

## **Auxiliary Outreach Program**

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The Auxiliary Outreach Program is a newer program and a program that allows the Auxiliary to partner together with local groups and organizations in the community. Auxiliary Outreach allows an auxiliary member or many members to volunteer within the community for the benefit of the community or institutions.

Auxiliary Outreach can:

- Be performed by people of any age, skill set, or ability level.
- Benefit any group of people such as children, senior citizens, and those with disabilities.
- Benefit animals, the environment, and public spaces.
- Be done in communities of all types and sizes whether rural, suburban and urban, small or large.

We volunteer to make a difference in our community, but we receive benefits including:

- Helping others
- Learning new skills
- Career advancement
- Increased confidence
- Meeting new people
- Personal Growth
- Fighting stress & depression
- Developing a stronger sense of purpose

### **Outreach and the VFW Auxiliary**

While emphasis is placed on our core VFW and Auxiliary Programs, we also realize that Auxiliary members participate with other community organizations. Now Auxiliary members can report and be recognized for any and all community work through the Auxiliary Outreach Program. These projects can also include the VFW.

When doing the projects, you should be dressed in Auxiliary-branded attire such as a shirt, jacket, hat or even a nametag. By wearing these items, it shows who we are and a conversation can start up on what our organization is all about and also shows other volunteers the amazing work we do for veterans.

### **What's Considered Auxiliary Outreach**

When an entire Auxiliary volunteers for an organization outside our own, it should be considered Auxiliary Outreach, **if the project was approved by the Auxiliary and recorded in the meeting minutes prior to the project.** On rare occasions such as a natural disaster or an emergency community need, the project may be voted on after the fact. (When the entire Auxiliary volunteers and only one member shows up it still counts as Auxiliary Outreach).

Examples include:

- ❖ Participation in walks 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.)
- ❖ Working with local police on child ID kits.
- ❖ Working with firefighters on fire safety and prevention.
- ❖ Working with EMT's to host CPR training.
- ❖ Working with parks and recreation departments to plant trees, adopt-a-park initiatives, and develop community art installations.
- ❖ Volunteering at an animal shelter.
- ❖ Serving food at soup kitchens.
- ❖ Delivering food for Meals on Wheels.

When we participate in Auxiliary Outreach, we become better citizens of our communities.

### **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 service. Examples of projects that do not qualify include:

- Repairs or maintenance to 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.
- Church activities for one specific congregation and not the entire community (e.g., usher, elder, deacon, minister, etc.)

## **What qualifies vs what does not qualify as Auxiliary Outreach?**

### **QUALIFIES**

- ❖ Spending time in a local homeless shelter kitchen serving means, bussing tables, or cleaning up.
- ❖ Working with the police and fire department on bicycle or home safety training class.
- ❖ Your Auxiliary approves helping a local cancer group setting up their event or staffing a booth.
- ❖ Volunteering with the garden club to clean up local parks.
- ❖ Help a youth group collect food donations for the local food pantry.

### **DOES NOT QUALIFY**

- ❖ Taking comfort items to the local USO.
- ❖ Donating trophies to a youth sports group.
- ❖ Hosting a luncheon/dinner for a local community club.
- ❖ Sending an auxiliary check to support a charity that organized a walk-a-thon or run.
- ❖ Collecting clothing and comfort items for homeless veterans at the Post Home. (This would be Veterans and Family Support.)
- ❖ Passing the collection basket at church services.

### **NATIONAL AWARDS-For Auxiliaries**

1. Most outstanding community partnership with another organization.

\*Citation to every Auxiliary that partners with another organization within their community.

Criteria and entry form (required) available at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources). Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairmen by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

The Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman must send a copy of all submitted entry forms to National Headquarters by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org) a total combined list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form.

Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

\*Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding community partnership.

The Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department winning entry for to the National Auxiliary Outreach Ambassador by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 for judging.

\*Citations will be mailed directly to the winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

### **Awards for Departments and Department Chairmen**

1. \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most effective promotion of the Auxiliary Outreach Program. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

2. Outstanding Performance Award in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on Page X and for the promotion of the Program goals listed at the top of Page X. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

### **Department of California Awards:**

1. Citations will be awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner for Best Overall Promotion within each division.
2. A certificate and a \$25 VFW Store Gift Card to the most Outstanding Auxiliary Chairman for the best promotion of the Auxiliary Outreach Program in the state.

### **Department Legacy Awards**

A Legacy Award will be awarded to one Outstanding Auxiliary Chairman for best Performance in the Auxiliary Outreach Program.