



South Dakota Department VFW Auxiliary
Auxiliary Outreach
Bulletin May 2025

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*
Department Theme: *United in Service for Veterans*

Congratulations to Department of South Dakota – our program reporting year is over!

Here are the highlights of the Auxiliary Outreach accomplished this year:

All 35 South Dakota Auxiliaries reported

25 Auxiliaries participated in this program (remember, Auxiliaries are not required to work on ALL National Programs)

Auxiliaries partnered with a total of 106 organizations other than VFW & Auxiliary
Volunteer hours totaled 7,396

I must admit, there is still confusion as to what should be reported under this program. I received several reports that included “partnering with schools” – that is actually something to report under Youth Activities.

Please keep the following in mind as we enter a new program year.

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.)

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman for 2024-2025.

Department Chairman
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