



American Legion Auxiliary Junior Activities Western Division



May Focus Article Northwestern Division Mary Kuperus

From September through April, we have learned so much about the Junior Activities Program. How to recruit and retain members, the Patch Program, Scholarships, ALA Academy, End of the Year Reporting, and about the Junior Activities Handbook.



So, what do Junior members do at Junior meetings? Our young members need to be active and involved. Craft time is always a fun time for Junior members to create and share ideas with their friends and peers. The following are some ideas for crafts. They have all come from Pinterest and there are so many other ideas out there.

Flag Snack Idea Using Graham Crackers



Kid Friendly Patriotic Flag Snack Idea - graham crackers, cream cheese and fruit! It's super easy for older kids to make!

Flag craft using paper, paint, clothespins, and pom poms. Use clothespins to hold the pom poms. Dip the pom poms in blue, red, or white paint to form a flag print. Your paper can be any size you wish. Be sure to let it dry before Junior members take them home.



This flag craft will be made with red, white, and blue pom poms. The pom poms will be glued to a paper size of your choice. A heavier paper like cardstock would be better for this craft. The amount of pom poms will be determined by the size of your paper.





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This is a craft that we made with our Junior members at a District Junior Fun Day. You will use red, white, and blue construction paper. The strips are one inch wide. The number of strips will depend on how big your flag will be. Piece the chains together by using a stapler. Make stars out of white paper and glue them to the blue chains. Once your flag is the length you want, you can tape it to a wall or we hung it on a dowel stick. We added string on each end of the dowel to hold the chains on and to hang the flag up.



This poppy craft will use red cupcake liners, scissors, tape, a green craft stick, and a black pen or marker. Invert the red cupcake liners and roughly cut them to create petals of a flower. Make one smaller than the other to ensure all the petals are visible when put together. Use tape to stick the liners together. Use a pen or marker to draw the center of the poppy. Secure a craft stick to the back of the cupcake liners for the stem with tape. You may need to paint craft sticks green if green sticks are not available.

This safety pin poppy brooch would be a craft for our older Junior members. Safety pins, red, green, and black beads would be needed for this project. The beads are slid on to a safety pin according to the picture. Seven safety pins are then added to the last safety pin. This pin was created by Juliet Stewart in England to raise money for the Royal British Legion.



Materials for this patriotic necklace are string or thin yarn, scissors, scotch tape, blue pony beads, and red or red striped paper straws. Cut your straws into one-inch pieces, set aside with the blue pony beads. Cut a piece of string long enough to fit over the child's head plus some extra to tie when finished. Tie a bead to one end of the string to keep straws and beads from falling off while stringing them. Put a piece of tape at the other end to help with threading easier. Begin threading the straw pieces and beads on the string. Use your imagination to make any pattern that you want.



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May Important Dates

**May 12-19
National Veterans
Creative Arts Festival
Denver, Co.**

**May 14
Mother's Day**

**May 24
National Poppy Day**

**May 27
Memorial Day**

**May 31
National Smile day**





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Our Youth in Action: Little Miss Poppy Emma Lehman



ALA Juniors Rock!

Have you met Unit 519's Little Miss Poppy Emma Lehman? Emma has been a member of Unit 519 for five years.

Throughout the years, Emma has participated in many community service events. Emma and her grandmother ALA Unit 519 Secretary Verma O'Farrell do mobile runs where they hand out food, clothing, and blankets to needy homeless veterans and community members.

During National Poppy Day Month, Emma is highly involved in baking poppy cookies with her grandmother, passing them out on National Poppy Day, as well as helping sell raffle tickets. She also strolls around with her poppy basket, filled with pins made by our ALA members. She helps her grandmother make baggies of love containing soap, lotions, shampoos, toothpaste and brushes.

During the holidays, Little Miss Poppy walks in the St. Santa Paws parade. Afterward the walkers do face painting and talk on a two-way radio to Santa at the North Pole. Next they participate in Wreaths Across America where wreaths are placed on the grave sites of the veterans at the Palm Springs Cemetery.

She's been on stage at the American Legion in Palm Springs and can recite the Pledge of Allegiance by heart.

All in all, Little Miss Poppy stays very busy throughout the year. She always has a very pretty smile on her face and is willing to participate in any events with a positive, cheerful attitude. What a trooper she is!

April J. O'Neil, Unit 519 Second Vice President

Happy Birthday!
ALA Unit 299 Juniors and ALA Unit 302 Juniors helped celebrate the American Legion's 105th birthday on March 15.

Erika Hernandez, Department Historian




March 30, 2024: National Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

Chino Mens Institute Warden Travis Pennington and Chief Deputy Warden Eric Mejia took time out of their busy schedules to paint a sign reading "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" with the Juniors of American Legion Auxiliary Allied Unit 302, Samarah Hernandez and Rebeka Avila.

Fifty-one years after the last American troops returned home from the Vietnam War which claimed the lives of more than 58,000 U.S. service members (including 5,822 Californians), California paid tribute to the courageous men and women who served and sacrificed in one of our nation's most challenging wars.

Erika Hernandez, Department Historian

Department of CA

Melissa Wagner
Mar 25

What a great night. Abraham Lincoln post 241 has new Jr. Members and they had their first meeting on Friday. They were so excited and Christine Evans the Children in Youth chairman for Dist. 18 came and showed all of us the Children's table. It was beautiful, thank you Christine and Kim we appreciate you ❤️



American Legion Auxiliary Dept of CA

Mar 15 · 🎉 Happy 105th Birthday American Legion Post 299 🎉

With love and appreciation ~
ALA Unit 299 JUNIORS & Unit 302 JUNIORS!

#ALA100 #ALACAJuniors #ALACAJunior
#ALARockStars #ALAJuniors #ALAPatchProgram
#alapatch #ALAJunior
#alajuniorstyle #alajuniorswesterndivision
#alapurleup #MOMC #PurpleUp #MilitaryChild

