



## *American Legion Auxiliary*

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### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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Knowledge is power. A core element of the Auxiliary's mission, caring for our children and youth, is sharply focused on educating adults about the needs of our young people. We believe that the more people know and understand about the needs of the children in their communities, the more interest they will have in learning how they can help meet those needs.

In the American Legion Auxiliary, we do more than talk about it. The Auxiliary provides significant cash assistance and direct service and supports legislation that affects children at the local, state, and national levels. And while all children are important, the Auxiliary particularly focuses on helping the children of our veterans and military.

#### **Purpose Statement**

To work collaboratively with The American Legion to direct and sponsor programs and services that provide care and protection for our nation's children, especially those of our military and veterans.

- **Youth Hero/Good Deed Awards**

To recognize and reward the positive actions of our children and youth, the Auxiliary bestows two special national awards to youth nominated by local units. The Youth Hero Award recognizes someone under 18 years of age who performs a heroic act of physical bravery.

The Good Deed Award is for youths under 18 years of age who have contributed in a special way to society through community service

- **Star Spangled Kids**

“Star Spangled” Kids is an initiative to educate children and youth in the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution. Auxiliary members can partner with the American Legion Family, team with their Education chairman, and bring veterans or active duty military into the classrooms to talk about what their service means to defending the Constitution.

Activities to enrich “Star Spangled” Kids:

- Encourage students to test their knowledge of the Constitution.
- Test your own knowledge of the Constitution.
- Print mini Constitutions that can be handed out to the students you visit with.
- Celebrate U.S. Constitution Day on September 17th.
- Perform a skit or musical about the Constitution and its signers.

- In conjunction with the local schools, create a Unit Citizenship Award for children and youth who have demonstrated the ideals of the U.S. Constitution.
- At the high school level, promote student participation in The American Legion Oratorical Contest.

Youth Hero/Good deed Award nomination form enclosed in this Unit mailing.

Sandy Wersal Chairman