



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona

Children and Youth Program

2023-2024 End of Year Report

Membership: 15,057

Katie Wojahn

Children and Youth Chairman

This Department has had a busy year within the Children and Youth Program. The twenty-seven units within this department that turned in an end of year report to the chairman there has been \$67,460.99 spent within the program, 7,668 hours logged, and an estimated 1845 children served. This Department has given out 2 Youth Hero Awards and Over 50 Good Deed Awards this year.

The year began for many units Memorial Day events and services, units had Juniors handing out Poppies, American flags, treats for the children in the area. Some units joined their Legion Family placing flags on the headstones of veterans' graves at various Veterans Cemeteries some included the support of the Boy and Girl Scouts.

The units have participated in presenting awards to the JROTC programs in the schools they work with, also Auxiliary and Legion Color Guards presented colors at local schools around Veterans Day. Where they also passed out American Flags and poppy flowers to the students.

There have been several units hosted Military Children Table and had different events for Purple up for Military Children month.

The units' juniors have made thousands of Birthdays or different holiday cards for the VA hospital, VA home or sent to the active-duty military some there was some sent with Packages from Home.

Units have had juniors compete in the Americanism contests and the Oratorical Competition. There were units that had sing along events where they were taught patriotic songs and their meanings. The students were also taught about R.E.D. Shirt Friday, and the students started to wear red to remember everyone deployed.

There have been units that along with their juniors raised money for their children and youth events along with events that benefited the community like water drives for the homeless in the Arizona heat and food drives for Feeding Families.

Several of the units have held different holiday events like Trunk or treat, Halloween Safe Night Out, Halloween Parties, Christmas Parties, Christmas for the Needy,

Breakfast with the Grinch. Easter parties, Hopping in the Lot event. At these unit events there was food, gifts, cards, candy were given out to Legion Family

There have been several units who have held a backpack drive for schools in need. We also have had several units participate in the Auxiliary 10 for 10 program, School supplies party's and Clothes collections where there was a vast amount of clothing donated including full suits with the idea, they would help students with prom and interview clothing. One of the Department of Arizona 2023 baby units Juniors received the Spirit of Youth Scholarship. There are units that passed out hundreds of the Auxiliary coloring books at events and there were unit members who are teachers who passed out pages for their students to color. This Department had a unit work with

the Gilbert Fire and Rescue for “Shop with a Firefighter” - back to school shopping.

The units within this department have participated in several other charitable organizations that can fall within the Children and Youth program. Such as the Marine Corps Toys for Tots, Angel Tree project, Adopt a kid/family, and the Mercy House Community Center. There is even a unit that volunteers with a Children Group Home. Other units have made bags of toiletries for the homeless. There was also a Boss Baby Brunch where the unit had kid entrepreneurs set up vender booths to show support to our local kids and their businesses.

There are also units that have taught flag etiquette to girl scouts and to different schools. Within other units they have taken their juniors on trips to the Science Center,

Phoenix Zoo, National History Museum, and the Veteran
National Memorial Cemetery.

The activities and dedication of the units within the
Department have made a substantial impact on their
communities and the lives of many children and families.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Wojahn

Katie Wojahn

Children and Youth Chairman

Department of Arizona