

Mid-winter Conference – Auxiliary Outreach

Auxiliary Outreach is partnering with organizations for the benefit of your community or it's institutions. While emphasis is placed on our core VFW and Auxiliary programs, we realize auxiliaries also participate with other community organizations. Auxiliaries can now report and be recognized for such community work through the Auxiliary Outreach Program. Projects may be done by the Auxiliary alone or with the VFW Post. Collectively, all of our volunteer hours need to be counted to effectively show the importance of the local VFW and VFW Auxiliary to the community.

Be visible and show your pride in the VFW Auxiliary by wearing Auxiliary branded attire when you participate in Auxiliary outreach. 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.

While volunteering at an event with an organization, you can engage with others about who we are and what we do. This is a great way to provide information about our Programs and attract new members who have a similar passion for our mission. Think of this as a way to invite the outside into our organization.

Steps to a successful Auxiliary Outreach project:

- Partner with organizations that could use assistance.
- Vote and approve a motion to provide that assistance at your meeting.
- At least one Auxiliary member must participate in the event.
- Wear VFW Auxiliary attire while participating (shirt, hat, name badge, lanyard, etc.) and share info about the VFW Auxiliary, what we do, why we do it and, of course, how they can become a part of our organization if they are eligible!

Suggested Auxiliary Outreach events for partnerships:

- Partnering with First Responders: assist Police with Child ID kits or assist EMTs hosting CPR training.
- Senior Citizens Centers: deliver groceries or deliver for Meals on Wheels or teach a basic computer class at a senior center.
- Help animals and the environment by partnering with an animal shelter, plant a tree with parks and recreation or clean a public area.
- Help the food insecure and/or homeless: partner with a food bank or help sort donations at a homeless shelter.
- Partner with the Red Cross or others at their blood drives.
- Events can be held at your Post Home if the volunteers are only there to help another organization and the Auxiliary did not plan the event.
- Auxiliary Outreach is for projects not affiliated with VFW or VFW Auxiliary Programs.
- Donations, either monetary or of goods, are also not reportable under the program. Time, funds and goods should be reported to your Post using the VFW Community Service report.

Auxiliary Outreach can:

- Be performed by people of any age, skill set or ability level.
- Benefit any group of people such as children, senior citizens and those with disabilities.
- Benefit animals, the environment and public spaces.
- Be done in communities of all types and sizes – rural, suburban and urban, small and large.

We partner to make a difference in our community, but we also receive benefits including:

- Helping others
- Learning new skills
- Career advancement
- Increased confidence
- Meeting new people
- Fighting stress and depression
- Developing a stronger sense of purpose

Awards for Auxiliaries

Most outstanding photo collage created by the VFW Auxiliary of their VFW Auxiliary Outreach partnerships during the current Program Year.

- Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that creates the most outstanding photo collage of their VFW Auxiliary partnerships during the current Program Year.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman by March 31, 2025 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, 2025 for judging.

Alicia Weix

Auxiliary Outreach Chairman