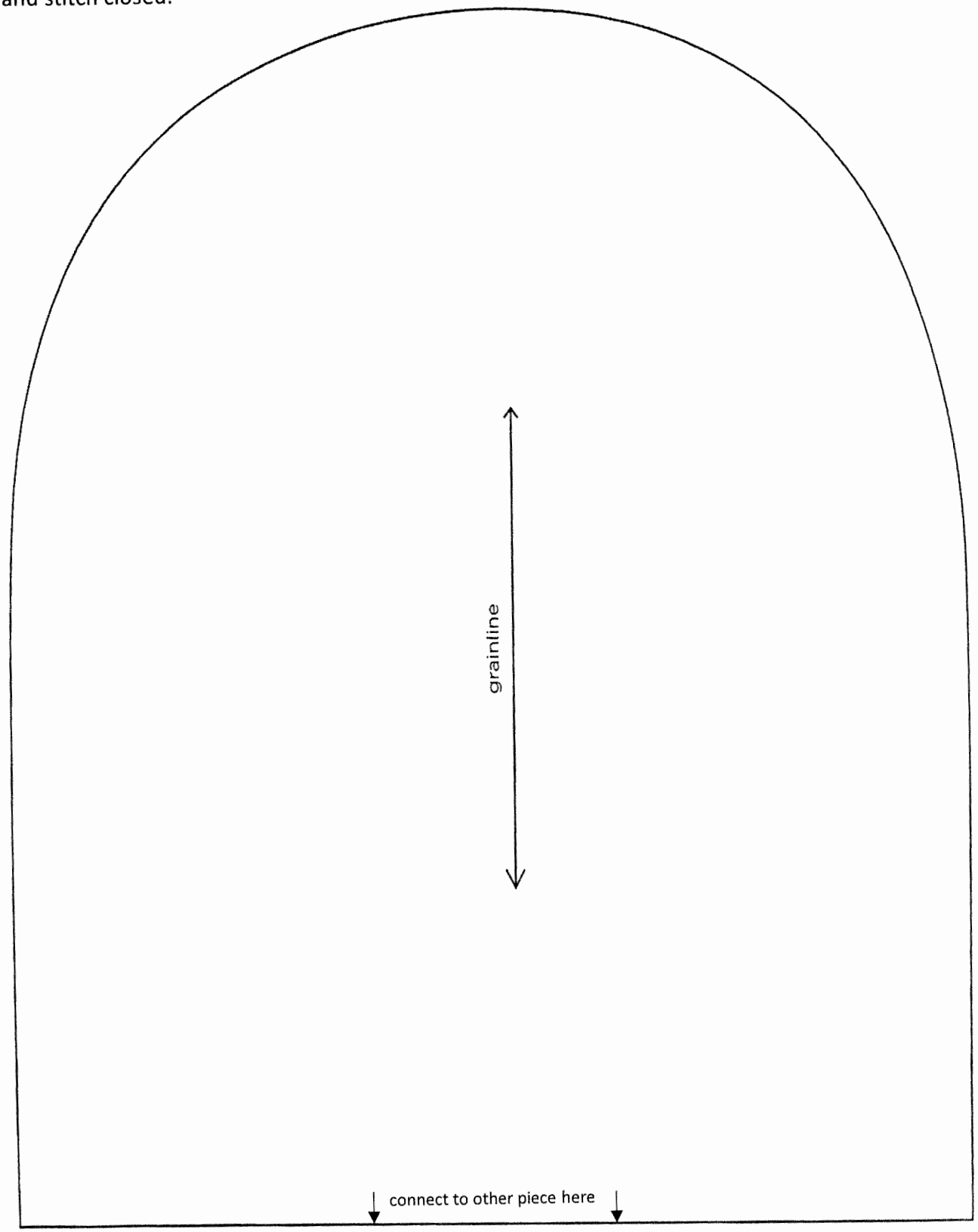
You may watch this video for reference: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=feGTn58jcBM

1. Cut 1 from fabric
2. Cut 1 from contrasting fabric
3. With right sides together stitch together leaving approximately a 5-inch opening at top.

Directions continued next page



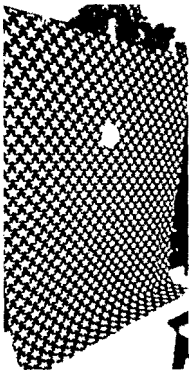
4. Clip inside curve (around neck) being careful not to clip into your stitching.
5. Stitch inside curve (around the neck) again to reinforce.
6. Turn right side out and press.
7. Stuff with polyester fiberfill be sure to make *very* firm
8. Hand stitch closed.



PATTERN # 10-2021

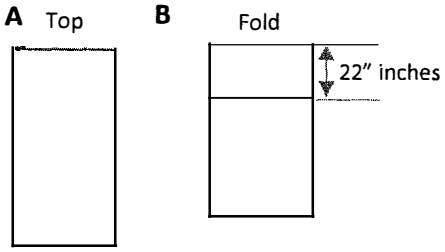
No Sew Fleece Poncho

(as always contact facility to be sure they are in need before spending your $$ and time)

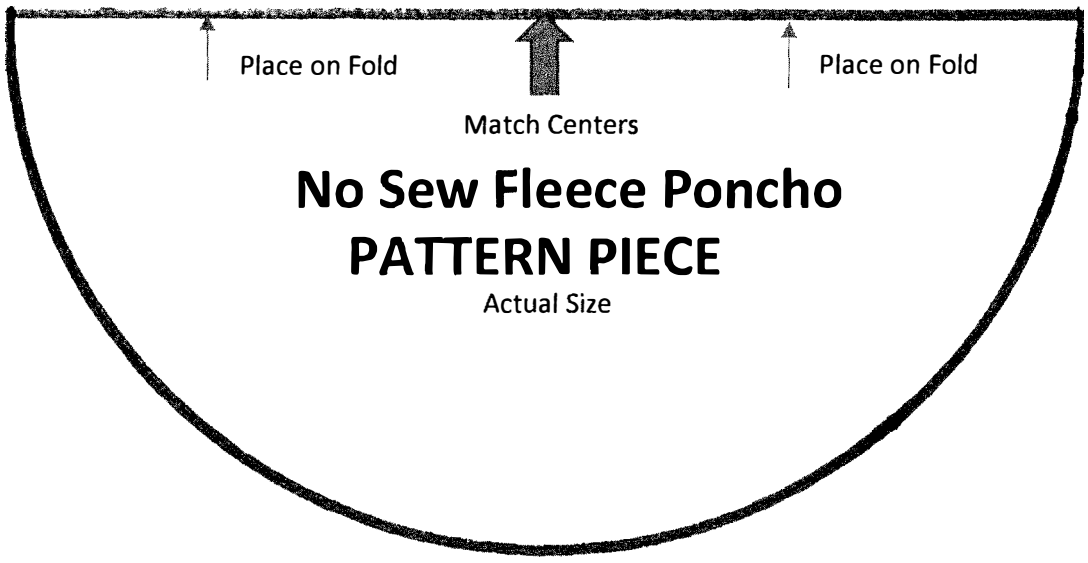


Needed:
2 yards of Fleece fabric (appropriate design – the majority of veterans are male)
Fabric scissors

1. Trim off both selvage edges.
2. Lay fabric so the short edge is at the top. (See A below)
3. Fold the top edge of the fabric down 22 inches. (See B below)



4. Fold fabric in half with long edges together.
5. Mark center with a pin and lay flat again as in Diagram B.
6. Place/pin pattern piece on the fold matching the center of the pattern piece to the center of the fabric. This will seem like a small opening, but it is plenty of room and the fleece stretches slightly to allow to place over head.
7. Cut the pattern piece out of the fabric.
8. You are done.

