

2024-2025 American Legion Auxiliary Community Service Program Action Plan

Department Chairperson

Lorraine Kruskopp
18651 Alameda Street
Norman, OK 73026
(405) 496-2035
patzi99@sbcglobal.net

The Community Service program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's visibility within our localities through our commitment to community, state and nation.

What can you do?

1. Become visible within your community as a link to the veteran community. Get involved in community service projects to bring awareness of our mission to support veterans, servicemembers, their families and the community.

- Always wear your American Legion Auxiliary apparel or pin while volunteering in the community; it reinforces our brand promise by telling people who we are, what we do, and why we matter.
- Reach out to local ministers and first responders to indicate your willingness to be a designated responder for veteran families in need. Be sure to keep a list of veteran resources handy so you will be ready.
- Get involved with your neighbors and those outside our Legion family by volunteering at your local library, food pantry, domestic violence shelter, senior citizen centers, assisted living centers, nursing homes.
- Represent the Auxiliary as a member of local community boards and committees.
- Volunteer with your local Meals on Wheels to deliver meals on days when they are typically closed (i.e. Christmas and Thanksgiving).
- Volunteer to organize or assist with your community's Veterans Day observance.
- Organize and participate in service projects for veterans, servicemembers, their families and local community programs on ALA suggested days of service.
- Register service projects on websites, community forums and social media to attract other community members to participate in your service projects.
- Attend and represent the Auxiliary at special celebration events in the community such as holiday parades, grand openings of community facilities and community leader recognition ceremonies.

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Year-End Reports

Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the department and may result in a national award for participants if award requirements are met.

As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:

- Did members volunteer for or organize service projects for any of the ALA suggested days of service? If so, which days were most successful for offering service projects? Did you have any challenges?
- What types of community service activities and/or projects were done in your department?

Community Service Awards

National Report and Awards Cover Sheet, deadlines, and Community Service committee contact information may be found on the Community Service committee page on the national website. Be sure to include pictures and articles. To apply for National Awards, go to the form link below and submit online. All award submissions must include a narrative (either a PDF or Microsoft Word document) explaining why the unit you are nominating should receive the award. The narrative can also be the department chair's report. You may also upload other supporting documentation that will give the committee a full picture of the important mission work your unit has accomplished this year. These files can be photos (JPG, JPEG or TIFs — no larger than 14MB) or PDF documents. If you have more than three supporting files, please email the committee email address listed in the form.

National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program (per division)

- All unit entries must be submitted via [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Unit Award: Best Promotion of American Legion Family Day (one per division)

- All unit entries must be submitted via [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Additional Resources You Can Use

1. See your National Community Service Committee page on the national website:
 - ALA Service Not Self Volunteer Toolbox
 - How to Partner with Organizations for Community Outreach
 - How to Mobilize Community Support for Those Who Serve
 - How to Serve on National Days of Service
2. ALA suggested days of service:
 - 9-11 National Day of Service and Remembrance (observed annually on Sept. 11)
 - Make a Difference Day (observed on the fourth Saturday of Oct.)
 - Veterans Day (observed annually on Nov. 11)
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (observed on the third Monday of Jan.)
 - National Volunteer Week (usually the third week in April)