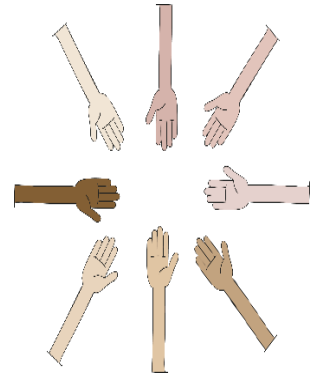


2024-25 Auxiliary Outreach Program



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Auxiliary Outreach is so much easier than it sounds. We know that we all feel good when we have events and things go well, people enjoy themselves and make new friends. Even though we love our veterans, this program is about getting out into the community, showing what the VFW Auxiliary is all about.

When you find out that there is an organization that could use some help, bring it to your next meeting and vote on whether to participate or not. While participating make sure to get pictures of the volunteers in their VFW Auxiliary gear (shirt, hat, badge, jacket, etc.) and after the event, fill out the very simple report form, attach 1 or 2 pictures and send it to me.

If a car club is having a show or the local softball league is playing a game, volunteer to help work in the concession stand. Nothing says you can't chat up the VFW Auxiliary and wear Auxiliary gear while doing it. If the fire department is having a spaghetti dinner to raise funds, help them set up the hall, serve some food, cleanup (and we all could use some more help cleaning up after our events – right?).

There are endless possibilities to show off the VFW Auxiliary to everyone! Who knows, you might even get some new members while making new friends, wouldn't that just be wonderful?!?!? In this packet is a list of what does & what does not qualify. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Now what you can't do is donate money or in-kind items to any of these functions. It has to be you and all of our most precious commodity – TIME!

Get out in the world, help other organizations with their events and let them know that the Department of Maryland VFW Auxiliary is a helping friend to all!

VFW Auxiliary Outreach Guide

What Does and Does Not Qualify



What is Auxiliary Outreach?

Auxiliary Outreach is volunteer work performed by an Auxiliary under the direction of another organization, for the benefit of their community or its institutions. It is a donation of time, not in-kind or monetary donations. It's about partnering with other organizations in our communities to help improve where we live. Auxiliary Outreach can:

- Be performed by people of any age, skill set or ability level.
- Benefit any group of people such as youth, 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.

What's Considered Auxiliary Outreach

Examples include:

- Working walks or runs 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; that's participation, not partnering.)
- Working with local police on child ID kits or with EMTs to host CPR Training.
- Working with firefighters on fire safety and prevention.
- Working with parks and recreation departments to plant trees, develop non-veteran related community art installations and on adopt-a-park initiatives.
- Helping with a spay and neuter animal clinic.
- Serving food at soup kitchens.

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. Examples of projects that do not qualify include:

- Repairs to, maintenance or beautification of 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.
- Providing an honor guard at a member's funeral.
- Flying the American Flag.
- Conducting Flag retirement programs.
- Church activities for one specific congregation and not the entire community (e.g., usher, elder, deacon, minister, etc.)

Examples

1. John, an Auxiliary member, mowed his neighbor's lawn out of the goodness of his heart. This is not Auxiliary Outreach. John found out his local senior center helps mow lawns for individuals in the community. He brought that up at a meeting. The Auxiliary voted to partner with the senior center. This is Auxiliary Outreach.
2. Jane, an Auxiliary member, went to donate blood. She noticed how busy the Red Cross volunteers were. She offered to stay to help them, and they accepted. This is not Auxiliary Outreach. However, while she was there, she asked if they could use help in

the future. So, when Jane went to her monthly meeting, she told her fellow Auxiliary members about the need for volunteers at the blood drive. Her Auxiliary voted to help at these drives. Now when there is a blood drive Jane and other members of her Auxiliary are there, wearing Auxiliary attire and helping. This is Auxiliary Outreach.

VFW Community Service and VFW Auxiliary Outreach

VFW Auxiliary Outreach is similar to the VFW Community Service Program. Below is an excerpt from what the VFW communicates to their Posts. We hope this will help you to know what can and cannot be reported under this Program for both the VFW and the Auxiliary.

VFW Community Service

Community Service as defined by the National Community Service Trust Act “encompasses any human act serving the common good; in the interest of the community.” Elsewhere, community service is further defined as “a service that is performed for the benefit of the public or its institutions.”

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. subscribes to the above but adds that, for the purposes of volunteer recognition, VFW community service must be performed by and as a representative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and must be performed for an organization outside the VFW and its Auxiliaries and must be verified by an authorized representative of that organization.