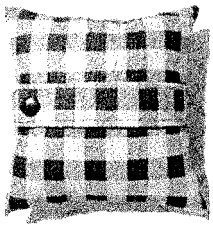


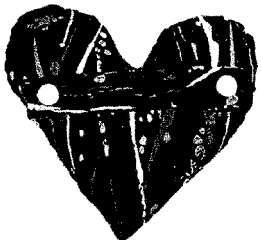
PATTERN # 12-2021

Port Pillow

(as always contact facility to be sure they are in need before spending your $$ and time)

Needed:
Quilting weight cotton or a fat quarter (A fat quarter measures 18x20 inches and will make 2 pillows)
Polyester fiber fill
Fabric scissors
Thread
Needle for hand stitching pillow closed
Sewing machine
Snaps or hook and loop (i.e. Velcro) ¾ inch x 1 inch
(2) ¾x1 inch for heart shaped pillow
1/4-inch seam allowance for seams unless noted
Finished will be approximately 6x6 inches





1. Cut 2 – 6 1/4 x 6 1/4-inch squares
2. Cut 1 – 4 x8-inch Strip of fabric
3. 1 ¼ inches from one side of one square mark for the placement of snap/Velcro (I try to center the strap on the pillow)
4. Attach hook and loop or snap (reinforce with 1-2 small squares of fabric if using a snap)

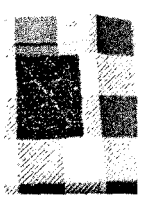
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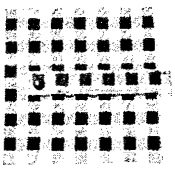
5. On wrong side of the 4-inch strip mark center of fabric (long edge)
6. Fold over ¼-inch on one end and press.
7. Fold both edges to center of fabric and press (See A below)
8. If using hook and loop attach ½ inch from top of strap on half of strap;(See B). if using a snap, see #11
9. Fold in half and press (will now look like bias binding)
10. Top stitch 1/8 inch along 3 sides – bottom edge will be sewn into seam
11. If using snaps attach the top of the snap ½ inch from top edge
12. Hook the strap to the hook and loop or snap on the square. (See C below)
    a. By hooking the strap to the square, it will lineup perfectly when completed

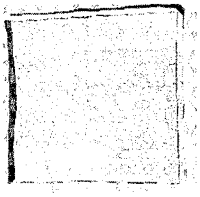
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13. With right sides together stitch around the square leaving a 2-3-inch opening for turning and inserting fiberfill.
14. Press back seam allowance on open side for hand stitching and trim strap and corners close to stitching. (See D below)
15. Turn right side out and press. (for easier turning unhook strap)
16. Fill with polyester fiberfill (be sure to get plenty in to protect the port).
17. Using a slip stitch, hand stitch the pillow closed.

