

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

**South Dakota Department VFW Auxiliary
Auxiliary Outreach
Bulletin July, 2024**

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

Auxiliary Outreach is a program with a focus on volunteering, not monetary OR in-kind donations. Activities can be a single day or ongoing events/activities.

The purpose is Auxiliaries volunteering to help nonprofit organizations, local groups and to address needs in your community. What Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary is looking to do is to help the community through our acts, not to determine what these organizations can do for us.

The first step is to reach into your community. How do we do this? Here are some suggestions:

- Find local groups and organizations needing assistance
- Ask what your Auxiliary can do to help
- Vote at an Auxiliary meeting to approve the activity
- Form a partnership with the group or organization
- Report the details of your Auxiliary's involvement. This can be accomplished by passing a notebook at each monthly meeting; members should document the activity (group or organization volunteering with), the number of hours volunteered, and the number of miles driven to the activity.

While helping another organization, identify yourself as a VFW Auxiliary member (& to get Auxiliary Outreach credit), wear an Auxiliary item. This can be a shirt, hat, jacket or a name tag. Be proud to wear these items and smile! Be sure to take pictures when assisting another organization as there is a National Award this year for the best photo collage of community events. Volunteering can be done as an individual or as a group.

The benefits of the Auxiliary Outreach program are:

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

Auxiliary Outreach projects cannot be affiliated with the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the VFW Auxiliary. Events held at you Post Home are allowed if:

- ✓ The VFW or Auxiliary did not plan the activity and will not benefit from the activity.
- ✓ The organization is using the Post Home only as a venue to hold its event and the complete preliminary planning was on their own.
- ✓ Auxiliary members are only there as volunteers to help on the day(s) of the event.

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