



VFW Auxiliary Community Outreach Guide What Does and Does Not Qualify

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Kathie's Motto: Never Forget the Difference you Make and her Symbol.

What is Auxiliary Community Outreach? Auxiliary Community Outreach is volunteer work performed by an Auxiliary under the direction of another organization, for the benefit of their community or its institutions. It is a donation of time, not in-kind or monetary donations. It's about partnering with other organizations in our communities to help improve where we live. Auxiliary Community Outreach can:

- Be performed by people of any age, skill set or ability level.
- Benefit any group of people such as youth, 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.

What's Considered Auxiliary Community Outreach Examples include:

- Working walks or runs that benefit other organizations as an event spotter, water station volunteer, timekeeper, etc. (Walking or running in the race is not part of Auxiliary Community Outreach; that's participation, not partnering.)
- Collaborating with local police on child ID kits or with EMTs to host CPR Training.
- Collaborating with firefighters on fire safety and prevention.
- Working with parks and recreation departments to plant trees, develop non-veteran related community art installations and on adopt-a-park initiatives.
- Helping with a spay and neuter animal clinic.
- Handing out food at soup kitchens.

What's **Not Considered Auxiliary Community Outreach** 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 Outreach. Examples of projects that do not qualify include:

- Repairs to, maintenance or beautification of the 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.
- Providing an honor guard at a member's funeral.
- Flying the American Flag.
- Conducting Flag retirement programs.
- Church activities for one specific congregation and not the entire community (e.g., usher, elder, deacon, minister, etc.)

Examples

1. John, an auxiliary member, mowed his neighbor's lawn out of the goodness of his heart. This is not Auxiliary Community Outreach. John found out his local senior center helps mow lawns for individuals in the community. He mentioned that at a meeting. The Auxiliary voted to partner with the senior center. This is Auxiliary Community Outreach.

2. Jane, an auxiliary member, went to donate blood. She noticed how busy the Red Cross volunteers were. She offered to stay to help them, and they accepted. This is not Auxiliary Community Outreach. However, while she was there, she asked if they could use help in the future. So, when Jane went to her monthly meeting, she told her fellow Auxiliary members about the need for volunteers at the blood drive. Her Auxiliary voted to help with these drives. Now when there is a blood drive Jane and some other members of her Auxiliary are there, wearing Auxiliary attire and helping. This is Auxiliary Community Outreach.