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

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 Department Convention. There is NO DISTRICT ELIMINATION.

Entries are to be brought to Department Convention and turned in to the Poppy display room by 9:00 am Thursday morning.

***** 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

IMPORTANT - Each entry must have a 3x5 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, Apparel, Tray Favors, Hat, Poppy Wall Arrangement etc.), contestant's name, home address, 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** the name of the contest (i.e. Corsage, Floral Table Arrangement, Apparel, Tray Favors, Hat, Poppy Wall Arrangement etc), 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 (i.e. table centerpiece or wall hanging)
2. A **minimum of 50 and not more than 150** official Illinois Poppies shall be used in each arrangement.

Poppy Holiday 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 (i.e. table centerpiece or wall hanging)
2. A **minimum of 50 and not more than 150** 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 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 Hanging Non-Holiday Arrangement (ie: wall, wreath etc)

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.

1. A minimum of 50 and no more than 150 official Illinois Poppies shall be used in each arrangement.

Poppy Hanging Holiday Wreath

The wreath 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 **holiday wreath** is eligible as long as it can be hung on the wall or door.

1. A minimum of 25 and no more than 150 official Illinois Poppies shall be used in each arrangement.

Poppy Poem Contest

1. All entries are to be sent to the Department Chairman. There is no Unit or District elimination.
2. The poem is to be written by an American Legion Auxiliary member.
3. Subject must be about the little red Poppy, which grew in France at Flanders Field and are assembled by disabled veterans and volunteers.
4. Title – the poem must have a fitting title. You do not need to use the word Poppy in the title.
5. Contest is open to all kinds of verses. Poems should be a minimum of **12 lines and not more than 30 lines.**
6. The word “Buddy Poppy” or “buy” **cannot** be used in the poem.
7. The poem will be disqualified if it has been entered into any other competition.
8. 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 SENIOR entry.
9. Send a copy of your poem, postmarked by April 17, 2027 to **Please send to Poppy Chair, Renee Stephenson, lt.renee@1762gmail.com and Marcia Ziska, antiquehouse@charter.net** or Renee Stephenson 4614 S. State Route 159, Glen Carbon, IL 62034.