America's Children
and
The American Legion

A CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM

When you were initiated into The American Legion you heard the Chaplain say, "There shines the Emblem of The American Legion . ." and go on to say, "The two gold rings around the field of blue, bearing our name, typify two of our four main objectives - rehabilitation of our sick and disabled veterans, and care for the children and youth of America." Wordsworth says "The child is father of the man." Those things that influence a child today will determine how the man of tomorrow will feel and act. The American Legion is dedicated to helping make those "influences" positive and that every American child have adequate opportunity to realize his full potential. We firmly believe in the slogan: "A Square Deal for Every Child." And will do all we can to assure its fulfillment.

COMMISSION PROGRAMS

1. To encourage 100 % reporting from each post.
2. The presentation of the following citations:
   A. *Top posts for outstanding C&Y program in Department. Five (5) Certificates of Meritorious Service to the Posts in the Department with the most C & Y program with (15-49) members, (50 - 99) members, (100 - 299) members, (300-499) members, and over (500) members.
   B. *Five (5) Special Citations for each Division to the posts with the most outstanding C&Y Program with (15-49) members, (50 - 99) members, (100 - 299) members, (300 - 499) members, and over (500) members. * A & B to be awarded at Dept. Convention.
   C. A citation to each post submitting a Children & Youth report to be given to Division Chairman for distribution. The special citations are to be awarded out at Division meetings.
3. Special Olympics and Hospitality Tent.
5. Continued emphasis on alerting the public and health service personnel to the symptoms and dangers of Reyes Syndrome.
7. (4) Educational grants of $500.00 to Dependent Youths from the Department of Children and Family Services.

COMMISSION on Children & Youth

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
P.O. BOX 2910
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61702-2910
(309) 663-0361
### JANUARY 2016
1. Support your local Board of Health and schools in their efforts to control diseases and provide for the necessary treatment in your community.
2. Each Post should provide community leadership for the organization of a "Youth Drug Educational Program."
3. Contact your Special Olympics Area Chairman & volunteer your service.
4. Collect for CMN.
5. Send in checks for Operation Military Kids and pillow case ink.

### FEBRUARY 2016
1. Start compiling Post Children and Youth activities for reporting.
2. Develop a youth "Friend of the Court" program. Obtain American Legion National brochure, titled "Friend of the Court."
3. Cooperate with local organizations in developing a program to combat child neglect and abuse.
4. Survey your local hospitals and contact your local AMA and suggest an infant hearing assessment program.
5. Invite District & Division Chairmen to explain Consolidated Report.

### MARCH 2016
1. Plan an Easter Party for children in your area.
2. Promote local "Child Day Care Center Program." Utilize your post home.
3. Cooperate with your local Special Education District.
4. Initiate a post community project for children recreation.
5. Contact local schools for Boys & Girls State participants.
6. If you have not contributed to the Department C & Y Fund, please do so now.

### APRIL 2016
1. This is Children & Youth Month! Have a C & Y Program.
2. Evaluate your Post Children & Youth Program. Are you meeting your community’s needs?
3. Get involved in your regional Special Olympics Field and Track Games.
4. Join with other interest groups in your community in a program to redirect destructive youth.
5. Develop a Youth Summer Employment Program in your community.

### MAY 2016
1. Encourage children participation in placing flags on graves of veterans on Memorial Day.
2. Make a memorial contribution to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation in honor of your deceased members.
3. Recommend an individual for the Department Outstanding C & Y Worker Award.
4. Have a Global Messenger visit to tell about what Special Olympics means to them. Call for scheduling, 309/888-2551.
5. Compile C&Y report and send to Department by June 1st.

### JUNE 2016
1. Division, District and Posts submit their C&Y reports with recommendations arriving no later than June 1st to Department Headquarters.
2. State Special Olympics Summer Games at I.S.U., Normal, June 10th - 11th.
3. Send a boy to Boys State and a girl to Girls State.
4. Have a program on Missing Children.
5. Child & Youth Commission Meeting June 9th, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. to compile Consolidated reports.

