

AUXILIARY OUTREACH AMBASSADOR



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The VFW Auxiliary Outreach Program involves your Auxiliary volunteering to help nonprofit organizations and local groups with needs in your community. Auxiliary Outreach is time given to help, not monetary or in-kind donations. It is a **partnership** wherein one or more of your Auxiliary members help another organization or group make their project successful. Like us, many organizations are short on volunteers.

Ask what your Auxiliary can do to help the community, not what they can do to help us! Form a partnership to help other organizations by reaching out into your communities, local groups and organizations and offer to assist, then present the opportunity to your Auxiliary for a vote.

The first step in making your Auxiliary Outreach Program successful is reaching into the community. Here are a few basic steps:

- Find local groups and organizations in need of assistance.
- Ask what your Auxiliary can do to help them.
- Vote at your Auxiliary meeting to approve the activity.
- Form the partnership.
- Report the details.

Where do you find these partnership opportunities?

- Ask your members; most members belong to more than one organization.
- Look in your local newspaper for upcoming events.
- Check local community bulletin boards.
- Check your local and surrounding town/city websites for their calendar of events.

Suggestions for VFW Auxiliary Outreach

- Work with local police, fire and EMT on their activities (Child ID, fire safety and fire prevention activities at local schools.)
- Work with local parks and recreation departments to plant trees, clear trails and beautify parks.
- Serve food at soup kitchens or distribute food at food banks/cupboards.
- Drive for Meals on Wheels or help prepare food for delivery.
- Assist with local fundraising walks as a volunteer, not an entrant.
- Help your local library by working at book fairs.
- Assist local youth groups and at senior centers.
- Help your town or city during elections but remain non-partisan.
- Partnerships can be a single day event or ongoing events throughout the year.

Benefits of the Auxiliary Outreach Program

- Helping others
- Learning new skills
- Meeting new people
- Developing a sense of purpose
- Personal growth

Keys to making your Auxiliary Outreach Program successful

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

Events that are held at your Post Home are allowed if:

- The VFW or Auxiliary did not plan the activity, nor does it benefit our organizations.
- The organization is only using the facility as a venue to hold their event and they complete all of the preliminary planning on their own.
- We are only there as volunteers to help on the day of the event.

Find many resources that outline Auxiliary Outreach behind your MALTA login, Member Resources, Auxiliary Outreach.



AUXILIARY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Building Partnerships • Auxiliary Participating in Outreach

Auxiliary Outreach is volunteer work performed by one member, a group of members or an Auxiliary for the benefit of their community or its institutions. Auxiliary Outreach can:

- Be performed by people of any age, skill set or ability level.
- Benefit any group of people such as children, senior citizens and those with disabilities.
- Benefit animals, the environment and public spaces.
- Be done in communities of all types and sizes – rural, suburban and urban, small and large.

We volunteer to make a difference in our community, but we receive benefits including:

- Helping others
- Learning new skills
- Career advancement
- Increased confidence
- Meeting new people
- Fighting stress and depression
- Developing a stronger sense of purpose
- Personal growth

Outreach and the VFW Auxiliary

While emphasis is placed on our core VFW and Auxiliary Programs, we realize Auxiliaries also participate with other community organizations. Auxiliaries can now report and be recognized for such community work through the Auxiliary Outreach Program.

Projects may be done by the Auxiliary alone or with the VFW Post.

Collectively, all of 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 pride in the VFW Auxiliary by wearing Auxiliary-branded attire when you participate in Auxiliary Outreach. A shirt, jacket or hat with the Auxiliary emblem can start a conversation about the Auxiliary and what we do. It is also a great way to show members volunteering out in our communities and not just in our Post Homes.

What's Considered Auxiliary Outreach

When an entire Auxiliary volunteers for an organization outside our own, it should be considered Auxiliary Outreach **if the project was approved by the Auxiliary and recorded in the meeting minutes prior to the project.** On rare occasions such as a natural disaster or emergency community need, the project may be voted on after the fact. (When the entire Auxiliary volunteers and only one member is able to show up, it still counts as Auxiliary Outreach.)

Examples include:

- 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 EMT's 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.
- Serving food at soup kitchens.
- Delivering food for Meals on Wheels.

When we participate in Auxiliary Outreach we become better citizens of the communities in which we live.

What's Not Considered Auxiliary Outreach

- **Auxiliary 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 outreach service. Examples of projects that do not qualify include:
 - Repairs or maintenance to the Post Home.
 - Cooking or serving a meal for a Post or 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.)

QUALIFIES

Spending time in a local homeless shelter kitchen serving meals, bussing tables or cleaning up.

Partnering with the police or fire department on bicycle or home safety training class.

Your Auxiliary approves helping a local cancer group setting up their event or manning a booth.

Partnering with the garden club to clean up local parks.

Help a youth group collect food donations for the local food pantry.

DOES NOT QUALIFY

Taking comfort items to the local USO.

Donating trophies to a youth sports group.

Hosting a luncheon/dinner for a local community club.

Sending an Auxiliary check to support a charity that organized a walk-a-thon or run.

Collecting clothing and comfort items for homeless veterans at the Post Home. (This would be Veterans & Family Support.)

Passing the collection basket at church services.

AUXILIARY OUTREACH PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding community partnership with another organization.
 - Citation to every Auxiliary that partners with another organization within their community. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman by March 31, 2024 for judging.

The Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman must email National Headquarters by April 30, 2024 at info@vfwauxiliary.org a total combined list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form.

Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding community partnership.

The Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Auxiliary Outreach Ambassador by April 30, 2024 for judging.

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

Awards for Departments and Department Chairmen

1. \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most effective promotion of the Auxiliary Outreach Program. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.
2. Outstanding Performance Award in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on Page 5 and for the promotion of the Program goals listed at the top of Page 13. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.