

V.E.R.M.O.N.T.

Loves

Children and Youth

The purpose of the VERMONT Loves Children and Youth Program is to help *inspire, generate, encourage and empower* Units in Vermont to participate at a higher level in the Children and Youth Program.

- *Inspire* units by giving them attainable goals with real-time assistance to complete the program.
- *Generate* ideas from the C&Y Chairman in collaboration with Unit members that Units can use to complete the program and become successful.
- *Encourage* Units to partner with other members of their Legion Family (Legion, SAL or Legion Riders), and members of the community to complete some of the program steps and make the C&Y program a “Legion family” affair.
- *Empower* Units to participate in the program and complete the steps by offering real-time assistance via e-mail or phone and help them with ideas and solutions, all the while having the support of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Vermont.

VERMONT is an acronym for the following:

- V Volunteer
- E Economic Engagement
- R Report
- M Military Kids / Purple Up
- O Organize
- N Nominate
- T Teach

DESCRIPTION OF EACH STEP

- **Volunteer.** Units need to volunteer for the Children and Youth program. By completing any of the steps of the VERMONT Loves Children and Youth program (except Report), you have accomplished this step.
- **Economic Engagement.** Participate in the Quarter Challenge which will take place from mid-March, 2023 to May 1, 2023.
- **Report.** Submit a completed annual Children and Youth report to the Department Chairman by May 1, 2023.
- **Military Kids / Purple Up.** The Unit should participate in the “Purple up for Military Kids program by wearing purple during at least one community event. More information about the Purple Up for Military Kids can be found at <https://veteran.com/purple-up-day/> or at <https://www.legion-aux.org/Blog/Everyone-can-participate-in-Purple-Up!-Day-to-hono>
- **Organize.** Organize an event for kids, such as Trunk-or-Treat, Christmas party, Easter egg hunt, kids bingo, or any type of event that focuses on children and youth in your community. You can partner with your Legion family or the community to hold this event.
- **Nominate.** Nominate at least one child from your community, from your Legion Family, or from your local schools for the C&Y Good Deed Award or the C&Y Youth Hero Award. Information about both of these awards can be found at <https://www.legion-aux.org/Youth-Hero-Good-Deed-Awards>
- **Teach.** Partner with your Units Americanism Committee or your Legion Family to help teach flag etiquette or a similar program to youth in your schools or community.

TIME LINE

The VERMONT Loves Children and Youth program begins at Fall Conference and ends on May 1, 2023.

REPORTING

Units need to send information about each of the steps they completed (except Volunteer and Report) via e-mail or snail mail to the Department Chairman, John Tester. The information should be a detailed description of who, what, when and where they completed the step and include some pictures if possible (highly encouraged).

Any unit that has already completed any one of these steps, but after the June Convention, can submit the information to the Department Chairman.

AWARDS

Each Unit that completes all seven steps of the VERMONT Loves Children and Youth Program by the deadline will be recognized at the Annual Convention in June with a wooden plaque in the shape of the State of Vermont engraved with the program title, Unit name and #, and the year 2022-2023.

Information about each Unit's completion of the program will be sent to the National Children and Youth Committee for inclusion in their Newsletter.

Each Unit that completes the program will be submitted to the National Children and Youth Committee for consideration of Unit of the Year for the Eastern Division.

QUARTER CHALLENGE

Although the Quarter Challenge is part of the VERMONT Loves Children and Youth Program (VLC&Y), it is also still a stand-alone program. Every Unit that participates in the Quarter Challenge, regardless of whether they complete the VLC&Y program, will receive a certificate and be entered into a drawing for one of two \$50.00 Lotto Boards.