### JULY 2016
1. Send one or more underprivileged children to camp, including military family child.
3. Award (4) four scholarships to DCFS children.

### AUGUST 2016
1. Each Post should budget an appropriate contribution for the Department Children and Youth Fund.
2. Have a coordinated meeting with your Auxiliary, SAI and Riders to plan your C & Y Program.
3. Plan a post program on Reyes Syndrome (a film is available from National).
4. Distribute to each post member a copy of "Parents Guide to Marijuana." (Can be obtained from Department Headquarters)

### SEPTEMBER 2016
1. Encourage children to stay in school. Contact your local school, offer your assistance, and explain The American Legion's efforts in the educational and career fields.
2. Assist in immunization program for children's diseases.
3. Attend National Information Conferences.
4. Work with your schools and other interested organization on the problem of missing children.

### OCTOBER 2016
1. Make Halloween a safe & fun night, October 31, 2016. To help, hold a Halloween party for the children of your community.
2. Have a Global Messenger visit to tell about what Special Olympics means to them. Call for scheduling - 309/888-2551.
3. Send in a check to help support Christmas gifts to state hospitals.

### NOVEMBER 2016
1. Mail your Children and Youth contributions to Department Headquarters.
2. Thanksgiving Week (third week): Develop Post, Unit, Community, "National Family Week" programs.
3. Plan a recognition night for outstanding C & Y workers in your community.
4. Implement American Legion "Child Fire Safety" program.
5. American Education Week - Remember your schools.

### DECEMBER 2016
1. Support the program of Christmas Gifts to children in State hospitals and institutions by your contribution to the Department C & Y Fund.
2. Hold Christmas parties for the children in your area.
3. Plan a Teen Suicide Prevention Program.
4. Plan a program for deployed soldiers families in your area.

*** PLEASE NOTE CALENDAR CHANGES ***
ATTENTION: Children and Youth Chairman

~ Please read at your post meeting ~

Special Olympics Fund

Each year Special Olympics State Games are held at Normal, IL. For those of you who can’t attend, that means a lot of preparation for the American Legion and Auxiliary Hospitality Tent. We feed over 4,000 athletes and their families each year. Posts donate lots of items to help out each year. Could your post help too?

We need:

__________ Country Time Lemonade

__________ Napkins

__________ 9 inch plates

__________ Ziploc Sandwich Bags

__________ Family Size Lipton Tea Bags

__________ 8 oz. plastic cups

__________ Money donations: Money donations are used for the renting of the tent, ($900 alone) popsicles, groceries (to make dip, veggie trays, gallons of olives, gallons of dill pickles), and crackers.

__________ Volunteers to be there:

Friday - From ______________ To ______________.
Saturday - From ______________ To ______________.

Helpers are needed to set-up and take down additional tents used as well as load and unload the trailer and trucks.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO...

Notify your C&Y Division chairmen of your donations, so we will have an idea of supplies and money.
Send or take donations to Department by the first week in June. With the whole Legion family involved (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL & Riders) we can make it a true Legion Family Hospitality Tent!

Thank you for your consideration...and Especially for your Donation!
MAIL TO: American Legion ~ Department of IL
P. O. Box 2910
Bloomington, IL 61702-2910

Date_________________________________________________________

Post Name__________________________________________________________________________

Post #_________________ District #_________________ Division #_________________

Contact person_____________________________________________________________________

Wishes to contribute to:

Department Children and Youth Fund $___________________________________

Children and Youth Scholarship Fund $___________________________________

Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) (Circle choices of hospital)
Chicago/Rockford, Peoria, Springfield/Champaign, or St. Louis $____________________

Legion/Auxiliary Christmas Fund for Institutionalized children $____________________

Special Olympics Fund $___________________________________

Special Olympics Hospitality Fund $___________________________________

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) $_________________________________

Operation Military Kids Pillow Cases $___________________________________

(If this is a memorial, complete the following)

In memory of______________________________________________________________

Kindly convey expressions of sympathy to:
Name__________________________________________________________________________
Address_______________________________________________________________________
City, State & Zip code________________________________________________________

