

Auxiliary Outreach Promotion #1 | July 2024

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Allow me to introduce myself and give you some background on my work with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. I am a Life Member of Superstition Mountain Auxiliary 9399 in Apache Junction, Arizona and joined the Auxiliary on the eligibility of my father, Thomas W. Scott, a U.S. Navy veteran from the Korean War. I am married to Jim Johnson, a veteran of Vietnam, Granada, Korea and Desert Storm who is the Post Commander of Post 9399. Throughout the generations of my family, many, including my daughters, have been proud members of the military and served in foreign conflicts. I, myself, am a peacetime Army veteran. You probably would not guess that I was once a Power Generator Mechanic and Electrical Lineman. While I might still be able to help with some electrical issues, I draw the line at climbing any electric poles at my age!

I have served the organization in many positions through Auxiliary, District and Department levels. I have just completed my year as Department President for Arizona and was our Department Chairperson for this Program the first year it began development. While the Program is still evolving, I feel that each year we are moving towards a better understanding of its guidelines and purpose. What better way is there to show

and interest the public in who we are as an organization and encourage others to join with us, than showing our willingness to support others in their endeavors to enhance our communities and their citizens!

When posting Auxiliary Outreach events on Facebook, please use #Auxiliaryoutreach



Let's reach out our hands of friendship and assistance and showcase the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary with a view from the outside in!

Auxiliary Outreach is a partnership formed by one member, a group of members or an Auxiliary for the benefit of their community or its institutions.

National President Brenda Bryant has chosen a tree as her symbol and her theme is ***From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Services to Our Veterans***. By extending outside of our Roots in our Post homes, we grow our branches to our communities and new potential members.

Your Auxiliary should approve and record in the meeting minutes that they want to partner with an outside organization prior to the event. Attending a City Council or Chamber of Commerce meeting are excellent ways of keeping aware of upcoming community and civic events in your area. Another source of information is your area newspaper or online community Facebook pages.

A simple way to think about how to do a successful Auxiliary Outreach project is to remember the **P.A.P.E.R.**

Partner: Find an organization that is doing a community event.

Approve: Pass a motion at your Auxiliary meeting to partner with that organization for their success.

Participate: Assist the other organization with whatever they need.

Emblem: Wear items or apparel that identifies you as a member on the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

Report: Send a report of the event to your Department Chairperson as well as to newspapers and post on social media using #Auxiliaryoutreach.

Just some areas that you should be thinking about are:

- Partner with your First Responders
 - Assist police with Child ID kits – Assist EMTs hosting CPR training or for water safety classes.
- Partner with senior citizen groups
 - Deliver groceries or deliver for Meals on Wheels – Teach a basic computer class at a senior center.
- Partner with animal centers
 - -Assist at an animal shelter.
- Partner with City/County departments
 - -Assist with a public area cleanup or renovation – volunteer at the public library when they have an event.
- Partner with food banks or help the hungry and/or homeless
 - Assist at a food bank – sort donations at a homeless shelter.

It is wildfire season in many states, please contact your local fire department and ask to partner with them for assisting at a relief station for the firefighters or at the evacuation centers. Fires displace not only humans but animals as well, so there are evacuation centers for the animals that need volunteers.

When we volunteer in our community, not only are we helping others, but we also gain new skills, increase confidence, meet new people, help fight stress and depression, gain personal growth and develop a stronger sense of purpose.

The Auxiliary Outreach Program is about giving yourself and your time, while showing the public a view of who we are as an organization. The gift of time to others is priceless!