

Auxiliary Outreach Promotion #2 |October 2023
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The VFW Auxiliary Outreach Program is your Auxiliary volunteering to partner with and help other organizations or local groups. It is all about the time given and not the money spent to help. It is a partnership where one or more of your Auxiliary members help another organization or group make their program successful. Like us, many organizations are short on volunteers.

I believe when it comes to Auxiliary Outreach, we must think outside the box and search for organizations that may need our help. We are so used to being the go-getters and making things happen, whether we are short-handed in volunteers or not, we get it done. I think other organizations are in the same boat. They have a shortage of volunteers. This is where we can come in and save their day and make their event successful. In doing so, we will make new friends, learn something new and maybe even recruit a new member while giving of our time.

The first step is reaching out and seeking an organization needing assistance with their event.

School is back in session! Perhaps your local school needs help with reading to students, playground monitors or lunchroom assistance. Reach out and see what they might need that fits Auxiliary Outreach and bring it to your next Auxiliary meeting to vote to approve it. Then keep track of your hours and report them.

Do you like to knit or crochet? Does your senior center or local assisted living home need someone to teach some of their residents? Or maybe you play the piano, ask if they would like you to come by and play for an hour or two? Maybe this could be weekly or once a month.

Check your local community calendars for upcoming fall events. I just saw where a local group was looking for volunteers for a marathon coming up and they needed parking attendants, registration assistance and water station help.

How about your local fire department, public safety or EMTs. Do they have any breakfasts planned, need help restocking their medical supply closets, help with fire prevention education? These are just a few suggestions.

Remember when you are helping these other organizations, be sure to wear your Auxiliary shirt or hat to identify our organization.

The holiday season is right around the corner, there should be a lot of activities going on with different organizations and groups in your area. Reach out and help make their activities successful!

Does your community food cupboard distribute holiday food baskets to the homebound citizens or those less fortunate? Help put the boxes together or deliver them.

Contact your local veterans home and see if they need help with upcoming activities making holiday cookies or decorations. They may even do scheduled weekly activities like bingo or board games and need some assistance.

One thing for sure, after you have given your time, the pride and self-gratitude that you feel is rewarding enough to want to help some more!

Keys to making your Auxiliary Outreach Program successful

- Find the organization that needs your help
- Vote on the activity at your meeting
- One or more Auxiliary member must participate
- Wear your VFW Auxiliary attire (name badge, shirt, hat, jacket, etc.)
- Report your hours given