A 

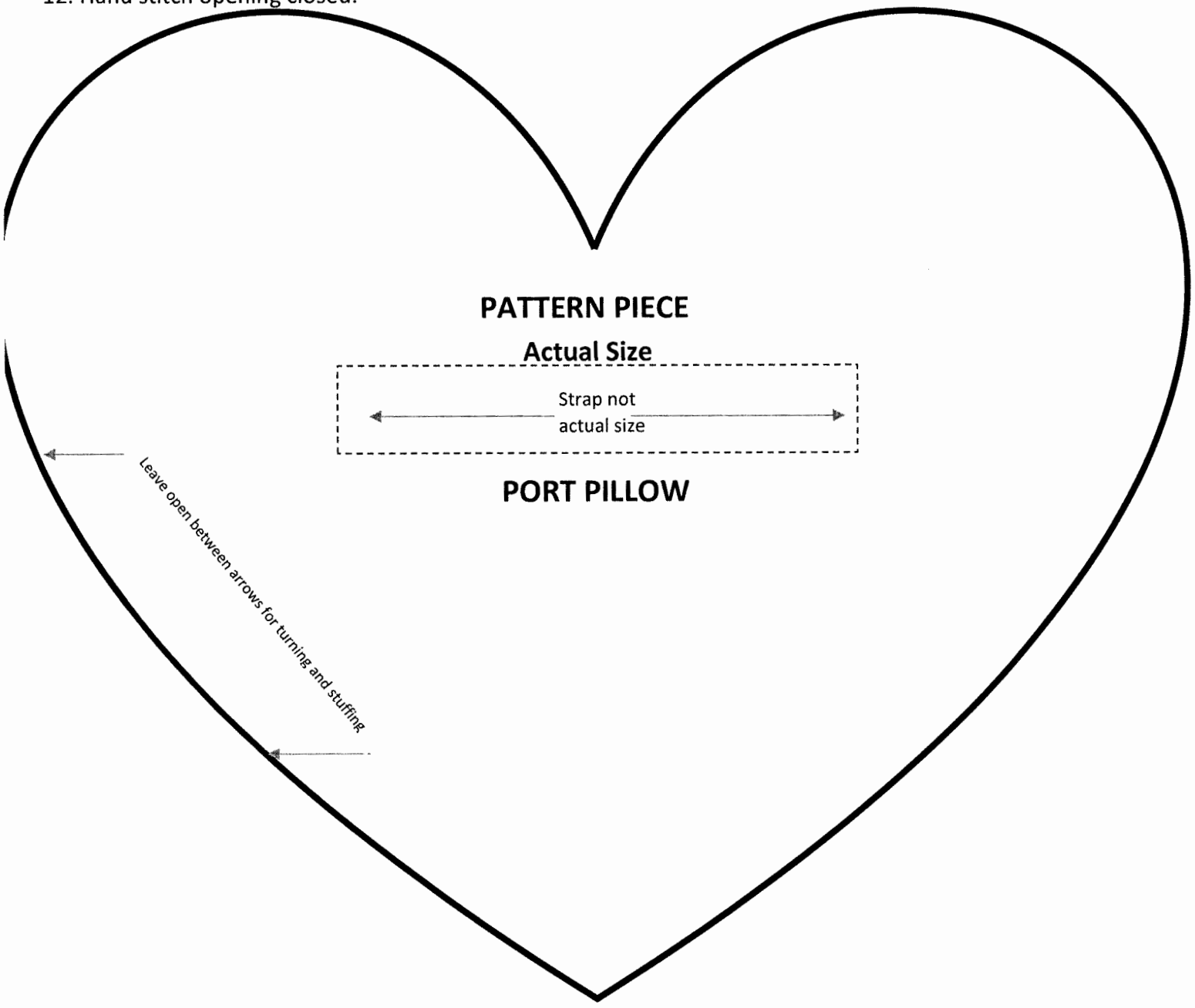
B 

C 

D 

PATTERN # 12-2021

1. Cut 2 from Pattern Pieces main fabric
2. Cut 1 – 4 x6 -inch Strip of fabric
3. On wrong side of the 4-inch strip mark center of fabric (long edge)
4. Fold over ¼-inch on both ends and press.
5. Fold both edges to center of fabric and press (See A on previous page)
6. Add Velcro/snaps to both ends of strap on one side of heart fabric. (see B on previous page)
    a. OR, you may stitch one end of strap to heart piece.
7. Add Velcro pieces/snaps to heart see below
8. With right sides together stitch heart together leaving 2-3-inch side opening
9. Clip top curve to make easier turning. Do not cut stitching.
10. Turn right side out and press.
11. Fill pillow with polyester fiber fill. Be sure that the pillow is firm.
12. Hand stitch opening closed.



PATTERN # 13-2021

QUILTS

(as always contact facility to be sure they are in need before spending your $$ and time)

There are no step-by-step instructions included for Quilts. There are so many wonderful patterns. Pick one you like and make it. Something patriotic is always appreciated by the veterans.

