

# AUXILIARY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Hello, Department of California! This is going to be a great year! Auxiliary members are not 'one-dimensional' in our desire to help people -- we are not focused solely on veterans' issues. Rather, we take part in many types of volunteer activities to benefit our communities. This Program acknowledges the generous sharing spirit Auxiliary members have and helps us fully report on those activities as we volunteer our time and talents to improve the lives of people and institutions in our communities.

## **Goal:**

The goal of the **Auxiliary Outreach Program** is to allow our members to engage in / report on / and be recognized for the community work they do with **other** organizations or programs **outside** of the VFW and VFW Auxiliary that benefits the community and/or its institutions.

## **Endless Possibilities:**

There are zillions of activities that may be legitimately approved and reported on, such as working with school and youth groups, faith-based organizations, and community service groups. For example:

- You can volunteer in food banks and pantries, rescue missions, Meals on Wheels, No Kid Hungry, soup kitchens, etc., in your community
- You can host a blood drive, Community Emergency Response Team disaster preparedness classes, or CPR and First Aid training classes
- You can part in a run/walk for health-based groups like the American Cancer Society, the American Foundation for the Blind, the Alzheimer's Association, the National Association of the Deaf, the Special Olympics, etc., 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.)
- You can volunteer your time at assisted living and nursing homes, or volunteer at a community breakfast
- You can work with parks and recreation departments to plant trees, develop non-veteran-related community art facilities and on adopt-a-park initiatives. You can volunteer your time to help with after-school arts and crafts programs, become a crossing guard or school curbside valet, library assistant, help with a holiday toy drive, tutor kids at a Boys & Girls Club, etc.
- You can work with animals at shelters and local humane society rescue groups
- AND SO MUCH MORE...!

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## **Approval Action Needed First:**

Auxiliaries will have to get a motion approved on the floor of the Auxiliary in their meetings for their members to volunteer for a specific community event or program as a *representative of the VFW Auxiliary, prior to doing that volunteer work*. Furthermore, the approval must be recorded in the meeting minutes by the Auxiliary Secretary before those volunteer hours can be reported and counted. (That will constitute establishing an Auxiliary Outreach Program for that Auxiliary.) Then, individual members or whole groups of members can represent the Auxiliary and take part in volunteering for that event or program. No compensation may be received. The Auxiliary Outreach Program is restricted to participation in other community services that are **not** affiliated with VFW or Auxiliary Programs already. Auxiliaries are encouraged to approve as comprehensive a list of activities, projects and events as they can, early in the reporting year, in order to ensure that only approved events or programs are included in reports. Photos and flyers should also be included.

## **Reports:**



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Please make sure to enter your reports online soon after event.

When you do volunteer work as part of the VFW Auxiliary, you shine a positive light on our organization and keep us relevant in the community. There are many 'up sides' to volunteering in your community – everybody wins!

## **Awards:**

### **➤ Awards for Auxiliaries:**

1. Most outstanding Auxiliary Outreach activity and/or event that is shared on social media using #AuxiliaryOutreach.

- Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that shares the most outstanding Auxiliary Outreach activity and/or event using #AuxiliaryOutreach during the current Program Year.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

The Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Auxiliary Outreach Ambassador by April 30, 2026 for judging.

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Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary 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 best promotion of the Auxiliary Outreach Program. Winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

2. The Outstanding Performance Award and Second-Place Outstanding Performance Award will be awarded in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on page 5 and for the promotion of the Program goals listed at the top of page 14. Winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

The Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Auxiliary Outreach Ambassador by April 15, 2026, for judging.

➤ **Department:** A certificate (each) to the most outstanding District Chairman and Auxiliary Chairman for the best promotion of the Auxiliary Community Outreach Program.

**Notable Exceptions:**

The Auxiliary Outreach Program is not for projects or activities that benefit the Post or Auxiliary, such as fundraisers, meetings, or maintenance work. Church or faith-based activities must benefit the wider community, not be limited to just one specific congregation.

Let *me* start by taking this opportunity to shout a big “**THANK YOU!**” for all you do. Call or e-mail me with any questions – I’m here to help.

Cordially,

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Lakeside, CA 92040

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