

AUXILIARY OUTREACH 2024-2025

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Volunteering is second nature for VFW Auxiliary members. It's what we do, how we do it, where we do it and why we do it – because it's always the right thing to do.

When an Auxiliary partners with another organization outside our own, it is considered Auxiliary Outreach if the project was approved by the Auxiliary and recorded in the meeting minutes prior to the project. Partnerships with other organizations can be a single event or multiple events throughout the year.

Examples of Auxiliary Community Outreach include but are not limited to:

*Honor First Responders

*Hosting a Blood Drive

*Tutoring or reading to students

*Meals on wheels

*Joint programs with American Cancer, Alzheimer's Group, American Diabetes *Working with Police or Fire Departments on Safety programs

*Local humane societies or animal rescue groups *Backpack meals for kids on weekends Always show your pride in the VFW Auxiliary by wearing Auxiliary-branded attire when you participate in Auxiliary Outreach events. 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. Our Department President's theme this year is: "Helping our Veterans by Bridging the Gap". Let's help them out by helping in our community and supporting everyone and each other!

The "Building Bridges" Award will be judged based on teamwork within the Auxiliary and including VFW members.

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

I look forward to working with everyone this year and am anxious to see and share all of 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: <u>www.vfwauxmo.org</u>