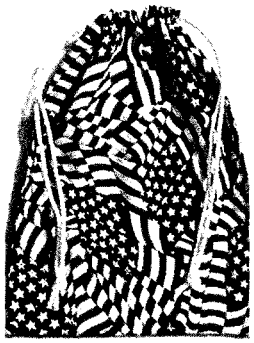
Note: Twin and ¾ size quilts are both 70x90 inches.

70x90 INCH QUILTS:

PATTERN # 14-2021

Tote Bag

(as always contact facility to be sure they are in need before spending your $$ and time)



Needed:

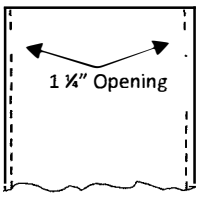
- Fabric 13x35 inches
- Paracord or similar for drawstrings.
  - Paracord may be purchased at Menards, Amazon, Lowes, and some craft stores. (Do not use yarn)
- 1/2-inch seam allowance unless noted.
- Video for casing and bag
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OuhGPFVlro

Finished bag should measure approximately 12x15 inches

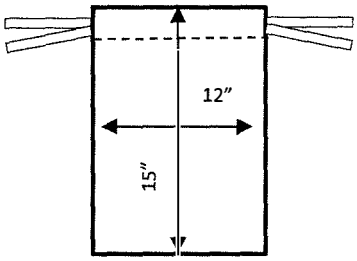
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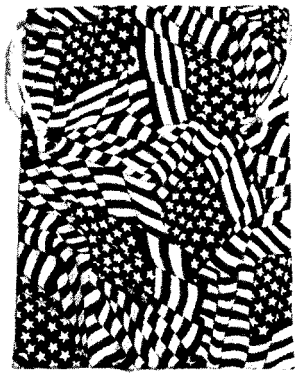
1. Cut 1 piece of fabric 13x35 inches. (You may use pinking shears to help prevent fraying).
2. Drawstrings should be 48 inches in length each. Need 2.
3. Fold fabric in half. (Now will measure 13x17 1/2 inches)
4. With right sides together sew the side seams. Leave an opening large enough for 2 drawstrings when stitching the side seams shut. (see A below)
   a. Stitch down 1 ¼ inch. Leave opening of 1 ¼ inch
5. Press side seams open approximately 5-6 inches from top.
6. Fold top down ¼ inch and press. (If you wish you may stitch this in place)
7. On the top, fold down 1 1/4 inch. Press and pin in place.
8. Stitch approximately 1 1/8 inch from the top edge along the bottom folded edge of the casing as shown in B below.
9. Turn bag right side out and press
10. Top stitch at ¼ inch around the top of the bag
11. Insert the 2 drawstrings: feed one from each side.
    a. Tie the drawstrings on each side together to prevent them from slipping out of the casing.
    b. When using a poly type cord, use a lighter or match to melt the tips slightly to keep from fraying.
    c. It is helpful to make the drawstrings long enough so that the bag may be carried over the shoulder.
    d. DO NOT use yarn for the drawstring

A



B





PATTERN #15-2021

Urine Bag Cover

(as always contact facility to be sure they are in need before spending your $$ and time)

Needed:

2 Pieces 18x20 inches of Fabric – suggested fabric is waterproof or water-resistant canvas

1/4-inch seam allowance for seams unless noted

Finished will be approximately 15x18 inches

Clips such as hair clips from Walmart

DO NOT use pins on the waterproof/water-resistant, they put holes in fabric that defeats the Waterproof.



1. Attach pattern pieces as marked. (See A)
2. Cut 2 – pattern pieces (Main body) Trace the pattern on the fabric and cut. (See B)
3. If fabric frays, turn over ¼ inch and stitch; or serge edge; or serge edge on top.
4. Fold Top down as shown on pattern. (See C)
5. With right sides together stitch around both sides of the bag. Leave top open.
6. Turn right side out. Finger press only; hot iron will melt waterproof fabric.

A



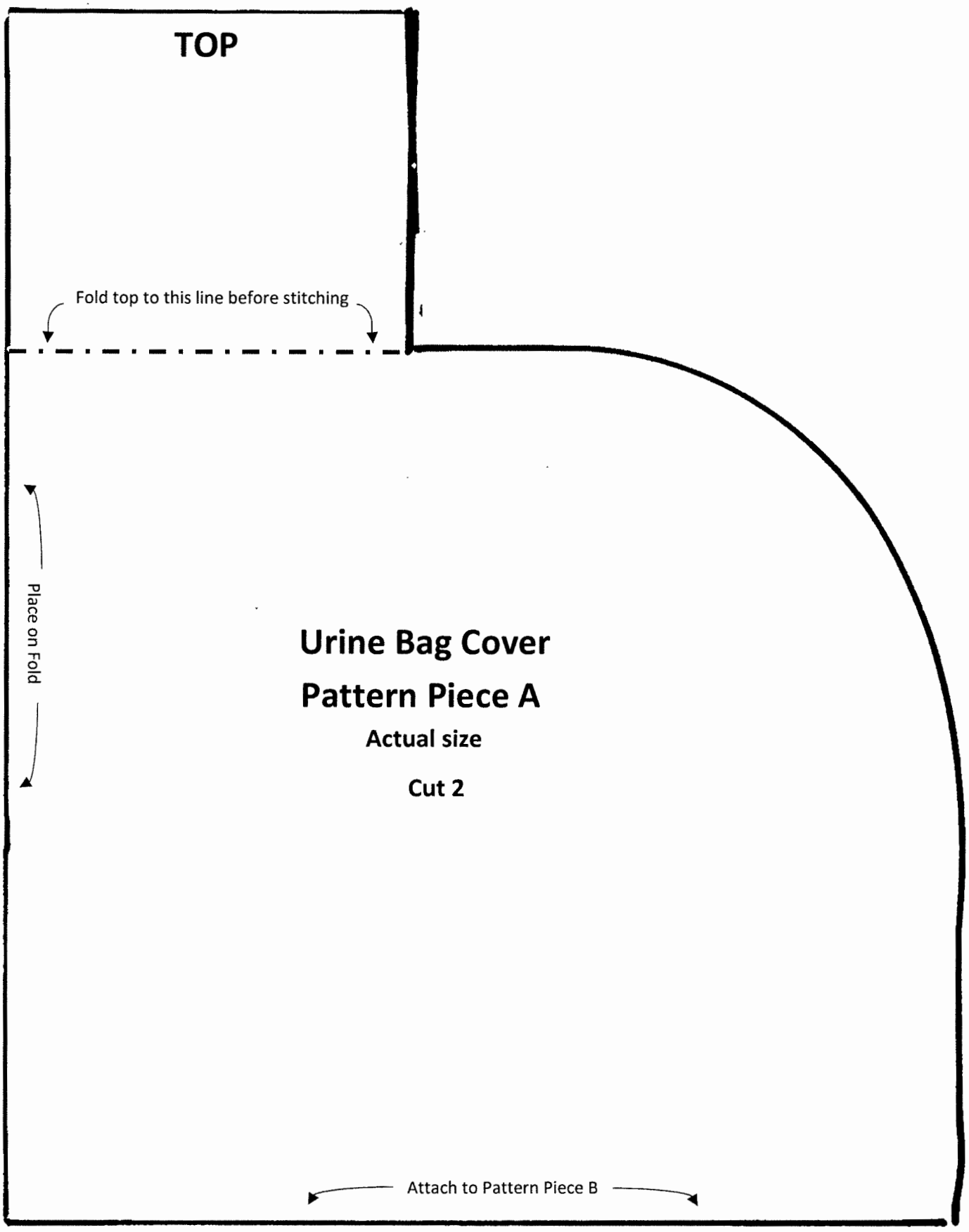
B



C



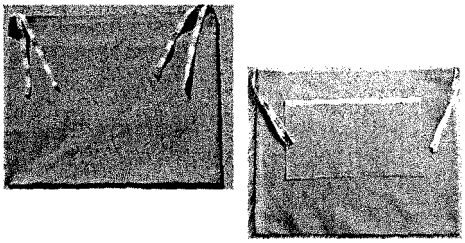
PATTERN #15-2021



PATTERN # 16-2021

Wheelchair/Walker Bag

(as always contact facility to be sure they are in need before spending your $$ and time)



