

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

**South Dakota Department VFW Auxiliary
Auxiliary Outreach
Bulletin November 2024**

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

Auxiliary Outreach is all about volunteering in our communities. YES, there are some stipulations for a project to qualify under this program:

- Projects can't be affiliated with sponsored VFW or Auxiliary programs/projects.
- Neither monetary donations or donation of goods are to be made in conjunction with the project – ONLY volunteer time.
- Partnering with organizations needs to be approved at a regular Auxiliary meeting.

Why just volunteer our time? Giving of our time is helpful to our community organizations and it is good for us as individuals.

- Volunteering can make you happy.
- Volunteering provides an opportunity to meet new friends.
- Volunteering increases self-confidence.
- Volunteering gives you a sense of purpose.
- Volunteering can counteract anxiety, stress, anger and can combat depression.

Finding volunteer opportunities is easy - simply check with your Auxiliary members to see what organizations they are active in. This time of year, extra hands are needed by lots of worthy organizations. Remember to wear something with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary emblem to help in promoting our organization.

I truly feel it necessary to repeat information regarding VFW Community Service from last month – so here it is.

VFW Community Service and VFW Auxiliary Outreach

VFW Auxiliary Outreach is very much like the VFW Community Service. It is hoped that this will help you know what can and cannot be reported under this Program for both VFW and the Auxiliary. Following is an excerpt as to what VFW communicates to Posts.

VFW Community Service is defined by the National Community Service Trust Act as “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.)

NOTE: Program Reporting is now available on the Dept. website (www.vfwauxsd.org) under Log-in; then go to Report Entry. Be sure to register your activities throughout the year! The VFW Community Service report form is also available at this location.

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.

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.

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