



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH July 2020



In the history of the Auxiliary, we have done this same work under the titles of Community Service, Community Activities. We are now updating this program to include what we are all about; community outreach.

AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH is volunteer work performed by one member, a group of members or an Auxiliary to benefit their community or its institutions. It gives us the opportunity to do more with the local communities, schools and other civic, faith-based and youth organizations. Volunteering is second nature for VFW Auxiliary members. It is time for us to reveal ourselves and take an active role in community events and affairs. You probably already volunteer with your local Rotary or Kiwanis Club, Boy/Girl Scouts, youth sports, after school programs or senior centers. This is only a small part of the list of local community activities you can be involved in. Here are a few more to think about: Kid/Education with GED tutoring & mentoring Career Skills; Hunger/Homeless/Assisting the elderly; Helping at a community garden or with maintenance at the local park/ Participating at a local animal shelter. Host an Open House and welcome your local neighbors to see what the VFW and VFW Auxiliary is all about. It would be an ideal opportunity to host a Family Freedom Festival.

It is **important** that at the beginning of the Program Year a motion is made on the floor that when a member(s) volunteers their time for a civic, school community program etc. they are representing the VFW Auxiliary. The member should turn in their hours served to be reported for Auxiliary Community Outreach. Use a spiral notebook to be passed around at each Auxiliary meeting to record the hours. Members can list their name, date, activities and hours. If there were any monies spent list that as well. Collectively **all** our volunteer hours need to be counted to effectively show the importance of the local VFW and VFW Auxiliary to the community.

PLEASE NOTE: Auxiliary Community 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 community service.

***Examples of projects that do not qualify include: Repairs or maintenance to 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 (usher, elder, deacon minister, etc.)

Start brainstorming ideas to do outreach in your own community. Then taking into consideration COVID-19 guidelines for your area, devise a plan to enhance your visibility.

"Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans" as we "Soar Like an Eagle for Veterans"

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