

April is American Legion's Children and Youth Month

Annually, The American Legion observes, "**April is children and Youth Month**". Departments, Posts, Units, Salons and SAL are asked to set aside April to conduct a special activity, which places emphasis on the Children and Youth Program and informs our members and the community on the organizations' accomplishments on behalf of young people.

In order to promote "**April is Children and Youth Month**", the post Children and Youth Chairman along with their counterparts in the Auxiliary and SAL should appoint a "April Is" committee and have a meeting and develop a specific plan and have proper tools and materials readily available to put that plan into action.

Any plans developed by the "April Is" committee should be submitted for approval of both commander and membership.

Once the appropriate authority has approved your plans, contact your local news media with details. If you are planning a special meeting, invite your local media representatives.

There are many ways a Post can observe "**April is Children and Youth Month.**" Here are a few suggestions.

- Host a hobby or talent show
- Have a "Come to Church Sunday"
- Host a Spring festival
- Form a youth panel to discuss problems and solutions within your community
- Visit Children's hospitals or institutions
- Have the youth in the community put on a fund raiser to raise money for community projects

Use these suggestions or develop your own projects, but get involved.

Remember our core purpose is "A Square Deal for Every Child".

As Americans, we need to remember amid the problems we face daily, the one constant that will make or break this nation is our young people. They are our future. Our dreams and our hopes for a better tomorrow rest in their hands.

I was very pleased at the turnout for the Children and Youth meeting at Mid-Winter Conference in Albany in January. The presentations from the FFA and Special Olympics along with the youths that have been helped through these organizations speaking to the conference made everyone there aware of what our Posts and Department does for the welfare of our children in New York. I hope the information gathered there was distributed to all the Counties. Please get your Post Consolidated Reports filled out and turned in. This is VERY important to our Department.

Please take the time and support the children in your community. Thank You.

John Konkol
American Legion
Dept. of New York
Children and Youth Chairman