



# VFW Auxiliary Outreach Guide

## VFW Auxiliary Outreach vs. VFW Community Service

### **VFW Community Service and VFW Auxiliary Outreach**

VFW Auxiliary Outreach is similar to the VFW Community Service Program. Below is an excerpt from what the VFW communicates to their Posts. We hope this will help you to know what can and cannot be reported under this Program for both the VFW and the Auxiliary.

### **VFW Community Service**

*Community Service as defined by the National Community Service Trust Act*

*“encompasses any human act serving the common good; in the interest of the community.”*

*Elsewhere, community service is further defined as “a service that is performed for the benefit of the public or its institutions.”*

*The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. subscribes to the above but adds that, for the purposes of volunteer recognition, VFW community service must be performed by and as a representative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and must be performed for an organization outside the VFW and its Auxiliaries and must be verified by an authorized representative of that organization.*

*In addition, efforts performed for the Post or Auxiliary’s benefit should not be considered as community service.*

*A particularly controversial area in VFW community service is service to one’s church. Generally, these efforts are not considered community service for two reasons: 1) they are not performed for the community at large; 2) they are part of an individual’s service to their faith and not to the VFW. The exception to this would be performing the same service for all religious organizations in a given community.*

### **Important VFW Auxiliary Additions to VFW Community Service:**

- Wear something that signifies you are a member of the VFW Auxiliary.
- The project must be voted on during a VFW Auxiliary meeting.  
*(The VFW also requires this in another section of their instructions.)*
- If what you are doing is reportable under another VFW Auxiliary Program, report it under that Program, not under Auxiliary Outreach.
- VFW Auxiliary work\* (e.g., Outreach, Americanism, Veterans & Family Support, etc.) is to be reported to your local VFW Post Adjutant so it can be added to their report. This will help your VFW Post with eligibility for the National Outstanding Community Service VFW Post Award.
- Auxiliary Outreach volunteer work need not be verified by the organization you are partnering with. *(This is a VFW requirement only.)*

VFW Auxiliaries are responsible for so many good deeds that help our communities. Collectively, all our projects need to be counted to effectively show the importance of the local VFW and VFW Auxiliary to the community.

We hope this provides clarification on this Program. If you are unsure of whether your project will count toward the Auxiliary Outreach Program, contact your Department Chairman with your questions.

*\*VFW Community Service encompasses many VFW Auxiliary Programs, not just Auxiliary Outreach. Therefore, all that your VFW Auxiliary does is to be reported to the VFW Post Adjutant.*