Mail this form along with your contribution to The American Legion, Dept. of IL. With the exception of CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION (CWF checks will be forwarded to National through Dept. of IL), ALL CHECKS should be made payable to The American Legion, Dept. of IL, then earmarked for the fund of choice on the memo line. THANK YOU!
MAIL REPORT TO: DIVISION CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIRMAN NO LATER THAN JUNE 1ST

This work sheet conforms to the items for Americanism and Children and Youth on the Consolidated Post Report Form and should assist you in compiling figures for that form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF KIDS</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
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Boys State, Girls State, or both

Baseball — Little League American Legion, Football, other athletic teams

Scouting — Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts

School Medal Awards

Oratorical Contest

Scholarships and Essay Awards

Special Olympics - local, area and state

Operation Military Kids Pillow Cases

Cash Aid given to children or families

Value of goods given (reasonable estimate)

ALAAC

(American Legion & American Legion Auxiliary Adopt A Child Abuse Caseworker)

COST OF PARTIES, GIFTS, OTHER EXTRAS

Safety Program ____________________ SAL ____________________

Junior Auxiliary ____________________ Girls State ____________________

Police Academy ____________________ Halloween Party ____________________

Christmas Party ____________________ Picnics ____________________

Parades (children) ____________________ Other (explain) ____________________

Total Cost of Extras ____________________

Total Number of hours planning all year ____________________

COST OF OTHER ACTIVITIES TO BENEFIT CHILDREN

Flags and Flag Poles ____________________ Legion Transportation Costs ____________________

Cost of use of Post Home for Children Activities ____________________

Other (explain) ____________________

Total Other ____________________

PLEASE STAPLE THIS PAGE TO YOUR CONSOLIDATED REPORT
**Contributions:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HOW MANY</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
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<td>United Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mentally Challenged Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Cross</td>
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<td>Child Welfare Foundation</td>
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<td>Cancer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crippled Children</td>
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**Other Agencies:**

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<td>Dept. C&amp;Y Fund</td>
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<td>Heart Fund</td>
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<td>PTA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (Explain)</td>
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</table>

**Total Contribution**

**Total All Activities**

**Total Estimated Hours Involved with Children**

The following individual in our community has performed outstanding Children and Youth work and our post would like to recommend him/her for one of the Department citations:

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________

(Please furnish additional information outlining the accomplishments and work of this individual on a separate sheet of paper.)

This report is submitted by the following Post:

Post Name ____________________________ Post Membership ____________________________
Address ______________________________
Post Number ______________ District No. ______________ Division No. ________________
Signature ____________________________ Title ____________________________

**NOTE TO THE DIVISION CHAIRMAN:**

Please send all of these work sheets to Department Headquarters, Bloomington no later than June 1st with you recommendation for the Post that has performed the most outstanding work in Children & Youth and a recommendation as to which Posts in your District in each size group (15 - 49, 50 - 99, 100 - 299, 300 - 499, over 500) has had the best Children & Youth Program.
The Post, District and Division
Children & Youth
Chairman’s Responsibility

The Post Children and Youth Chairman has four major responsibilities — assistance, leadership, cooperation and reporting.

1. **Assistance** — The chairman acquaints himself with various sources of assistance for children within his community, and assists families in securing such aid. He/She uses post funds to help children in emergencies or may call upon the Department or National Organization.

2. **Leadership** — The chairman, with the approval and support of his commander, can devise projects for the benefit of children needed in his community. He/She interprets the Children and Youth program to the membership of his post and uses the brochure calendar as a guideline for his/her program.

3. **Cooperation** — The post chairman cooperates with other agencies and organizations in the interest of children to avoid duplication of effort and to provide more service to children by pooling resources. He/She serves on boards and committees of established community agencies providing services to children.

4. **Reporting** — Every post is expected to make a report on its Children and Youth work during the year. Complete the C & Y section of the Post Consolidated Report and remind your Adjutant to mail the completed form to Department Headquarters. The Department and National report is submitted to the United States Congress. In addition, the chairman should make periodic reports to the membership and the general public.

