



AUXILIARY OUTREACH 2025-2026

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The Auxiliary Outreach program is all about what we can do to help our communities by volunteering alongside your local organizations at their events.

Your Outreach program will be a complete success if you do the following:

- Seek out groups and organizations in your community and ask them what the Auxiliary can do for them.
- Bring the project(s) to a vote at your meeting or have ongoing activities voted on at the beginning of the year. Put the recurring projects into your standing rules.
- This is a partnership between your Auxiliary and the community. Ensure that it's not always the exact same people doing these projects. If you're committed to a certain organization, encourage the other members to help you out, too. They may also find their passion.
- Wear the Auxiliary attire proudly. You want the community to recognize that the Auxiliary is always available to lend a helping hand. A shirt, jacket or hat with the Auxiliary emblem can start a conversation about the Auxiliary and what we do. It is also a great way to show members volunteering out in our communities and not just in our Post Homes. You want to be visible in the communities.
- When reporting your Outreach events, remember that you cannot report a monetary value for your participation. Donating funds or purchasing for groups does not constitute volunteering your hours.

In addition to reporting your program project participation for your department, highlight your volunteer efforts on social media with #AuxiliaryOutreach. This will go out to offer ideas to other auxiliaries throughout the country.

Volunteering should become second nature within your Auxiliary. Almost every month has a day or a week dedicated to recognizing volunteerism. Get the word out about these special days and plan to do something special. You can research more examples, but consider these:

- August 5, 2025—National Night Out Day
- September 11, 2025—National Day of Service and Remembrance
- October 4, 2025—Be the Change Day
- October 25, 2025—National Make a Difference Day
- November 13, 2025—World Kindness Day
- November 22, 2025—National Family Volunteer Day
- December 5, 2025—International Volunteer Day
- January 28, 2026—Global Community Engagement Day
- February 9-13, 2026—Student Volunteer Week
- March 9-13, 2026—AmeriCorps Week
- April 12, 2026—Good Deeds Day
- April 19-25, 2026—National Volunteer Week
- April 24, 2026—Global Youth Service Day
- May 2, 2026—VFW Day of Service Action

Our Department President's theme this year is: "Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today". As you are helping to carry out the theme, make sure you wear the "Dorothy" pin on your Auxiliary shirt, hat, jacket, etc. This pin will be a conversation starter and will put smiles on everyone's faces. You can volunteer your time to help support the Special Project this year, which is the Hospital program.

The National President is proud to carry the theme of "From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans—Who Keep Us Free". Make sure to purchase a pin that showcases a lighthouse. The Continuing Education Scholarship is the special project for the year.

The Department of Missouri Award for outstanding projects will be judged based on teamwork within the Auxiliary.

- First Place will receive \$20 and a Citation to the one Auxiliary in each of the four program divisions.
- Second Place will receive a Citation to one Auxiliary in each of the four program divisions.

Remember to report and share your events. There may be other Auxiliaries who could use some new ideas to volunteer, and you may find some great things to do, too.

I look forward to chairing this amazing program again this year and am anxious to see and share all your wonderful things that your Auxiliaries are doing to work in our communities. Please make sure to report all projects and activities to the Online Reporting System at: www.vfwauxmo.org