



Department of Virginia Children and Youth Committee

About Youth Support

The American Legion has a proud tradition of supporting our nation's youth. The organization was founded on the principle in 1919, when Children & Youth was declared one of the Legion's four pillars. In the years since, a number of youth-oriented programs have been developed including Temporary Financial Assistance, Family Support Network and child safety and wellbeing programs.

The Americanism Commission's Children & Youth Committee is the center of the Legion's youth-support efforts. The committee meets annually to formulate, recommend, and implement plans, programs and activities designed to accomplish:

- Assure care and protection for the children of veterans.
- Improve conditions for all children and youth with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home.
- Prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible, utilizing services of and cooperating with sound organizations and agencies for children and youth.
- Maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs.

The American Legion has been a strong advocate for children and youth since its inception. This steadfast dedication has never wavered and continues to be a driving force on behalf of children across the country today.

Youth Programs

Boy Scouts of America

www.scouting.org

The National Council of the Boy Scouts of America supports more than 300 local councils that provide quality youth programs promoting leadership and teaching decision-making and teamwork skills. The national council provides programs and publications, promotes training, and houses a media center.

Campfire USA

www.campfireusa.org

CampFire USA's mission is to build caring, confident youth and future leaders through national development programs delivered to 120 local councils across the nation. Core programs include leadership development, service learning, and mentoring opportunities.

Youth Crime Watch of America

www.ycwa.org

YCWA enables youth to become resources for preventing crime, drug use, and violence in their schools and communities. Youth take ownership for their own programs in schools, neighborhoods, public housing sites, recreational centers, or parks. Youth led programs encourage crime reporting, mentoring and mediation.

Girl Scouts of the USA

www.girlscouts.org

Girl Scouts of the USA provides research, programs, and resources that help young girls build leadership, decision-making, and teamwork skills. Through advocacy efforts, Girl Scouts informs and educates key representatives of the government about issues important to girls and scouting.

National 4-H Council

www.fourhcouncil.edu

The National 4-H Council provides grants, establishes programs and initiatives, designs and publishes curriculum and reference materials, and creates linkages fostering innovation and shared learning to advance the 4-H youth development movement, building a world in which youth and adults learn, grow, and work together as catalysts for positive change.

National Family Partnership

www.nfp.org

The National Family Partnership shares tools, strategies, and resources to support families and communities in their effort to promote safe, drug-free youth, NEP also sponsors Red Ribbon Week.

National Youth Leadership Council

www.nylc.org

The National Youth Leadership Council's mission is to build vital, just communities through service learning. NYLC is at the forefront of efforts to reform education and guide youth-oriented public policy.

Street Law, Inc.

www.streetlaw.org

Street Law, Inc. provides young people with information about law, democracy, and human rights and provides youth leadership programs in communities and schools nationally and internationally.

In addition to the standard programs listed here, posts should also be looking at assistance with the following items:

- 1) Back-to-school items. Most teachers are tasked with buying classroom supplies out of their own pocket and many families can't afford school supplies like backpacks, paper, binder's, and pencils. These items can be collected and donated in a Back-to-School Drive.
- 2) Halloween Safety Programs that can be easily accomplished between posts and communities.
- 3) Veterans-in-the-classroom and Flag Education.

These are just some of the ways in which posts can become pro-active in helping the youth in their communities. While it is understood that the COVID pandemic is still a major concern, I encourage posts in the Dept. of VA. to make the attempt to support the youth in their communities.

Remember, it takes a village to raise a child and the American Legion is a leader in that village!

Please let me know how your post is doing with their C&Y Programs and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Conference in Williamsburg!

For God and Country,

Rick Ward, Chairman
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