An active Children & Youth Chairman in each post and unit has long been an objective of the National Commission on Children & Youth. The Post Children & Youth Chairman is the keystone of the Children & Youth Program. This chairman is a member of one of the largest voluntary corps in this country who work with our young people. It is estimated he or she is one of 50,000 volunteer members of The American Legion and its affiliated organizations taking an active role in giving life and meaning to our Children & Youth Programs.

**2015—2016**

Children & Youth Program Highlights

1. **SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

   "Let me win, but if I cannot, let me be brave in the attempt." This is the oath taken by every Special Olympic athlete. And for those of us who have been involved in this program, they are all winners, and so are we. To watch these athletes give their all, overcoming all types of handicaps, and to watch the pride in accomplishment and the joy on the faces of the winners makes your own heart swell with sympathetic pride and brings a tear of joy to the eyes. They still need help - as coaches, as huggers, to help with the games. Maybe your post can sponsor one of the events - the softball throw, softball game, bowling, horseback riding, gymnastics. The list is limited only by the facilities available and your enthusiasm. Each year the Department of Illinois furnishes a hospitality center for the athletes, their families and coaches. Each year this hospitality center gets more popular. We supply a large tent with tables, chairs, and snacks (cookies, watermelon, popsicles, orange drink, relish & vegetable plates, etc.).

   Last year we had over 200 Legion, Auxiliary, Juniors, SAL and Rider volunteers man the tent - and the money to pay for it. We spent over $10,000.00. Please help us make this goal by sending in your contribution to the Department, designated for the Special Olympics program.

2. **PREVENTION OF TEENAGE SUICIDE**

   In the last 27 years, suicide among teenagers and young adults has grown from an occasional tragic incident into an epidemic killer. According to the statistics, the suicide rate for persons less than 21 has tripled since 1955. The fact children are taking their own lives should be especially frightening for parents. Current data now shows suicide is the second leading cause of death among young persons. More frightening is the fact that the problem is growing, and few people know its extent.

3. **MISSING CHILDREN**

   Every year many children are missing from their homes. Some are kidnapped, some are runaways, some are abducted by noncustodial parents. And at the end of each year, almost 10 percent of missing children cases remain unsolved. Recently, Congress passed legislation that will allow the National Crime Information Center to accept into its computer more specific information on missing persons such as blood type, dental records and scars. In addition, many police departments with parents permission are fingerprinting children with the parents retaining the fingerprints. This year The American Legion has made "Missing Children" one of its three main areas of concern. Each post should get the brochure from National and have a program, to which the community is invited, outlining the seriousness of the problem and what can be done about it.

4. **DRUG ABUSE**

   Drug abuse is a problem in nearly every community. The degree of abuse and the substance used may vary, but you can be sure its there. Drugs are probably being abused in your school, in your neighborhood - possibly even in your own home. The best way to stop drug abuse is by prevention. Its a simple concept, but it does require constant work to be successful. Prevention requires a basic understanding and strong commitment. If children grow up with love and security, can express themselves freely, are realistic and yet optimistic about their abilities, and can make sound decisions, they will probably never become dependent on drugs. For those working with young people, it means giving sound advice and guidance in making the choices young people face growing up. For communities, it means seeing that young people receive the kinds of attention and experiences that can help them grow without a desire for drugs. Each post should enlist the aid of local agencies and present programs to parents on what they need to know about drug abuse. Work with your local schools and with other agencies that share your concerns.

5. **CHILDREN’S MIRACLE NETWORK**

   Since 1997, The American Legion Family has been working together to support their local Children’s Miracle Network affiliated children's hospitals with funding to assist with the treatment of children in need of medical expenses.

   One hundred percent of all funds raised with in any Department remains within that Department for treatment of our children. The participating hospitals in Illinois are: St. John's Hospital, Springfield; Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield; Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago; and Children's Hospital of Illinois, Peoria. Specialty items are provided to Posts, Units, & Squadrons free of charge to use as a fund-raiser. There are Miracle Balloons & Flag Icon Cards. Perhaps these can be sold at the Post Homes, County fairs, Community Centers or local businesses. Contact CMN hospital closest to you.

