



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Auxiliary Community Outreach Bulletin November-December 2021 www.vfwauxmi.org

National Theme: Soaring Above & Beyond
Department Theme: Tell Our Story of Service

It was great seeing so many of you at Fall Conference. I hope you found the joint training informative and engaging. It was great, especially for new members, to hear how the Auxiliary and the VFW are alike and different in their mission for veterans.



Volunteering this Upcoming Holiday Season

Your local organizations are most likely already looking for volunteers for this upcoming holiday season, now is a good time to research and plan where and how you're going to spend your time volunteering this season. A good place to start is looking up the organizations on Facebook or searching on their website for volunteer opportunities. You can always give local organizations a call and ask where their needs are and offer your information to contact you if an opportunity arises within their organization.

Community Holiday Project ideas:

- Volunteer at a homeless shelters serving dinners, sorting through clothing, or join their volunteer committee.
- Contact your local senior center or nursing home about assisting with their holiday event or hosting an event at their center or home.
- Contact a local organization or church to see if they need assistance assembling food baskets and/or delivering baskets to homes.
- Volunteer to wrap gifts for local angel trees, Christmas Kiddie programs, Toys for Tots, etc.
- Volunteer to be a bell ringer for the Salvation Army
- Contact your local animal shelter and assist with their holiday fundraising efforts.
- Contact your local Parks and Recreation Dept and inquire of any fall clean-up projects.

Need Help Finding Local Volunteer Opportunities?

Other ways you can help find local volunteer opportunities is by doing a Google search for "Volunteer Opportunities near me." In addition, there are several websites that can help you as well. One such website that can assist you is called www.volunteermatch.org You can just enter in your zip code and see where the needs are in your local area.

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“What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good.” – Aristotle

Guidelines to remember!

- Must Volunteer under the guidance of another organization.
- Must improve your community.
- **Must wear** VFW Auxiliary Attire.
- Cannot be held at VFW Post Home.
- Blood Drives – must volunteer to help at the blood drive, not to give blood.
- Runs/Walks – Running or walking in the race does not count. However, volunteering to work the run/walk, giving out water, participate sign-in, finish line worker, sign holder, etc. count.
- Monies ARE NOT reportable under this Program but can be reported to the VFW for their Community Service Program.
- Anything done under this Program can and should be reported to the local VFW Post to be counted under their Community Outreach Program.
- Community Outreach projects are not reportable under any other VFW or Auxiliary Programs but can and should be reported to the VFW for Post Community Service.



Volunteer Tip:

Besides wearing your Auxiliary attire during your volunteer opportunity, you can also wear an I.D. Badge. These are reasonable on Amazon. You can add “VFW AUXILIARY VOLUNTEER” and your Auxiliary number to the front of the badge.

You can also create a business card (store some in your badge) for you to hand out to prospective members. Another idea is to add a QR code to the business card that the perspective member can scan with their phone that will take them directly to a membership application. Here is one that I have already created that is located at the bottom of this page. Try it out (open your camera app on your phone and hold over the QR code)!

Please don't hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions or need help with reporting.

Don't forget to “Like” and share your photos on the Department of Auxiliary Programs page.

May you have a blessed holiday season.

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