Trunks, Treats & Teams!

Fall is here, and Trunk or Treat events offer a fun way to welcome families, connect with youth, and show our communities what the VFW Auxiliary is all about!

A few years ago, I heard an idea that has stuck with me: **an Auxiliary had a "trunk" for each program!** Imagine walking through an event where every decorated trunk introduces families to a different part of our mission. What a creative way to turn Halloween fun into opportunities for learning, service, and connection!

An Americanism trunk could feature patriotic decorations and a quick flag trivia game. Veterans & Family Support could invite children to make thank-you cards for veterans. A Scholarships trunk could introduce families to our contests, while **Youth Activities** could offer a simple craft and information about Illustrating America and your upcoming Lending Library. Reach out to your auxiliary and see how you could put this together.

BONUS: Give youth a role in the event, too. Invite Scouts, school clubs, youth groups, and members' children or grandchildren to help design decorations, create games, or run activities alongside adult volunteers. They bring imagination and energy—and gain a chance to practice teamwork and leadership.

Treats Beyond the Candy Bowl

Giveaways don't have to be sugary to be exciting! Coloring books, reading books, colored pencils, puzzles, and small toys make great alternatives to candy. Think mini activity books, bookmarks, stickers, or pocket-size games. Choose items appropriate for the ages attending, and consider asking community partners to help supply them. A child might finish a piece of candy before getting home, but a book or puzzle can keep the fun going!



Three More Reasons to Get Youth Involved

October 24 — Make a Difference Day
Let youth help choose a need in their community, then tackle it together. Collect needed items for a veterans' organization, clean up a neighborhood space, or assemble care packages using a recipient organization's wish list. Even one hour can make a difference!

November 13 — World Kindness Day
Challenge youth to spread kindness through small, thoughtful actions. Make cards for veterans or senior residents, write encouraging notes for classmates, or create a "kindness chain" with a paper link for each kind deed. Ask them: "Who could use a little extra kindness today?"

November 15 — America Recycles Day
Turn creativity into service! Invite youth to make decorations or useful crafts from clean, reused materials, organize a book-and-toy swap, or learn what their local recycling program accepts. Let older youth create signs to teach others how to recycle correctly.