In addition, efforts performed for the benefit of the Post or Auxiliary’s benefit should not be considered as community service.

A particularly controversial area in VFW community service is service to one’s church. Generally, these efforts are not considered community service for two reasons: 1) they are not performed for the community at large; 2) they are part of an individual’s service to their faith and not to the VFW. The exception to this would be performing the same service for all religious organizations in a given community.

Important Auxiliary Additions to VFW Community Service:

1. Wear something that signifies you are a member of the VFW Auxiliary.
2. The project must be voted on during an Auxiliary meeting. *(The VFW also requires this in another section of their instructions.)*
3. If what you are doing is reportable under another Auxiliary Program, report it under that Program, not under Auxiliary Outreach.
4. Auxiliary work* (e.g., Outreach, Americanism, Veterans & Family Support, etc.) is to be reported to your local VFW Post Adjutant so it can be added to their report. This will help your Post with eligibility for the National Outstanding Community Service Post Award.
5. Auxiliary Outreach volunteer work need not be verified by the organization you are partnering with. *(This is a VFW requirement only.)*

Auxiliaries are responsible for so many good deeds that help our communities. Collectively, all our projects need to be counted to effectively show the importance of the local VFW and VFW Auxiliary to the community.

We hope this provides clarification on this Program. If you are unsure of whether your project will count toward the Auxiliary Outreach Program, contact your Department Chairman with your questions.

**VFW Community Service encompasses many Auxiliary Programs, not just Auxiliary Outreach. Therefore, all that your Auxiliary does is to be reported to the Post Adjutant.*



VFW Auxiliary Outreach

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q.:** Every year my Auxiliary participates in a walk in our area that raises awareness about suicide prevention. Members walk in the event and donate \$100 to the organization. Can the number of hours and members who walked in the event count toward Auxiliary Outreach?

A.: This is a great team-building activity for your Auxiliary, however, walking or running in an event/race may not be reported under Auxiliary Outreach. This example may be reported under Veterans & Family Support as that's where Veteran & Military Suicide Awareness and Prevention falls.
- Q.:** Members of a local Auxiliary were asked to sit on their county board to help raise money and volunteer to work at a dedication of a memorial that honors veterans. Since it was not a VFW- or VFW Auxiliary-sponsored event, can this be reported under Auxiliary Outreach?

A.: No, it cannot be reported under Auxiliary Outreach. It's for veterans and the betterment of the community, therefore, it should be reported under Americanism.
- Q.:** A few of the ways listed to participate in Auxiliary Outreach involve youth. Wouldn't this be reported under the Auxiliary's Youth Activities Program?

A.: It depends on the project. For example, if you are putting on a patriotic program at a school with your Auxiliary, that is reported under Americanism and/or Youth Activities. If your Auxiliary volunteers with the Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts to teach them the Folds of the Flag, that is reported under Americanism and/or Youth Activities. If your Auxiliary partners at the Boys & Girls Club to tutor a group of kids, that is reported under Auxiliary Outreach.
- Q.:** Our Auxiliary purchases and delivers turkeys for a food pantry every Thanksgiving. Does this get reported under Auxiliary Outreach?

A.: No, it does not. Dropping off turkeys for a Thanksgiving meal is not the same as volunteering time in the food pantry organizing food, serving meals, bussing tables, etc.
- Q.:** Our Auxiliary partners with another organization to host a sock collection at our local Walmart. Does this qualify as Auxiliary Outreach?

A.: It depends. If you stay and man the collection, then yes. If you drop off a collection bin and leave, then no.

If you are unsure of whether your project for will count toward the Auxiliary Outreach Program, contact your Department Chairman with your questions.



**Auxiliary Outreach
2024 - 2025 Report Form**
Karen Rooker, PDP Dept. Chairman
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Auxiliary Number _____ District _____ Month _____

Reporting Period: From _____ To _____

Chairman _____ Chairman Contact Info _____

TOTAL THIS REPORT - Hours _____ Mileage _____ # of Volunteers _____

Volunteer programs and projects NOT AFFILIATED with VFW or VFW Auxiliary Programs:

Number of organizations your auxiliary volunteered/partnered with this reporting period:

- a. First Responders # _____
- b. Churches # _____
- c. Towns # _____
- d. Disaster Relief (not donations) # _____
- e. Cancer, Heart, ALS Association, etc. # _____
- f. Other _____ # _____

Don't forget to take pictures, there is a contest at the end of the year!

Volunteer's Name	Project Group or Organization Name	Activity	Date of Project	Hours	Miles

Briefly describe your Auxiliary's Community Outreach involvement for this reporting period: