

The Community Service program

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

Your unit is the link to the veterans in your community. Bring awareness of our mission by doing projects to support veterans, service members, their families and the community.

AS A MEMBER, wear your ALA apparel or pin while volunteering in your area. It tells people who we are, what we do and why we matter. Remember if you order anything with the name or emblem from other than Emblem Sales, it must be approved by a request through the Department Headquarters to National Headquarters for approval by the national secretary.

Reach out to local churches and first responders to be a designated support for veteran families in need. Keep a list of resources handy so you can be helpful.

In your neighborhood, volunteer at local libraries, food pantries, domestic violence shelter, senior citizens centers, assisted living centers, and nursing homes. Assist Meals on Wheels to deliver on days when they are closed such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. Serve on community boards or committees as a representative from the Auxiliary.

AS AN UNIT, assist with Veteran's Day observances, organize service projects for veterans, service members, and their families, and support ALA days of service. Encourage community participation in service projects by promoting your projects. Participate in local walks, special events, and projects for other organizations. Offer the use of the Post home (with approval from the American Legion) for service projects. Attend and participate in celebratory events such as parades, grand openings, recognition ceremonies, and military functions.

AS A DEPARTMENT, we are going to do a community service project to report to National.

This project will be done at the Mid-Winter Conference. We are going to have a canned food drive to support the Salvation Army in Mobile. For every can you bring (and please make sure they are not expired) you will receive a raffle ticket. There may be different gifts based on the number of cans brought in and we will keep a running count to report on our National Project and will take pictures also. Cans should be brought in on Friday if possible or at the latest by noon Saturday. The Salvation Army will come and pick up all the items when we are done collecting. We will try to have a spot at the back of the room to do this collecting. If everyone will bring at least one can we should have quite a few boxes to donate. Please help support this project so we might get an award at National Convention for our Department President Leslie!

SUGGESTED DAYS OF SERVICE:

9-11 National Day of Service and Remembrance (September 11)

Make a Difference Day (fourth Saturday of October)

Veterans Day (November 11)

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (third Monday in January)

National Volunteer Week (third week in April)

DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

There will be a Department Award for the best overall Unit Community Service Project. Submit a written report along with pictures and/or newspaper articles if available. Reports need to be to this chairman no later than 15 April 2025. Include the number of hours worked and dollar spent in your report please.

REPORTS

Please report all activities during the April to November 2024 time frame to this Chairperson as a mid-year is required to be submitted from the Department. Send photos and newspaper information along with a short narrative of your project so it can be reported.

YEAR END REPORTS will cover the period from April 2024 to March 2025. Copies of the report form as well as any narrative report with pictures as applicable need to be submitted to this chairperson no later than 1 April 2025. In your narrative, please answer the following questions. Did members volunteer for any of the ALA days of service? If so, which days were the most successful for service projects? Were there any challenges?

AWARDS – Award will be given to the Unit in each Division with the best Community Service Program.