



AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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This was a new program last year. It reminded us that what we do today, for others, is how we will be remembered in the future. Today, Americans of all ages and abilities are donating their time and talents to schools, hospitals, churches and civic organizations in an effort to improve their communities and serve a purpose greater than themselves. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary has done this since we began.

Volunteering is a necessary aspect of meeting many of the needs facing our communities, and with guidance, there is NO limit to what we can achieve by working together. Partnering with other organizations within your community will bring out the best in everyone, utilizing strengths, talents, time and energy to make a difference in the lives of others.

Remember: Auxiliary Community Outreach is performed by one member, a group of members, or the Auxiliary for the benefit of their community or its institutions.

Important: At the beginning of the new Auxiliary year a motion needs to be made, on the floor, IF a member(s) volunteers their time for a civic program, faith-based program, educational program, First responders, etc., **THAT BENEFITS THE COMMUNITY**, they are representing the VFW Auxiliary and the member(s) shall report their hours served to the Auxiliary Community Outreach Chairman. The number of workers and hours ONLY not money.

You **MUST** wear a badge or Auxiliary-branded attire (shirt, hat, jacket, etc.) when you do a Community Outreach program. This will make us visible and show our pride in the VFW Auxiliary

Examples of Auxiliary Community Outreach include but not limited to:

- *Honor First Responders
- *Hosting a Blood Drive
- *Tutoring or reading to students
- *Meals on wheels
- *Joint programs with American Cancer, Alzheimer's Group, American Diabetes
- *Working with Police or Fire Departments on Safety programs
- *Local humane societies or animal rescue groups
- *Backpack meals for kids on weekends

Please Note:

*Auxiliary Community Outreach is for projects **NOT AFFILIATED** with VFW or VFW Auxiliary Programs.
*Volunteer work that is performed for the benefit of the Post or Auxiliary is **NOT** considered community service. Examples of projects that do not qualify include: Cooking or serving a meal for a Post or Auxiliary fundraiser; "Buddy" Poppy distribution; Church activities for one specific congregation and not the entire community.

Yes, our Community Outreach Program is to reach out to other organizations and assist them with projects that benefit your community, but we can also co-sponsor those programs or events. Success will be ours if we properly plan, promote and complete each project. Positive, effective promotion of our organization will increase public awareness and recognition. The name of the game is **REPORT – REPORT – REPORT**.

My Goal

To have every Auxiliary in Texas be able to fill out the National Auxiliary Community Outreach Award for Auxiliaries No. 1 entry form. That would mean every Auxiliary participated in a community event.

Statewide Project

Participate in at least one community event as an Auxiliary. Also, have at least one member voted on to represent the Auxiliary with another organization.

Awards

1. Plaque to an Auxiliary in each Membership Division with the **Best Community Outreach Project**. Citation 2nd and 3rd.
2. Plaque to an Auxiliary in each Membership division with the **Best First Responders Project(s)**. Citation 2nd and 3rd.
3. Plaque to an Auxiliary in each Membership Division with the **Best Collective Community Outreach Projects**. This will include number of projects, workers and hours. Citation 2nd and 3rd.

**“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”
“Soaring Above & Beyond”**