

Juniors and Young Sons Contest Rules 2026 - 2027

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 ----- 2026 - 2027
4. Book to contain two sections
 - A. Prayers
 - B. Devotional ThoughtsEach 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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Positive PR: Promoting Who we are, What we Do, and why it matters

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

Create something to promote the American Legion Family.

1. May be a scrapbook, 3-ring notebook, a digital slide show or video presentation.
2. Must contain at least 6 pages/slides. (Title page and 5 others)
3. Project should include important information including the 5 W's. [Who, What, Where, When, and Why]
4. Items created with A. I. will be disqualified.
5. The title page (first sheet/slide) **MUST** contain the Junior's name, age, Class I, II or III, Unit name and number, location of Unit, District and Division numbers and Department of Illinois.
6. Judging: Originality ----- 60%, Neatness ----- 40% (Spelling included).

DUE DATE: All entries are to be brought to Department Junior Conference. Digital entries must be saved to a flash drive or emailed to Jr. Chairman by April 5, 2027.

Music Awards Presented at Junior Conference

Class I – Tiny Tots – 8 years

Class II – 9 – 12 years

Class III – 13 – 17 years

Contest 1: Best Parody of a Patriotic song or Department President's Theme, written or video.

Contest 2: Best overall participation in the Music Program

Juniors must send a copy of their written or video Parody to me by April 5, 2027 or bring to Department Junior Conference and must include:

- 1) Name and Address
- 2) Unit name, number, and address
- 3) Age group

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.

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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%

Junior History Rules Unit, District & Division 2026-2027

The entries will be judged and scored according to the following criteria:

I. Introduction Inclusions *(10 scoring points)*

1. Title Page
 - a. American Legion Auxiliary Unit, or District _____History
Located at _____ (For Unit Historians Only)
 - b. Date – April 1, 2026-April 5, 2027
 - c. Name and age of historian
2. Foreword or dedication
3. A prayer
4. Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary

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

1. List of elected and/or appointed Unit or District officers for the current administrative year
2. List of chairmen or committee appointments.
3. Names and titles of Juniors holding offices, chairmanships or committees in National, Department and District.
4. List of Department or National Junior awards received at the previous year's conventions.
5. The typed name/title and written signature (typed signature if submitting it electronically) of the historian should immediately follow the final paragraph of the history.

III. Appearance - Formatting *(10 scoring points)*

Histories may be submitted electronically or typewritten according to the following specifications:

1. Document should be formatted to 8 ½ x 11 size.
2. Page Setup:
 - a. Margins should be 1 inch.
 - b. Page numbers should be centered at bottom of the page.
 - c. Pages should be double-spaced with the exception of the Introductory pages (i.e. title page, foreword or dedication, prayer, 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.
 - d. Text in a clear, easy readable 12-point font

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IV. Content *(70 scoring points)*

1. The annual history shall be written as a factual narrative beginning with the installation of officers and ending with the summary of end-of-year reports and closing events for that ALA administrative year.
2. Use clear, concise language with correct spelling.
3. You may include up to 10 photo images placed throughout the history.
4. Be sure the annual history truly represents a historical account of the Unit, or District and what was accomplished. History lists those who served as leaders and mentions notable awards or individual achievements. It is not a travelogue or diary of any officer or individual's itineraries. The content is about collective members mission achievements.

The Junior Histories are due at Junior Conference this year on April 17-18, 2027 with awards being presented during the conference.

If you are unable to attend the conference and wish to submit it for Department competition please have it to Department Historian, Sue Johnson no later than April 5, 2027.

Sue Johnson, 140 E. Russell St., Rockton, IL 61072
americandancer13@gmail.com
You may call or text cell 815-222-3983

If you do not receive confirmation that I received it, please reach out.

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Illinois
Junior Poppy Contest Rules 2026-2027**

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 - \$10.00
2nd Place - \$8.00
3rd Place - \$5.00

Classifications: Class I – Tiny Tots through 8 years of age
Class II – 9 through 12 years of age
Class III – 13 through 17 years of age

It is the responsibility of the Unit Junior Activities Chairman or their designee to bring the winning entries to the Junior Conference and pick up all entries at the close of the Conference.

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 Table Arrangement, Tray Favors, Apparel, Hat, Wall arrangement), 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 Table Arrangement, Tray Favors, Apparel, Wall arrangement), 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 Table 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.
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 Hat

1. You may use any type of hat or headwear.
2. Must be decorated in good taste with the focal point being directed toward the official Illinois Poppy.
3. The design may be put on with paint, embroidery, cutouts, beads, sequins, etc.
4. A minimum of 5 poppies are to be used.

Poppy Wall Arrangement (ie: wall, wreath etc)

1. The arrangement should be made so it can be used in an appropriate setting. It should be done in good taste with the focal point being directed towards the Poppy. Any type of floral arrangement is eligible as long as it can be hung on the wall or the ceiling.
2. A minimum of 50 and no more than 150 official Illinois Poppies shall be used in each arrangement.

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.