

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

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Volunteering is an important aspect of the communities that we live in. It helps create a better place for our Veterans and their families by building self-confidence, meeting new people and improving social skills. Auxiliary Outreach provides our members with a sense of belonging in our communities and promotes a healthy environment that we live in.

The Auxiliary Outreach Program is about volunteering with other organizations for the benefit of the community. It is a donation of our time, and **not** a donation of money. One member, a group of members, or an entire Auxiliary can perform volunteer work to improve and show appreciation for the community in which we live and our pride as members of the Auxiliary.

Auxiliary members who volunteer show that **“Every Day is Veterans Day”** while reaching **“From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans”** and will be successful with this program.

Auxiliary Outreach can benefit children, senior citizens, those with special needs as well as animals, the environment, and public spaces. When we participate in Auxiliary Outreach, we become better citizens of the community in which we live.

While emphasis is placed on our core VFW and Auxiliary programs, we realize Auxiliary members and Auxiliaries also participate with other community organizations. Auxiliaries can now report and be recognized for such community work through the Auxiliary Outreach Program. The Auxiliary may do projects alone or with the VFW Post.

Collectively, all our volunteer hours need to be counted to effectively show the importance of the local VFW and VFW Auxiliary to the community. Be visible and show your VFW Auxiliary pride by wearing Auxiliary branded attire – shirt, hat, jacket, name badge, etc. The Auxiliary emblem can spark a conversation about the Auxiliary and what we do. It is also wonderful way to show our members volunteering out in our communities and not just in our Post Homes.

What’s Considered Auxiliary Outreach?

When an Auxiliary volunteers with an organization outside our own, it should be considered Auxiliary Outreach. The organizations that we volunteer with will need to be voted on, approved and in your monthly minutes. If it was done afterwards, you can have your minutes amended to add your time. (When the entire Auxiliary volunteers and only one member shows up, it still counts as Auxiliary Outreach.)

Examples:

- Participation in walks that benefit other organizations such as an event sponsor, water station volunteer, timekeeper, etc. (Walking or running in the race is not part of Auxiliary Outreach.)
- Partnering with local police on child ID kits.
- Partnering with firefighters on fire safety and prevention.
- Partnering with EMTs to host CPR training.
- Partnering with parks and recreation departments to plant trees, adopt-a-park initiatives and develop community art installations.
- Volunteering at an animal shelter.
- Fostering Animals.
- Serving food at soup kitchens.
- Delivering food or Meals on Wheels.

What's NOT Considered Auxiliary Outreach?

- Volunteer work that is performed for the benefit the Post or Auxiliary is NOT considered outreach service. Examples of projects that do not qualify include:
- Repairs/maintenance to Post home.
- Cooking/serving meals for a Post/Auxiliary fundraiser.
- "Buddy" ® Poppy distribution.
- VFW or Auxiliary meetings, Conventions, Conferences, or schools of instruction.
- Church activities for one specific congregation and not the entire community (e.g., usher, elder, deacon, minister, etc.)

Did you know that almost every month has a day or week recognizing volunteerism?

Please spread the word about these days and consider doing something special.

August 5, 2025 – National Night Out Day

September 11, 2025 – National Day of Service and Remembrance

October 4, 2025 – Be the Change Day

October 25, 2025 – National Make a Difference Day

November 13, 2025 – World Kindness Day

November 22, 2025 – National Family Volunteer Day

December 5, 2025 – International Volunteer Day

January 28, 2026 – Global Community Engagement Day

February 9-13, 2026 – Student Volunteer Week

March 9-13, 2026 – AmeriCorps Week

April 12, 2026 – Good Deeds Day

April 19-25, 2026 – National Volunteer Week

April 24, 2026 – Global Youth Service Day

May 2, 2026 – VFW Day of Service

June 21, 2026 – Untied Way Day of Action

It is important that all partnerships with other organizations are approved by vote of the Auxiliary and recorded in your minutes. When member(s) volunteer their time for projects/programs of other organizations they are representing the VFW Auxiliary and should turn in their service hours to be reported for Auxiliary Outreach.

REPORT QUARTERLY by emailing or sending reports to Jency Mercado (April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025.)

REPORTING GUIDELINES

1. The Auxiliary is to report on how many Auxiliary members participated, the number of hours volunteered, and the activity/program they participated in.
2. Fundraisers are NOT considered for this service program IF organized by the VFW or VFW Auxiliary.
3. You are encouraged to include written descriptions of community projects that were participated in by Auxiliary members, to include news articles, fliers, and photos.
4. A paper can be passed to members at your monthly meetings so that members can report what they have done individually.

HOW TO SUBMIT QUARTERLY REPORTS

1. Email your report to jencyvfw@gmail.com with the subject line Auxiliary Outreach Program.
2. Mail a copy to Jency Mercado, PO Box 624, Hyde, PA 16843.

NATIONAL AUXILIARY OUTREACH AWARDS AND CITATIONS

1. Most outstanding Auxiliary Outreach activity and/or event that is shared on social media using #AuxiliaryOutreach.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding Auxiliary Outreach activity and/or event using #AuxiliaryOutreach during the current Program Year.

From July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Auxiliary Outreach – National Awards Forms*.

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY OUTREACH AWARDS AND CITATIONS

Reminder: Only record number of Auxiliary members/hours volunteered with projects/ programs NOT AFFILIATED WITH VFW OR VFW Auxiliary Programs.

*****New*****

I am excited to introduce a new incentive for Auxiliary Outreach.
When reporting quarterly, I will enter your hours and when your auxiliary hits the below milestones, your auxiliary will be mailed a citation and pins for whom all participated.

I want this program to be exciting and have participation!

500 Hour Club – Citation and Pins

750 Hour Club – Citation and Pins

1000 Hour Club – Citation and Pins

1500 Hour Club – Citation and Pins

1750 + Hour Club – Citation and Pin

Who wants to join my Clubs??

1. A citation to the Auxiliary Chairman who submits a REPORT EVERY QUARTER.
2. A Citation for the 1000 Hour Club and Pin for all Auxiliaries who meet Volunteering in Auxiliary Outreach program.
3. Citation for the District who has the most participation in Auxiliary Outreach.

ALL OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING AUDITS, BONDS, DELEGATE FEES, PLEDGES, SUPPLIES ETC. TO NATIONAL AND DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS MUST BE MET FOR YOUR AUXILIARY TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS.