

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

2014-2015

**COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND
YOUTH PROGRAM BUDGET**

Special Olympics Summer Games	\$5,000.00
Christmas Gift Program	\$6000.00
(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.....	\$13,100.00

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

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.
4. Prevention of Drug Abuse.
5. Continued emphasis on alerting the public and health service personnel to the symptoms and dangers of Reyes Syndrome.
6. Urge contributions to the Child Welfare Fund.
7. (4) Educational grants of \$500.00 to Dependent Youths from the Department of Children and Family Services.
8. Missing Children.
9. Teenage Suicide Prevention.



Scan here to visit
our website

**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
on
Children & Youth**

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



Our Gift To Children - A Promising Future

Department Commission On Children And Youth
Recommended Post Children & Youth Calendar



JANUARY 2015	FEBRUARY 2015	MARCH 2015
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p style="text-align: center;">SEND A CHECK IN FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH FUND</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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, <u>please do so now.</u> <p style="text-align: center;">SEND A CHECK IN FOR CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">APRIL 2015</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>This is Children & Youth Month!</u> 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. <p>MAIL EDUCATION FUND CHECK</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MAY 2015</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>SEND A CHECK IN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JUNE 2015</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Division, District and Posts submit their C&Y reports with recommendations arriving <u>no later than June 1st</u> to Department Headquarters. 2. State Special Olympics Summer Games at I.S.U., Normal, June 19th - 20th. 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 18th, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. to compile Consolidated reports.
<p style="text-align: center;">JULY 2015</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Send one or more underprivileged children to camp, including military family child. 2. Cooperate with your District and Regional State of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Encourage frequent and careful inspection of foster homes for dependent children. 3. Award (4) four scholarships to DCFS children. 	<p style="text-align: center;">AUGUST 2015</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each Post should budget an appropriate contribution for the Department Children and Youth Fund. 2. Have a coordinated meeting with your Auxiliary, SAL 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) 	<p style="text-align: center;">SEPTEMBER 2015</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 5. Call Joy at Dept. to set up a time for Toby Tire to come show his program. 309-663-0361
<p style="text-align: center;">OCTOBER 2015</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make Halloween a safe & fun night, October 31, 2015. 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. 	<p style="text-align: center;">NOVEMBER 2015</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p style="text-align: center;">DECEMBER 2015</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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:

Hours:

Friday 10:00– 4:00

Saturday 9:30– 3:30

_____ 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) \$ _____

REMINDER: CWF checks are to be made payable to Child Welfare Foundation

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!

Cut along dotted line

CHILDREN & YOUTH REPORT WORK SHEET - AMERICAN LEGION, DEPT. OF ILLINOIS

MAIL REPORT TO: DIVISION CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIRMAN NO LATER THAN JUNE 1ST

Cut along dotted line

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.

	NUMBER OF KIDS	AMOUNT
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 _____	

Contributions:

HOW MANY

AMOUNT

Mental Health _____

United Fund _____

Mentally Challenged Children _____

Red Cross _____

Child Welfare Foundation _____

Cancer _____

Crippled Children _____

Other Agencies:

Dept. C&Y Fund _____

Heart Fund _____

PTA _____

Other (Explain) _____

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 your 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.

2014—2015

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 26 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 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 11,000 pillow cases.



2014—2015

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



AUXILIARY DIVISION CHAIRMEN
ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- SUSAN HEINZ-WOJCIK, CHAIRMAN. EMAIL: suedan46@sbcglobal.net
390 W. Mahogany Ct. Unit 201 847/913-4998
PAT TESTEN (1st Division).....EMAIL: patricia.testen@gmail.com
3511 McCormick Ave., Brookfield 60513 708/485-8446
LINDA FAGAN (2nd Division).....EMAIL: lfagan74@gmail.com
1141 Anne Ct., Sleepy Hollow 60118 847/428-6046
SUE COSTELLO (3rd Division)
204 Main St., Greenfield 62044..... 217/368-3009
VICKI DRUM (4th Division)
1113 N. Milton Ave., Springfield 62702 217/544-0146
CARLA GIBSON (5th Division)
201 N. Madison St., Shumway 62461 217/868-5377

DIVISION CHAIRMEN
ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- Bernard W. White
(1st Div., 2nd Dist.) EMAIL: bernardwjp@aol.com
4449 N. Springfield Ave., Chicago 60625 773/588-6358
GEORGE A. SWENSON SR., VICE CHAIRMAN
(2nd Div., 10th Dist.)
36886 Grandwood Dr., Gurnee 60031 847/356-8244
CHERI STANTON, CHAIRMAN
(3rd Div., 14th Dist.) EMAIL: cstanton14@frontiernet.net
1441 E 3rd Ave, Monmouth 61452 (H) 309/734-7843, © 309/297-9008
Richard C. Anderson
(4th Div., 17th Dist.)..... EMAIL: dicknglenda@hotmail.com
1341 13th St., Bloomington 61704 309/242-7012
Carole Sandusky
(3rd Div., 24th Dist., White) EMAIL: csandusky@egyptian.org
101 5th St., Carmi 62821 (H) 618/384-9241, © 618/527-0063

AUXILIARY DISTRICT CHAIRMEN
ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- 1. None Reported
2. Donna Skoumal.....(630/968-1768)
3. Helena Wilson.....(773/786-8746)
4. Janice Patocka.....(630/629-3824)
5. Dolly Sullivan.....(708/728-0063)
7. Susan Bailey.....(847/673-0985)
8. Judy Ehlers.....(708/388-7096)
9. Judy Kyska.....(847/255-9582)
10. None Reported
11. Madeleine Hoffman(630/279-4723)
12. Janet Bacon.....(815/784-3481)
13. Sandy Geesey.....(815/441-4132)
14. Lois Brechbiel.....(309/426-2307)
15. Pam Corbin.....(309/371-9982)
16. None Reported
17. Suzann Lolling.....(217/732-1966)
18. Linda J. Young.....(217/247-2801)
19. Melissa Bajaric(217/428-0420)
20. Sue Costello.....(217/368-3009)
21. Anita Bergschneider.....(217/825-8289)
22. Sandy Schleper(618/799-9424)
23. Mary Jimmie Moade.....(618/262-5627)
24. Ethel Powell.....(618/854-2479)
25. Rose Bartens.....(618/965-3731)

DISTRICT CHAIRMEN
ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- 1. Robert L. Woods(312/378-5404)
2. None Reported.....
3. Zaveola Coleman.....(708/355-3755)
4. Frank Jerbich.....(773/585-6085)
5. None Reported.....
7. Daisy Rivera.....(847/927-5361)
8. None Reported.....
9. None Reported.....
10. None Reported.....
11. None Reported.....
12. Dave E. Johnson.....(815/624-4292)
13. None Reported.....
14. Cheri Stanton.....(309/734-7843)
15. Gene Lockard.....(309/759-4867)
16. Frank Livingston(309/713-6431)
17. Richard Anderson.....(309/242-7012)
18. None Reported.....
19. None Reported.....
20. None Reported.....
21. Bruce A. Hallam.....(217/526-3996)
22. None Reported.....
23. None Reported.....
24. Gene Young(618/382-5137)
25. None Reported.....

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DIVISION CHAIRMEN ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

- C&Y CHRM.: Harl "Butch" Ray(217/741-6856)
C&Y VICE CHRM.: Garrett Slevin, Sr.....(309/697-9482)
Child Welfare Promoter: Eugene Gort(847/630-3703)

- Children's Miracle Network Promoter; Phil Shipley(217/417-9799)
Toby Tire Promoter: Harl "Butch" Ray(217/698-8571)