

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI
JULY-AUGUST
2011-2012**

We have now started our new year and I am so excited to be the Department Chairman for Youth Activities. I am planning a great year for our youth so I urge each Auxiliary chairman to be at the Schools of Instruction to learn what is in store for them. The District Presidents, Auxiliary Presidents and Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman should all be in the know about this program. July 9th will be the first school and will be held in Lee's Summit at Auxiliary 5789 and the following weekend on July 16th in Overland at Auxiliary 3944. Both start at 10:00 a. m. so mark your calendars now so that you can attend. These schools are very informative and is a great learning experience.

The Youth Activities Program consists of Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests, Junior Girls Units, Girl Scout awards, Youth Groups Supporting Our Military citations and much more.

Our Patriotic Art Contest is open to students in grades 9-12. The top national prize is a \$10,000 scholarship, \$5,000 for second place down to \$500 for fifth through eighth place. I will have brochures at the schools to give to you so you can see the rules and criteria for this contest. You will need these when you visit the schools and promote this program.

The Junior Girls Units represent the future of our organization. If you do not have a Unit I encourage you to start one. Any Auxiliary interested in forming a new Unit should order a Junior Girls Started Kit from National Headquarters. Junior Girls are ages 5-16 and can help Auxiliaries in so many ways. I have some tentative dates for activities with Junior Girls. On August 12-14 I would like to have a "Back To School Campout and Recruiter Weekend". This will be held at my house since I have the space and a very large swimming pool. February 3-5 is the Council of Administration and Voice of Democracy Banquet. On March 30-April 1 will be the Junior Girls Convention. During that weekend we will also go to the City Museum in St. Louis, MO. Remember these are only tentative dates.

We have some new awards for Junior Girls this year. The JUMP digital badges are a way they can earn recognition for all they do. JUMP stands for "Junior Unit Merit Program". There are around 50 badges that can be earned.

Also the Girl Scout awards. Bronze, Silver and Gold presented to Girl Scouts for their community projects.

Youth Groups Supporting our Military Citations recognizes other groups in their efforts to support the military. Request forms need to be filled out by your Auxiliary and sent to me. The citations will be mailed to the youth groups. These efforts must have occurred between July 1, 2011 and March 15, 2012.

Please support other youth groups. They are our future and need the learning experiences that we can give them through our Youth Activities Program. They can learn to "Step Up - Leave No Veteran Behind".

Please let me know if I can help in any way.

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