



## THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

### Poppy

Hello! Are you aware of contests your unit could be participating in or how to inform the public what the importance of the ALA or poppy is? Here are a few to look into:

→ Poppy Poster Contest

- ◆ Your unit will sponsor a school(s) or if schools in your area do not wish to participate, you can get your juniors involved. They are asked to create a poppy-related poster and submit it to their local unit sponsoring the event. For more information on rules and guidelines, go to [https://www.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Programs/PoppyPosterContestRules\\_updated\\_June-2017.pdf](https://www.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Programs/PoppyPosterContestRules_updated_June-2017.pdf).

→ I would like to start implementing new poppy contests. Please look out for monthly reports on contests.

- ◆ *Thank you to Unit 29 for participating in my poppy bookmark and book donations. Once those are donated I will send your unit pictures/videos and include them in my presentation at the end of the year.*

→ GET YOUR JUNIORS INVOLVED!!!!!! Don't have any? Recruit some!

→ You and your unit could volunteer to read in schools or libraries. You could read children's books that inform the listeners what the poppy is. The future of the American Legion Auxiliary is in the hands of our youth. Let's get more juniors involved.

- Read, "The Poppy Lady: Moina Belle Michael and Her Tribute to Veterans"
- ◆ Ask your local schools if you could give a presentation to their students and families and try to recruit military families! (A way to get your membership up too).
- ◆ Hold an event at your legion and ask members to bring their kids who aren't involved in the ALA Juniors yet.

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- ◆ Start bringing your juniors to conventions or conferences. They may seem 'too informative' to the little ones but being asked to be involved with the ladies made me interested in continuing my passion and participation in the ALA. I started when I was 7 years old, now I'm 21 and still here!  
Getting them involved keeps them here.
- Poppy making and distributing
  - ◆ Hold poppy-making 'parties' with your unit and invite local or state government leaders, people in your community, your own members, etc... this is a great way to inform the public about the poppy, the American Legion Auxiliary, and raise funds.
  - ◆ Poppy day is not until the end of May but if you plan on inviting important leaders it's great to start planning early to ensure their schedule isn't booked that day!
  - ◆ Visit [poppydayusa.org](http://poppydayusa.org) to get ideas or learn more about poppy day!
- If you have any questions or concerns please contact me via email first, I check it daily! If that is not possible then you may call. I do not always answer my phone because of work but if you leave a voicemail I will get back to you as soon as I can.
- If your unit does ANYTHING poppy-related please send me pictures and/or videos. I would like to showcase what you guys did at the end of the year.

I am also available via social media if you'd like to contact me online or share anything you find! Just search for **Jessica Vaupel** on Facebook.

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