

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Illinois
Junior Contest Rules 2023 - 2024**

JUNIOR AMERICANISM PICTURE BOOK

Classifications: Class I – Tiny Tots – 8 years Class II – 9 – 12 years Class III – 13 - 17 years

1. May be a scrapbook or a 3-ring notebook.
2. Must contain at least 10 pages. (Title page and 9 others)
3. There needs to be one article about which Americanism program they participated in, attended holiday parade, handed out flags, stated the pledge in school etc.
4. The rest may be pictures, only one per page. Pictures, newspapers, magazines, computer printouts, hand drawn, colored or painted are accepted. **DO NOT USE THE BACKSIDE OF THE PAGES!**
5. An explanation must be handwritten, printed or typed **BY THE JUNIOR MEMBER** under each picture. Keep it short – one line is fine.
6. One page should contain the lyrics of a Patriotic song, original or copied. One verse is fine.
7. The title page (first sheet) **MUST** contain the Junior’s name, age, Class I, II or III, mailing address, Unit name and number, location of Unit, District and Division numbers and Department of Illinois.
8. Judging: Originality ----- 60%, Neatness ----- 40% (Spelling included).

DUE DATE: All entries are to be brought to Department Junior Conference.

JUNIOR BOOK OF PRAYERS AND DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS CONTEST

Classifications: Class I – Through 12 years of age Class II – 13 through 17 years of age

1. Cover 8 ½ x 11, any color, illustrated appropriately. (3 ring binder, paper folder or homemade cover).
2. Contents: Prefer typed or printed, may use both sides of the paper. May be handwritten. One prayer or thought per page.
3. First page must include:
 - A. American Legion Auxiliary Emblem
 - B. Unit name, number, District and Department
 - C. Name of Junior President, if organized, state if unorganized
 - D. Name of Junior Chaplain, if organized, state if unorganized
 - E. Date ----- 2023 – 2024
4. Book to contain two sections
 - A. Prayers
 - B. Devotional Thoughts

Each prayer or thought is to have name of author or name of person submitting, if different from author.

5. Last page to contain only:
 - A. Number of members submitting material for book
 - B. Total number of Junior members of Unit
 - C. Written signature, name, address and age of Junior submitting entry.
6. Basis of Judging:

A. Prayer and Devotional Sections	35%
B. Percentage of members participating	10%
C. Content and Originality	25%
D. Neatness	15%
E. *Illustrations	15%

*Pictures in papers or magazines, hand drawn, colored and painted pictures are a few examples of what can be used.

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PRESS BOOK CONTEST

Classifications: Class I - through 12 years of age Class II – 13 through 17 years of age

1. Junior Unit Press coverage is from April 2023-March 2024.
2. No specific type of book will be required, you may purchase one locally, but the size not to exceed 12"X15".
3. The Junior Unit Press Book should contain a fly leaf page which must include the following, Name of Department, Unit name, number and the name, address and age of the Junior Unit Public Relations Chairman, or if an unorganized group, the Junior compiling the book.
4. A narrative of 1,000 words or less of Junior Public relations program and how they promoted their activities.
5. News articles and printed pictures (no actual photographs) from daily, weekly or monthly newspapers. Do not underline or highlight anything.
6. Photocopies of newspaper clippings are not allowed.
7. Arrange press clipping according to date of publications (chronological order). Use both sides of each page. All press items MUST have the name of the newspaper and the date of publications; which appear on the page where the article was published placed above the respective article.
8. If press clipping is to long for complete length of press book page, cut at the end of a paragraph, and affix remainder of article alongside first portion.
9. Unit press books are to include only news of the UNIT. News items may be included of County, District, Division or Department only when the Unit is involved. The Press Book should tell the story of how the programs of the America Legion Auxiliary were promoted within your Junior Unit. Judging of all press books is to be on content of material, neatness and general appearance.
10. DUE DATE: All entries are to be brought to Department Junior Conference by the District Junior Activities Chairman or mailed to be received by April 1, 2024 to the Department Public Relations Chairman.

MUSIC PARODY CONTEST

Classifications: Class I – through 12 years of age

Class II – 13 through 17 years of age

A Musical parody is a song in which the original music is given different words to create a new meaning. This may be funny, or of a serious nature. Juniors help us come up with some new songs for the year. There are first and second place awards for each class to the Junior member writing the best Patriotic or Department President's Theme Parody. Juniors must send: your copy of words, a copy of the written music score used, and you must include:

1. Your name and address
2. Unit name, number and address
3. Your age and Class I or Class II

Send Parodies to the Department Music Chairman by April 1, 2024.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS and REHABILITATION CONTEST

CONTEST 1 – PAPERWORK

Classifications: Class I – Tiny Tots through 8 years Class II – 9 through 12 years

This contest will consist of any five articles made of regular paper, construction paper or cardboard. There is no stipulation as to what the five articles must be. Bits of trim may be used, but the basic items **MUST BE PAPER**. Articles such as place cards, tray favors, nut cups, gift tags, place mats, greeting cards (to name a few) may be entered. Items mentioned can be distributed to hospitalized veterans or in nursing homes.

CONTEST 2 – HANDCRAFT

Classifications: Class I – 9 through 12 years Class II – 13 through 17 years

Any five articles of handwork or handcraft (except paper articles). Again, no stipulation is made as to what articles must be. Suggestions are slippers, stuffed toys, and articles of sewing, knitting, crocheting, needlework, etc. may be entered.

Rules to be followed for both contests:

1. Groups may participate in any of the two contests and age groups. Participation in group entries must all be within the proper age classification.
2. All articles in the display must be planned and begun at a meeting of a Junior Group, but may be completed at the home of a Junior member.
3. Each article in both contests must include and have securely attached to it:
 - A. Contest I or II
 - B. What the article is
 - C. Where the article was made
 - D. How many were provided to a hospital or nursing home
 - E. District number
 - F. Unit name and number
 - G. Unit address
4. Keep the entry as small as possible considering display space and transporting purposes.
5. Your name and address.
6. Your Unit name, number and address.
7. Your age and Class I or II (two groups – up to 12, and 13 – 17.)
8. Basis for judging:

A. Articles must be suitable for use in hospitals and nursing homes	35%
B. Workmanship and skill	25%
C. Originality of design	25%
D. General appearance, attractiveness and neatness	15%

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Junior History Rules for Unit, District, & Division 2023-2024

I. Introduction, Inclusions – (10 points)

1. Title Page
 - a. American Legion Auxiliary Unit or District _____ Junior History Located at _____ (for Unit Historians Only)
 - b. Date – April 1, 2023 through April 1, 2024
 - c. Name and age of Historian
2. Foreword or Dedication
3. Prayer
4. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
5. First verse of “The Star Spangled Banner”
6. Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary

II. Unit, District or Division Information – (10 points)

1. List of elected and/or appointed department officers for the current administrative year
2. Photograph of 2023-2024 Unit, District or Division president (optional, black and white or color, not to exceed 5 x 7 in.)
3. List of chairmen or committee appointments for current administrative year
4. List of Department or National Junior awards received at the previous Department or National Convention
6. The typed name/title & written signature of Historian following the final paragraph of the history
7. Index (optional)

III. Appearance – Formatting – (10 points)

1. Use plain, white paper, 8 ½ x 11 in. Black ink only. Handwritten histories must be in black ink and easy to read.
2. Page Setup:
 - a. Margins -Left and right margins should be 1.25 in; top and bottom margins should be 1 in.
 - b. Pagination – Page numbers should begin on the first page of the historical content. They should be centered and placed 0.5 inch from the bottom of the page.
3. Spacing: Double-spaced with the exception of the Introductory pages (i.e. title page, foreword or dedication, photograph, prayer, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, first verse of “The Star Spangled Banner” and Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary), which shall be centered in the middle of the page. Paragraphs may be indented or in block form.
4. Text: 12-point font, Times New Roman or Arial style font

IV. Content – (70 points)

1. The history shall be written as a factual narrative beginning with the installation of Junior officers and ending by the due date including a summary of end-of-year reports and closing events for that administrative year.
2. The history shall be written in third person.
3. Use clear, concise language with correct spelling.
4. Do not include or use computer graphics, pen or ink drawings, illustrations, extra material, or newspaper clippings, or other embellishments.
5. You may include up to five (5) photo images placed throughout the history. (optional)

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6. Be sure the annual history truly represents a historical account of the Unit or District and what was accomplished. A history lists those who served as leaders and mentions notable awards of individual achievements. It is not a travelogue or diary of any officer or individual's itineraries. The content is about the Unit or District and its collective members mission achievements.

The Junior Histories are due April 1, 2024 to Department due to **only one Junior Conference this year on April 13, 2024.** Awards will be presented at Junior Conference on April 13, 2024. **Not all Districts may have Junior History elimination. Some Districts will have District competitions.** Any Juniors wishing to submit their Unit or District History for Department Competition should email or mail them to Department Historian Linda Iberg for **receipt by April 1, 2024.** Contact information is ibergmom@gmail.com and 14026 Klaus Lake Road, Highland, IL 62249. You may call or text cell 618-973-3568.

**American Legion Auxiliary
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Junior Poppy Contest Rules 2023 - 2024**

All entries MUST be judged at the Unit level, except for the Poppy Poem contest. Poppy Poems are to be mailed to the Department Chairman (address is under Poppy Poem.). All first place entries from EACH Unit are to be brought to the Junior Conference. There is NO DISTRICT ELIMINATION.

***** ONLY Official Illinois Poppies are to be used with the paper tags removed.*****

Awards for each contest for each class are follows: 1st Place - \$5.00
2nd Place - \$3.00
3rd Place - \$2.00

Classifications: Class I – 6 through 12 years of age
Class II – 13 through 17 years of age

It is the responsibility of the Unit Junior Activity Chairman or their designee to bring the winning entries to the Junior Conference and pick up all entries (except the first place winners) at the close of the Conference. First place winners will be on display at Department Convention.

IMPORTANT - Each entry must have an index card attached with the following required information:

1. On the **inside** of the index card, print the name of the contest (i.e. Corsage, Floral Arrangement, Holiday Arrangement, Tray Favors, or Apparel), contestant's name, home address, class number, and Unit and District Numbers.
2. Fold the card in half and punch a hole at the top right-hand corner.
3. On the **outside** of the folded index card **print** class number, the name of the contest ((i.e. Corsage, Floral Arrangement, Holiday Arrangement, Tray Favors, or Apparel), and scotch tape the opening so that no one can read the contestant's name. Attach securely with string to the entry.

Poppy Corsage Contest

1. All corsages must contain **no more than 12** official Illinois Poppies.

Poppy Floral Arrangement

1. The floral arrangement should be made so it can be used in an appropriate setting. It should be done in good taste with the focal point directed toward the official Illinois Poppy. Any type of floral arrangement is eligible (i.e. table centerpiece or wall hanging)
2. A minimum of **25 and not more than 125** official Illinois Poppies shall be used in each arrangement.

Poppy Holiday Arrangement

1. The holiday arrangement should be made to reflect the appropriate holiday for which it is to be used. It should be done in good taste with the focal point directed toward the official Illinois Poppy.
2. A **minimum of 25 and not more than 125** official Illinois Poppies shall be used in each arrangement.

Poppy Tray Favors

1. A **minimum of 5** official Illinois Poppies are to be used.
2. No glass or metal containers.

Poppy Apparel Contest

1. You may use any type clothing or accessory (i.e. polo shirt, T-shirt, sweatshirt, jacket, skirt, belt, bag, pants, or hat etc.)
2. Must be decorated in good taste with the focal point directed toward the official Illinois Poppy.
3. The design may be put on with paint, embroidery, cutouts, bead, sequins, etc.

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Poppy Poem Contest

1. The poem is to be written by a Junior member of the American Legion Auxiliary.
2. Subject must be about the little red Poppy, which grew in France at Flanders Field and are assembled by disabled veterans and volunteers.
3. Title – the poem must have a fitting title. You do not need to use the word Poppy in the title.
4. Contest is open to all kinds of verses. Poems should be a minimum of **12 lines and not more than 30 lines.**
5. The word “Buddy Poppy” or “buy” **cannot** be used in the poem.
6. The poem will be disqualified if it has been entered into any other competition.
7. Under the poem, on the same sheet of paper, must appear the member’s name, home address, Unit and District name and number AND be identified as a JUNIOR entry.
8. All poems must be postmarked by May 1, 2024 and sent to Susan Heinz-Wojcik 126 Golfview Circle, Prospect Heights, IL 60070. My phone number is 847-913-4998 My email address is heinzwojciks@gmail.com