

## **AUXILIARY OUTREACH PROGRAM**

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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 by improving social skills. Auxiliary Outreach helps by giving our members 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 monetary donations. One member, a group of members, or an 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 "**From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans**" while working "**Together Helping Veterans**" will be successful in the Program.

Auxiliary Outreach can benefit children, senior citizens, and 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 a 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 as an event spotter, 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 of 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.)

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 MONTHLY 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 MONTHLY REPORTS**

1. Email your report to [jencyvfw@gmail.com](mailto: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 photo collage created by the VFW Auxiliary of their VFW Auxiliary Outreach partnerships during the current Program Year.
  - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that creates the most outstanding photo collage of their VFW Auxiliary partnerships during the current Program Year.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman by March 31, 2025, for judging.

Citations will be mailed to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

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

## **DEPARTMENT OF PA AUXILIARY OUTREACH CITATIONS**

1. A citation to the Auxiliary Chairman who submits a REPORT EVERY MONTH.
2. A citation to one District Chairman in each Membership Division with the best promotion of the Auxiliary Outreach Program. (Must send a written description to the Department Chairman)
3. A citation to one Auxiliary in each Membership Division with the most combined member and/or Auxiliary hours volunteered with another organization not affiliated with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary.
4. A citation to one Auxiliary in each Membership Division with the most outstanding community partnership with another organization. (Must submit a written description, photos, fliers, news articles, etc. to the Department Chairman.)

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