

## SEPTEMBER AUXILIARY OUTREACH PROGRAM PROMOTION

The key to the Auxiliary Outreach Program is to partner with other organizations for the benefit of the community, allowing members to engage in the community.

Here are some suggestions for September, keeping in mind the purpose of the program and the month's observances.

Remember if you can report it under a VFW or Auxiliary Program, it is not eligible to be reported as Auxiliary Outreach

### September Suggestions / Ideas

- **Start of the School Year:** Many schools and educational organizations are in need of support during this time.
- **Start of the Fall Season:** Focus on fall-related community events like harvest festivals or cleanup efforts.

### Program Suggestions (with partnering organizations)

#### 1. "Salute to Our First Responders" Project

- **Partner with:** Local police, fire, or EMT departments.
- **Activity:** Participate in an event. This could be as simple as delivering baked goods and thank-you cards to a fire station or as involved as helping them host a public open house. Your members could assist with setup, serving food, or guiding visitors.
- **Why it works:** This is a direct way to show appreciation for those who serve the community and align with the Program.

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#### "Walk for a Cause" Participation

- **Partner with:** A local non-profit that is holding a walk/run for a cause.
- **Activity:** Volunteer to assist at the event. Your members could be water station volunteers, race route guides, or help with registration and packet pickup. (Note: The VFW Auxiliary states that walking/running in the race itself does not count as Auxiliary Outreach, but volunteering does.)

- **Why it works:** This allows your members to support a cause they care about while promoting the VFW Auxiliary's presence in the community. It's an easy way to get many members involved.

### **School Supply or Teacher Appreciation Drive**

- **Partner with:** A local school, school district, or a non-profit that supports education.
- **Activity:** Collect and sort school supplies to be given to students in need. You could also create and deliver "teacher survival kits" with classroom supplies and snacks for the beginning of the school year.
- **Why it works:** This directly benefits the community's youth and institutions, and it's a project with a clear, tangible outcome.

### **Community Cleanup & Beautification**

- **Partner with:** Your local Parks and Recreation Department, a community garden, or a "Friends of the Park" group.
- **Activity:** Participate in a park or riverbank cleanup day. Your members could spend a few hours raking leaves, picking up litter, or planting flowers.
- **Why it works:** This is a visible, hands-on way to improve the community and can be a great team-building activity for your members. It's a classic example of community service.

### **How to Implement These Programs**

1. **Select a program idea:** Present a few options to your Auxiliary and vote on one or more that have good member interest.
2. **Contact the partner organization:** Reach out to the organization you want to work with and explain your goal. Be clear that you are a volunteer group from the VFW Auxiliary and are looking to assist them with one of their existing programs.
3. **Approve and Record:** Formally approve the activity at your next Auxiliary meeting and record it in the Secretary's Minutes.

4. **Volunteer:** Have your members show up on the day of the event, wearing their VFW Auxiliary attire (hat, shirt, or pin) so the public knows who they are.
5. **Report:** After the event, report on the number of members who participated and the total hours they volunteered. This is crucial for getting credit for the Program.

Looking forward to your reports!

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