6. **OPERATION MILITARY KIDS PILLOW CASE PROJECT**

   For the past six years, in Illinois, C&Y has been involved in a program called Operation Military Kids Pillow Case Project. Sadly Troops are still deploying so donations are needed for ink and transfer sheets (remember to earmark “OMK” in the memo section of your check). So far we have made over 11,000 pillow cases.
### AUXILIARY DIVISION CHAIRMEN ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**PAT KOWALSKI, CHAIRMAN**  
**EMAIL:** patkow85@yahoo.com  847/913-4998

**PAT TESTEN (1st Division)**  
**EMAIL:** patricia.testen@gmail.com  3511 McCormick Ave, Brookfield 60513  708/485-8446

**SANDY GEESEY (2nd Division)**  
**EMAIL:** snappy_dpp2001@yahoo.com  24970 Indian Ridge Rd, Sterling 61081  815/441-4132

**VICKI ECKHARDT (3rd Division)**  
**EMAIL:** momvee@aol.com  1933 N. Kennedy Ln, Normal 61761  309/825-0712

Diane Shapland (4th Division)  
**EMAIL:** d_shapland@hotmail.com  PO Box 294, Cullom 60929  815/689-2653

DIANE ROUNDS (5th Division)  
**EMAIL:** is4031@frontier.com  104 Casa Grande Dr, Watson 62473  217/536-9137

### DIVISION CHAIRMEN ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**BERNARD W. WHITE, CHAIRMAN**  
(1st Div., 2nd Dist.)  
**EMAIL:** bernardwjp@aol.com  4449 N. Springfield Ave, Chicago 60625  847/356-8244

**GEORGE A. SWENSON SR., CHAIRMAN**  
(2nd Div., 10th Dist.)  
36886 Grandwood Dr., Gurnee 60031  847/356-8244

**RICHARD R. SCHOMER, JR.**  
(3rd Div., 14th Dist.)  
**EMAIL:** rsschomer@gmail.com  4010 30th St., Rock Island 61201  309/558-0712

**RICHARD C. ANDERSON, VICE CHAIRMAN**  
(4th Div., 17th Dist.)  
**EMAIL:** dicknglenda@hotmail.com  1341 13th St., Bloomington 61704  309/242-7012

Carole Sandusky  
(5th Div., 24th Dist., White)  
**EMAIL:** csandusky@egyptian.org  101 5th St, Carmi 62821  618/384-9241

### AUXILIARY DISTRICT CHAIRMEN ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

1. None Reported
2. None Reported  
3. None Reported  
4. None Reported  
5. None Reported  
6. None Reported  
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21. None Reported  
22. None Reported  
23. None Reported  
24. None Reported  
25. None Reported

### DISTRICT CHAIRMEN ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

1. Robert L. Woods  312-378-5404
2. Bernard White  773-588-6358
3. Ernest Kelley  773-322-4146
4. Frank Jerbiach  773-585-6085
5. None Reported
6. Daisy Rivera  847-927-5361
7. None Reported  
8. None Reported  
9. None Reported  
10. None Reported  
11. None Reported  
12. Dave E. Johnson  815-624-4292
13. None Reported  
14. None Reported  
15. None Reported  
16. None Reported  
17. None Reported  
18. None Reported  
19. Gregg Roberts  217-983-1883
20. None Reported
21. None Reported  
22. None Reported  
23. None Reported  
24. None Reported  
25. None Reported

### SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DIVISION CHAIRMEN ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

C&Y CHRM.: Garrett Slevin, Sr  309/697-9482
C&Y VICE CHRM.: Garrett Slevin, Sr  309/697-9482
Child Welfare Promoter: Eugene Gort  847/830-3703

Children’s Miracle Network Promoter: Harl “Butch” Ray  217/741-6856
Toby Tire Promoter: Harl “Butch” Ray  217/741-6856