Needed:

- 1 yard of sturdy fabric
- Optional: 1 yard of cotton or similar fabric for inside lining
- Paracord or Bias tape for ties (or make your own bias tape)
    - Paracord may be purchased at Menards, Amazon, Lowes, and some craft stores. (Do not use yarn)
- Velcro if making straps 2 piecies ¾x1 inch. Snaps may also be used.
- 1/4-inch seam allowance unless noted.
- Optional: Slip pockets are a nice addition to the bag (*tip: add to bag before stitching side seams*) Here is a video you can watch to make a slip pocket: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lCkCJAxiQ4

Finished bag should measure approximately 20x16 inches

Note: A, B, and C are shown without the optional lining.

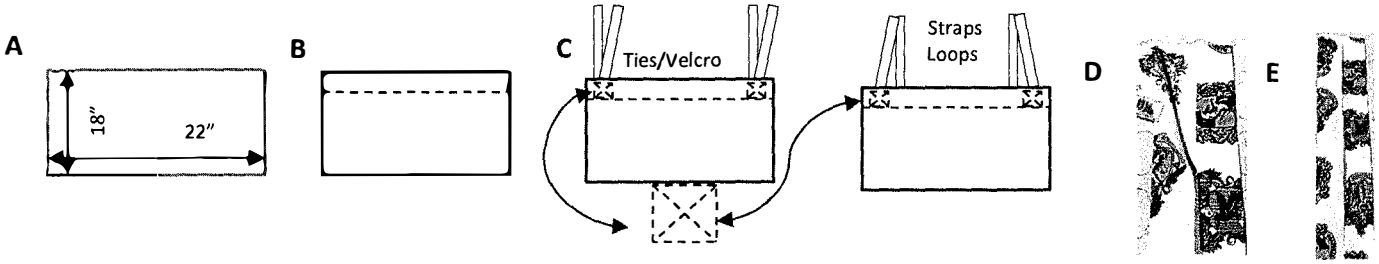
1. Cut 2- 4x18 inch pieces of fabric for straps and Velcro ***OR*** Cut four 2x18 inch for ties – 1/2-inch bias tape may be used or the Paracord.
2. Cut 1 piece of fabric 22x36 inches.
3. Fold fabric in half. (Now will measure 22x18 inches) *See A Below*.
4. With right sides together sew the side seams.
5. Fold top down 1/2 inch and press
6. Turn bag right side out and press (Do not turn optional inside lining right side out)

If adding optional inside lining, go to Step 9.

7. On the top, fold down 1 inch. Press and pin in place.
8. Stitch approximately 3/4 inch from the top edge along the bottom folded edge. *See B below*.
9. Add ties, straps. Stitch a square and X to reinforce straps. Do not add straps to lining. *See C below*
10. Top stitch at ¼ inch at the top of bag if not adding optional lining
11. ***Optional Inside Lining repeat steps 2-6.***
12. Insert lining into bag with wrong sides together. Match side seams and pin in place.
13. Top stitch bag and lining at 1/4 inch from top of bag.

Strap/Tie handles: (or Paracord may be used)

14. On wrong side of the 4-inch (or 2 inch) pieces mark center of fabric (long edge)
15. For ties and Velcro: On both short edges fold ¼ inch on one end and press.
16. Fold both edges to center of fabric and press (*See D & E below*)
17. Fold in half and press (will now look like bias binding).
18. Top stitch 1/8 inch around the strap handle
19. Add Velcro. To reinforce use the box and X method *shown in C*.
20. Attach straps/ties as shown by folding in half and attach at the side seams. in *C below*.
21. Repeat 13-20 for remaining strap handles/ties.



