



How The American Legion Children & Youth Commission Help America's Children

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.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
P.O. BOX 2910
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61702-2910
(309) 663-0361



Scan here to visit
our website

2020 ~ 2021 Children & Youth Programs

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM BUDGET

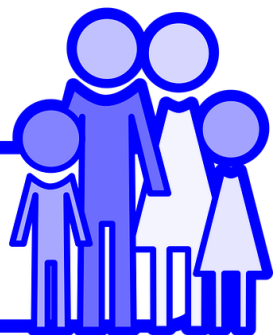
Special Olympics Winter Games.....	\$7,000.00
Special Olympics Summer Games	\$5,000.00
Christmas Gift Program	\$8000.00
(Needed for our share of the cost of providing a gift for every child in a state hospital or state institution: in cooperation with the American Legion Auxiliary.)	
Educational Grants	\$2,100.00
TOTAL.....	\$22,100.00

The only way we can meet this budget is through the Children & Youth Fund. Send your contribution to:

- To encourage 100 % reporting from each post.
- The presentation of the following citations:
 - 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.
 - 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.*
 - 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.
- Special Olympics, Hospitality Tent, Winter Games and Tennis.
- Prevention of Drug Abuse.
- Continued emphasis on alerting the public and health service personnel to the symptoms and dangers of Reyes Syndrome.
- Urge contributions to the Child Welfare Fund.
- Educational grants of \$500.00 to Dependent Youths from the Department of Children and Family Services.
- Missing Children.
- Teenage Suicide Prevention.
- "United Through Reading"

www.legion.org/youth/presentations

*"action and personal
participation help guarantee
our children's future"*





Our Gift To Children - A Promising Future

Department Commission Children And Youth Recommended Events

How The Legion Family can Help!



FALL

- ★ Gifts to the Yanks—Visit early or mid-October for sizes, wrap gifts and deliver in December with treats.
- ★ Children's Homes Christmas Gift—Collect money at a meetings, and send to Department. Auxiliary will deliver and gives the Legion Family credit.
- ★ Distribute Halloween Safety brochures and coloring books to schools.
- ★ Veteran's in the Classroom—read books that talk about the Military. Teach flag etiquette and flag folding guidelines.

WINTER

- ★ Oratorical—make yourself familiar with the program. Ask Department how you can assist. Set up a meeting with the school informing them about this scholarship program. (*Speech teachers are a good resource*)
- ★ Special Olympic Winter Games at Galena (*February*) — helpers and huggers are needed.
- ★ Boys State / Girls State / Youth Police Program—set up a meeting with the school to talk about these programs. Ask the students who attended the year before to share their experience. Communicate with the Posts, Units, Squadrons and Riders on how to help get sponsors.

SPRING

- ★ Special Olympics—Volunteers are needed for all areas. Need timers, huggers, color guards, food donations, food helpers, etc.
- ★ Boys State / Girls State / Youth Police Program—talk about the upcoming summer programs. Help get these applications turned in.
- ★ Veteran's Walks for Legion Programs—i.e: (*Legacy Scholarship Fund, NEF, Children's Miracle Network*) and other charities for veterans.
- ★ Legion Baseball—get information to the schools.
- ★ Post Consolidated Reports—POSTS need to fill them out and send them in.

SUMMER

- ★ Special Olympic-Summer Games/Hospitality tent— need tent donations, volunteers for food prep, set-up and take down, food donations, and hospitality helpers.
- ★ Have a Global Messenger visit to tell about what Special Olympics means to them.

- ★ State Tennis for Special Olympics (*August*)
- ★ Boys State / Girls State / Youth Police Program—ask how you can volunteer.
- ★ Legion Baseball—Support the teams by attending.

PROGRAMS YEAR ROUND

- ★ The American Legion Centennial Celebrations—plan an event in your community. Support and attend neighboring centennial events already planned.
- ★ American Legion Riders—Support the Legacy Scholarship. Run with the Riders on a local run or ride in the Legacy Run to National Convention.
- ★ National Emergency Fund (NEF)—Prepare: What to do Before, During and After a disaster. Packets available at Department. A good reminder for a member to keep up their membership as this program only assists current paid members.
- ★ Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA)—a program that gives grants to assist a veterans minor children. Find out how you can help and more information go to: <http://www.illegion.org/programs-services/veterans-services/temporary-financial-assistance/>
- ★ Boy Scouts—there are many badges, scholarships and awards available. Ask your local troop leaders how you can help the local scouters.
- ★ Children's Miracle Network (CMN)— April is Children & Youth Month—however the Legion family can support children and youth by raising funds year round to benefit their local Children's Miracle Network hospitals.
- ★ Blood Donor—Contact the Red Cross to host a Blood Drive. Legionnaires participate by giving blood and reporting it to their posts so you can mark the donation on the annual Consolidated Posts Reports. For more information go to: <https://www.legion.org/security/blood>
- ★ Pillow Case program for Pre-deployments—Ask how you can volunteer to help with making the pillow cases for our service men and women and their families during a pre-deployment. Donations for supplies are always needed.
- ★ Youth Hero - Good Deed Award — these awards are presented annually throughout the year by Auxiliary to recognize the heroism and helpfulness of youths under age 18. For more information and the nomination form go to: <https://www.alaforveterans.org/Awards/Youth-Hero-Good-Deed-Awards/>
- ★ **REMINDER—report, report, report!**
Turn in your Consolidated Post Report forms. Send forms to Department Headquarters no later than June 1st.



