Youth Programs

The AWLA believes it is important to instill a knowledge about and a compassion for animals from the earliest ages. With our community and in-shelter humane education programs, we offer a variety of opportunities to engage with — and often learn from — Alexandria’s youngest animal-lovers. Read more about our Humane Education program for students aged 18 and younger below.

In-Shelter Activities

Family Fun Nights

Join us one Friday a month for our new Family Fun event series, highlighting adoptable animals, teaching a new skill or hobby and of course, benefiting animals in need across the community. Whether you’re looking to make get crafty or learn more about the shelter, we hope to see you for Friday Family Fun Nights at the AWLA, and check back monthly to see what new events are coming up right around the corner!
Shelter Tours

The AWLA welcomes small groups interested in taking a shelter tour and learning more about animal care and animal welfare issues. Shelter tours include an overview of the shelter and the companion animals in our care as well as a tour of all adoption areas. Most tours include a visit with one or more shelter Animal Ambassadors and a discussion of how to help our furred, finned and feathered residents.

Scout Programs

Now offered virtually, our Scout Program is 1 hour long and intended for scouts ages 6 and up. These Pet Badge programs are for groups of eight to 15 scouts, including siblings; groups of 16 scouts or more should split up and schedule for two separate trainings, as we cannot accommodate larger groups in our facility. There is a $10 fee for each badge-seeking scout to cover the cost of supplies and the badge/certificate.
Pawsitive Action Club

Join our Pawsitive Action Club, a group for students currently enrolled in Middle School, with the goal of helping students to become familiar with the shelter and instilling animal compassion and advocacy in their everyday lives. Our Spring Semester Session runs from February to May, meeting on the third Friday of each month. PAC members will also be eligible to apply to be summer camp counselors in 2020!

Birthday Parties

A celebration at the shelter is a unique party experience that also supports the animals in our community. We’ve found that a party at the AWLA is most enjoyable for children aged 8 and older, who have a greater understanding of animal welfare and the goals of the shelter.
Book Buddies

Book Buddies is a group for children in grades 3-12, who are able to read at any level. Children are invited to the shelter to read to our cats (and other small animals) in our adoption room. The program helps children improve their reading skills while providing socialization and human interaction for the shelter animals.

Camps

Throughout the year, we offer daily and weekly camp experiences for students in elementary and high school. Camps are catered to different age ranges and teach young animal lovers about responsible pet ownership, animal safety and even how a shelter works. 2020 Summer camps for students aged 6 through 13 begin July 6!
Teen Service Nights

For high school students looking to learn more about animals and animal sheltering, we offer teen service nights. Participants can get hands-on experience in animal care and shelter management, as well as learning more about the different responsibilities in an animal shelter and other animal welfare opportunities. Upcoming opportunities are held across four weeks to provide the widest range of experiences for youth volunteers.

At-Home Activities

At-Home Volunteering

There are a number of activities that can be completed at home, including making toys or bedding for the animals, preparing treats or helping us thank our supporters. If you are earning volunteer credit for your efforts, you can have any necessary forms signed by a staff member when you drop off your projects.

Junior PAWS Online Humane Education Program
The AWLA’s **Junior Pet Advocacy and Wildlife Series (PAWS)** is a series of humane education lessons ranging from crafts to careers. Lessons utilize Zoom and Google Classroom to bring fun and learning directly to kids and their families at home! Attendees must pre-register for each class, so learn more about individual courses and register today.

### Paw Pals

Become a Paw Pal to animals in need! So many of our youth volunteers already host fundraising drives and collections of toys and food for Alexandria’s Animals, that we now have a toolkit to help them help even more animals with their work.

### Around Alexandria

**Community Events**

The AWLA can be found all around our community: Whether we’re participating in Del Ray’s First Thursday or First Night at the Torpedo Factory, presenting at an Alexandria library or hosting an adoption events at a local pet store, we’re here as a resource for the community, and we are happy to answer any questions you may have. Check out our calendar for the next opportunity to meet some of our adoptables – as well as some of the human members of our team – around town.
School Programs

If your class is interested in learning more from our Humane Education experts, contact us to schedule time so we can come and talk to your students. *Please note that at this time, we are only able to visit schools in the Alexandria School District.*

For more information on our Youth Programs or to schedule an event, please call us at 703-746-4774 or email us. If you’d like to receive emails about our latest youth volunteering opportunities, click below to sign up for notifications.

Email Sign-Up