

# VFW Auxiliary Outreach Guide

## What does and does not qualify



### **What is Auxiliary Outreach?**

Auxiliary Outreach is a partnership formed by a VFW Auxiliary with 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 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 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 Outreach; that's participation, not partnering.)
- Working with local police on child ID kits or with EMTs to host CPR Training.
- Working 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.
- Serving food in soup kitchens.

### **What's Not Considered Auxiliary Outreach**

Auxiliary Outreach is for projects NOT AFFILIATED with VFW or VFW Auxiliary Programs. Volunteer work that is performed for the benefit of the VFW Post or VFW Auxiliary is NOT considered 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 VFW Post or VFW Auxiliary fundraiser.
- "Buddy"® Poppy distribution.
- VFW or VFW 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.)
- Serving on a board in your community. (e.g., school board, board of trustees, etc.)
- Taking comfort items to the local USO.
- Donating trophies to a youth sports group.
- Hosting a luncheon/dinner for a local organization
- Sending a VFW Auxiliary check to support a charity.

### **Examples**

1. John, a VFW Auxiliary member, mowed his neighbor's lawn out of the goodness of his heart. This is not Auxiliary Outreach. John found out his local senior center helps mow

lawns for individuals in the community. He brought that up at a meeting. The Auxiliary voted to partner with the senior center. This is Auxiliary Outreach.

2. Jane, a VFW 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 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 VFW Auxiliary members about the need for volunteers at the blood drive. Her VFW Auxiliary voted to help at these drives. Now when there is a blood drive, Jane and other members of her VFW Auxiliary are there, wearing VFW Auxiliary attire and helping. This is Auxiliary Outreach.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q.:** Every year, my VFW Auxiliary participates in a walk in our area that raises awareness about suicide prevention. Members walk in the event and donate \$100 to the organization. Can the number of hours and members who walked in the event count toward Auxiliary Outreach?

**A.:** This is a great team-building activity for your Auxiliary, however, walking or running in an event/race may not be reported under Auxiliary Outreach. This example may be reported under Veterans & Family Support as that's where Veteran & Military Suicide Awareness and Prevention falls.

**Q.:** Members of a local VFW Auxiliary were asked to sit on their county board to help raise money and volunteer to work at a dedication of a memorial that honors veterans. Since it was not a VFW- or VFW Auxiliary-sponsored event, can this be reported under Auxiliary Outreach?

**A.:** No, it cannot be reported under Auxiliary Outreach. It's for veterans and the betterment of the community; therefore, it should be reported under Americanism.

**Q.:** A few of the ways listed to participate in Auxiliary Outreach involve youth. Wouldn't this be reported under the VFW Auxiliary's Youth Activities Program?

**A.:** It depends on the project. For example, if you are putting on a patriotic program at a school with your Auxiliary, that is reported under Americanism and/or Youth Activities. If your VFW Auxiliary volunteers with the Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts to teach them the folds of the Flag, that is reported under Americanism and/or Youth Activities. If your VFW Auxiliary partners at the Boys & Girls Club to tutor a group of kids, that is reported under Auxiliary Outreach.

**Q.:** Our VFW Auxiliary purchases and delivers turkeys for a food pantry every Thanksgiving. Does this get reported under Auxiliary Outreach?

**A.:** No, it does not. Dropping off turkeys for a Thanksgiving meal is not the same as volunteering time in the food pantry organizing food, serving meals, bussing tables, etc.

**Q.:** Our VFW Auxiliary partners with another organization to host a sock collection at our local Walmart. Does this qualify as Auxiliary Outreach?

**A.:** It depends. If you stay and man the collection, then yes. If you drop off a collection bin and leave, then no.

If you are unsure of whether your project will count toward the Auxiliary Outreach Program, contact your Department Chairman with your questions.