Department of Minnesota
November 2026 Unit Mailing
Endorsements Department Officers



Tamara Martin endorsed for 2027-2028 Department ALA 2nd Vice President

My name is Tamara Martin, and I am excited to announce my candidacy for Department of Minnesota Second Vice President. I am a Minnesota native, raised in the Twin Cities, and have called Duluth home for the past 25 years. My husband, Al, and I have a blended family of eight children and 16 grandchildren. Family, community, and service have always been important parts of my life. As a proud 38-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary, I have developed lifelong friendships, gained valuable experiences, and found countless opportunities to give back to our veterans, military families, and communities. The Auxiliary has become an extension of my family, and I am grateful for the many wonderful people I have met along the way.

My Auxiliary journey began in the 10th District and continues in the 8th District at West Duluth Unit 71, where I currently serve as Unit President. I also serve as Eighth District President and Silver Bay Veterans Home Representative. Over the years, I have had the privilege of serving in leadership positions at every level of our organization, including Department Membership Chairman and Northwestern Division Membership Chairman. My national appointments have included six years in Membership, two years with Juniors, and service on the Poppy, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, and National Security committees. I am especially honored to currently serve as National Vice Chairman for Americanism. Each position has provided opportunities to learn, grow, build relationships, and gain a greater understanding of the programs and people that make our organization so special.

As a Department officer, I would bring experience, dedication, enthusiasm, and a genuine passion for our mission. I believe strong leadership begins with listening, communicating, and working together. My focus would be on supporting our units and districts, encouraging membership growth, strengthening our programs, and helping develop future Auxiliary leaders. I understand that every unit faces different challenges, and I believe in being approachable, supportive, and willing to roll up my sleeves to help wherever needed. Most importantly, I want every member to feel valued and know that their contributions make a difference. Together, we can build a stronger Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary while continuing to honor and serve our veterans, military families, and communities.

I am truly honored and grateful to have received the official endorsements of both West Duluth Unit 71 and the Eighth District. Their confidence and support mean so much to me, and I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to continue serving the American Legion Auxiliary.

Department of Minnesota
November 2026 Unit Mailing
Secretary's Notes

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 9-11: Veterans Day Observance, displays of military items over the years, Willmar City Auditorium
Nov. 11: Veterans Day, local observances
Nov. 16-22: National Education Week
Nov. 26-27: Thanksgiving – Department Office Closed
Dec. 5: Pearl Harbor Rally, Brewster Post 464
Dec 19: Wreaths Across America
Dec. 24-25: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day – Department Office Closed
Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 – New's Eve & New Year's Day – Department Office Closed
Jan 16: 3rd District Mid-Winter, Eagan Post 594
Feb. 13 Sweetheart Rally – Details to Come
March 15: Department DEC Meeting
April 9-10: ALA Junior Dept. Conference, tbd
April 7-10: National President's Visit
April 10: Appreciation Rally & Dinner
April 10-14: National Commander's Tour of Minn.
July 15-17: Department Convention, Willmar
Aug. 27-Sept. 2: National Convention, Kansas City, Mo.

Reminders

Membership

- Please ensure all forms being sent to the Department Office are filled out completely.
- Use ONLY the 2027 Transmittal form
- List members alphabetically by last name
- All new membership submissions **MUST** be submitted with a transmittal, check and application
- When new applications are being filled out, ensure that the Legionnaire's member number is filled in for those applying under a living Veteran. Membership Applications **CAN NOT** be processed without the Legion member number. This is being strictly enforced.

Please email pictures of What's Happening in your Unit or District. We all love to see what's going on and the great things the American Legion Auxiliary does!