



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE
CHILDREN & YOUTH
ACTION PLAN
2017-2018**

Carole Baldwin, Chairman
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The Children & Youth program emphasizes protecting, caring for and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans' and military families.

1. Support Children & Youth in your community:

GOAL: For all units to participate:

- “Star Spangled Kids”: To educate children & youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism and the U.S. Constitution.
- Youth Hero Awards/Good Deed Awards: A way to recognize youth in our communities who demonstrate good citizenship, either through a brave physical act or a good deed. Offer to make a “Star Spangled” presentation to your local schools. Monitor newspapers, TV and neighborhoods for children & youth who have performed a heroic act of physical valor, such as performing CPR, helping evacuate in the event of a fire, calling 911 for an emergency. Work with your unit to nominate them for a Youth Hero/Good Deed Award.
- Create a Unit Citizenship Award for children & youth who have learned the ideals of the U.S. Constitution. Department Chairman will share a constitutional fact each month for units to share with members.

2. Support Military Children & Youth:

GOAL: For all units to participate:

- Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KFH2): A recognition program for military children who experience extended separation from their military parent/parents.

- Volunteer at a Family Readiness Group event where KDH2 “I’m a Hero 2” buttons/stickers can be distributed.
- Host dinners, game nights, fairs to bring military and non-military families together.
- Plan a special celebration of military children during April in honor of the Month of the Military Child.
- Encourage members to wear purple on Purple UP! For Military Kids day on April 15th.

3. Support Veterans’ Children & Youth:

GOAL: For all units to participate:

- Some of our homeless veterans also have children living on the streets with them.
- Contact local schools, churches, homeless shelters and food pantries to identify homeless veterans’ children. Supply specific needs. Offer your services.

COTA program: Children’s Organ Transplant Association:

GOAL: For all units to participate:

Funds raised are used for transplant-related expenses. Partner with Legion members and the S.A.L. to raise funds. Checks should be made out to COTA, with the remark: DELAWARE HOMETOWN HEROES, and mailed to COTA, 2501 West Cota Drive, Bloomington, Indiana 47404. www.cota.org. Please keep records of your donations to be reported to me at the mid-year and end-of-year reports. Rick Lofgren, the CFRE of COTA, will share the needs of children in our “Small but Mighty” State of Delaware. Information will then be forwarded to all units in the Department of Delaware.

Mid-Year reports are due to me by December 15, 2017. The reports should include all activities from July 1 to November 1. Year-end reports include all activities through April 30. End of year reports are due to me by May 15, 2018. Reports can include photos and news clippings.

Take time to share a story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Three simple steps to add your part to our national success story:

1. Use an Awards Cover sheet

A. Award: Youth Hero

- Youth Hero Medal and Citation
- Presented to: Youth under 18 who have performed heroic acts of physical valor; membership in the American Legion Family is not required
- Complete the Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination Form and mail to your department secretary, who certifies, then mails applications directly to National Headquarters.
- The award certificate, signed by the national president and national C&Y Chairmen, and Youth Hero Award medal will be returned to the unit or department to be presented on behalf of the National organization. The department C&Y chairman should be notified of the award.

B. Good Deed

- Citation
- Follow instructions for Youth Hero but do NOT mail applications directly to National.

C. Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program

- Award: Citation Plaque
- Presented to: One unit in each division (5)
- Materials and guidelines:
Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. Include specific examples of how your unit worked the C&Y program, including supporting military children and the Star Spangled Kids program.
May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.
Submission dates: May 15, 2018 to Department Chairman

Additional Resources You Can Use:

1. "I'm a Hero 2" stickers template and instructions can be found on the C&Y program page at www.ALAforVeterans.org
2. The national C&Y Committee Facebook group, search "ALA Children and Youth"
3. The American Legion C&Y programs: www.legion.org/programs
4. The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation: www.legion.org/cwf
5. Josh and Friends (American Legion Family alliance): www.joshandfriends.com
6. Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (an American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant recipient for *Klinger*): www.taps.org

How to sheets are available on the ALA Programs Action Plan How to Guides.