

# Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary

## AUXILIARY OUTREACH BULLETIN

### SEPTEMBER 2023

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

*National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans*

*Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us*

#### **What Does and Does Not Qualify**

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

Auxiliary Outreach is volunteer work performed by an Auxiliary under the direction of 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

##### **What's Considered Auxiliary Outreach**

- 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 at 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 Post or 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 Post or Auxiliary fundraiser
- "Buddy"® Poppy distribution.
- VFW or 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 (usher, elder, deacon, etc.)

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## A Motion?, say what?

Yes that's correct every Auxiliary Outreach partnership requires an approved motion before executing the partnership.



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

## Who's got swag?

You've got swag! Always wear something with that amazing VFW Auxiliary logo on it when performing Auxiliary Outreach.



## Are you reading this?

I sure hope you are, and thanks! It is much appreciated but reading the bulletin in your monthly Auxiliary meeting does not qualify for Auxiliary Outreach.

## Can you hear that? What's all the buzz?

All the buzz is the Michigan VFW Auxiliary members busy being worker bees! That's right, be the worker bees that you are and get out there and make a difference! Remember you are a worker bee to help benefit another organization.