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Legion Convention Action Requested It
Now it is your turn...**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS SUMMER GAMES 2021 ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY, NORMAL, IL JUNE 11 & 12, 2021

The Illinois American Legion and Auxiliary will sponsor a Hospitality Center (tent) for athletes, coaches and families. We plan to provide items such as: Nutritious snacks, fruit, fruit drinks, vegetables, etc., plus cold water. This will provide athletes, coaches and families a place in the shade to rest, relax and fellowship among themselves and us. *We must be assured of adequate help for loading and unloading supplies, cleaning tables and money to put this operation together for both days.*

Auxiliary Members - We would appreciate individual prepackaged cookies for the Hospitality Center

PLACE

Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61761

HOURS OF OPERATION

Friday, June 11th, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday June 12th, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(Please indicate below the times you will be there to help)

** Must work a full day for lunch to be provided—morning through afternoon **

I will be there: From _____ To _____ on Friday

I will be there: From _____ To _____ on Saturday

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Post/Unit # _____ District # _____ Division # _____

I will bring _____ dozen cookies.

Here is my donation of \$ _____ to help with supplies for Special Olympics.

RETURN TO:

The American Legion
Dept. of Illinois
P.O. Box 2910
Bloomington, IL 61702-2910

-or-

The American Legion Auxiliary
Dept. of Illinois
P.O. Box 1426
Bloomington, IL 61702-1426

ATTENTION; CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIRMAN

~ Please read at your post meeting ~

Special Olympics Summer Games Fund Wants to Know How Your Post Can Help!

Each year Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games are held at ISU in Normal, IL. For those of you who can't attend, there is still 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.

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 HQ by the first week in June.*

Did you know you that some local restaurants and funeral homes will donate paper products? They do, Just Ask!

Please See the Next Page for how our Legion Family Can Help!



- ☞ **Make checks payable to American Legion Dept. of IL so Department can cash it, then earmark in the memo section "Special Olympics" so C&Y gets the donation.**
- ☞ **Please have ALL monetary donations in by June 1st so supplies can be purchased.**

In addition, helpers are needed to set-up and take down additional tents used, as well as load and unload supplies from the trailer and trucks. With the entire Legion family involved (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL & Riders) we can make it a true Legion Family Hospitality Tent!

We thank you for your Time and your Donation!

Legion:

- _____ Plastic 30 gal trash bags
- _____ Plastic “Thank You” grocery bags
- _____ gloves from 2x down “Nitrile”
- _____ Masks
- _____ Hand Sanitizer
- _____ Napkins
- _____ 3 oz Dip Cups & Lids
- _____ Lrg. Sandwich boats (*instead of plates-avail. at Sam’s*)
- _____ 14 oz. plastic cups

Sons:

- _____ Ziploc snack size bags
- _____ Ziploc gallon bags
- _____ Country Time Lemonade
- _____ Family Size tea bags

Auxiliary:

- _____ Store bought regular and sugar-free cookies (incl. individually wrapped)
- _____ Goldfish crackers
- _____ Black/Green olives
- _____ Strawberries
- _____ Seedless grapes
- _____ Sweet bell peppers
- _____ Cheese Balls
- _____ Animal Crackers
- _____ Veggie Straw crackers
- _____ Mixed Cheese/Peanut Butter crackers
- _____ Granola bars
- _____ Fruit
- _____ Variety of mixed veggies (radish, carrot, celery, cherry tomatoes, etc)

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.

2020—2021 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; Lurie Children's 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 it gives a little bit of home to our Military families facing deployment. We have a team that goes to deployments they make picture pillow cases for soldiers leaving. We give one to each family member in the picture so everyone gets someone to hug each night. It is truly a heartwarming "Legion Family" 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 17,000 pillow cases.

7. UNITED THROUGH READING



2020-2021

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION CHAIRMEN



AUXILIARY DIVISION CHAIRMEN ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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ERIN VAUPEL (5th Division)
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DIVISION CHAIRMEN ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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Carole Sandusky
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501 Stewart St. Apt. B, Carmi 62821 (618/-383-4687

AUXILIARY DISTRICT CHAIRMEN ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

1. *None Reported*
2. *None Reported*
3. Denise Stroud 773-263-6755
4. *None Reported*
5. *None Reported*
7. *None Reported*
8. *None Reported*
9. Suzanne King 847-736-5525
10. *None Reported*
11. Mary Coffey 630-879-5151
12. Sue Johnson 815-222-3983
13. Mary Mullin 815-821-2572
14. Lois Brechbiel 309-426-2307
15. Pam Corbin 309-371-9982
16. *None Reported*
17. Susan Spangler 815-867-2693
18. *None Reported*
19. Marcia Roberts 217-893-1883
20. Mandy Springer 217-883-7109
21. Jane Harmen 217-341-0546
22. Barb Borger 618-401-7752
23. Mary Moade 618-262-5627
24. Linda Trout 618-384-9339
25. *None Reported*

DISTRICT CHAIRMEN ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

1. Louis Ebrom 630-307-0859
2. Bernard White 773-588-6358
3. Beverly Fitch 773-677-8204
4. *None Reported*
5. *None Reported*
7. Jan Lepinski 847-470-0914
8. Ricky N. Serrano 708-822-4935
9. Gregg Weghorst none listed
10. George Swenson, Sr. 847-356-8244
11. Victor Martinka, Jr. 815-372-2656
12. Dave E. Johnson 815-624-4292
13. *None Reported*
14. Cheri L. Stanton 309-734-7843
15. *None Reported*
16. *None Reported*
17. *None Reported*
18. *None Reported*
19. *None Reported*
20. *None Reported*
21. Bruce A. Hallam 217-526-3996
22. *None Reported*
23. Jerome Goeckner 217-821-0346
24. *None Reported*
25. Jeffrey Roscow 618-317-6858



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DIVISION CHAIRMEN ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

(1st Div.) C&Y MBR.: Derrick Stinson 773-330-5219
(2nd Div.) C&Y MBR.: Michael Westerhausen... 331-222-1795
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