

Community Service Program Plan of Action  
2025 – 2026  
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Community Service is considered one of the American Legion Auxiliary's family support programs. In the spirit of God and Country, we serve veterans, military, their families and communities. The Community Service Program demonstrates who we are, what we do and why we matter. By being visible in our communities, we raise awareness of the American Legion Auxiliary and its mission.

1. Activity suggestions for veterans and their families; Plan a Family Day of fun activities at your post, adopt a deployed service members' family in the community or organize a community wide "Day of Service" for veterans and active-duty service members families.

**a. Recognized National Days of Service:**

- September 11, 2023 9/11 National Service Day
- September 24, 2023 Gold Star Mother's & Family Day (always last Sunday in September)
- September 29, 2024 Gold Star Mother's & Family Day
- October 28, 2023 Make a Difference Day
- November 11, 2023 Veteran's Day
- November 18, 2023 National Family Volunteer Day
- December 7, 2023 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- January 15, 2024 Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service
- February 14 – 20, 2024 Random Acts of Kindness Week
- April 19 - 21, 2024 National & Global Youth Service Days
- April 14 – 20, 2023 National Volunteer Week
- June 14, 2024 Flag Day
- July 4, 2024 Independence Day

2. Promote community service activities that help veterans, active-duty service members, their families and community.

- Activities might include volunteering in a homeless veteran's program such as helping prepare meals or collecting non-perishable food items for local food shelves or collecting clothing for homeless veterans and veteran run non-profit organizations.
- Have the Unit sponsor a special open house holiday meal for veterans, their families, military service members and the community.
- Organize and participate in service projects for veterans or get involved with your neighbors and those outside our Legion family by volunteering at your local library, food pantry, domestic violence shelter, senior citizens centers and nursing homes.

- Volunteer with your local Meals on Wheels or assist with your community's Veteran's Day observances.

The opportunities for Community Service are limitless. Be sure to keep a record of your time, goods, services & monetary values of all Community Service activities for your Community Service Reports. (To be submitted by & 4/1/26)

*What can you do for Community Service?*

- Become visible in your community, wearing your American Legion Auxiliary apparel or pin while volunteering in the community to let people know who we are and why we matter.
  - Get involved in community service projects.
  - Get involved with your neighbors & those outside our Legion family by volunteering at your local library, hospital, nursing homes, food pantry, Veteran's Non-Profit businesses, domestic violence shelter, senior citizen centers, etc.
  - Volunteer with your local Meals on Wheels to deliver meals on days when they are typically closed such as holidays.
  - Organize & participate in service projects for veterans, service members, their families and local community programs on ALA suggested days of service.
  - Attend & represent the Auxiliary at special celebration events in the community such as holiday parades, grand openings of community facilities & community leader recognition ceremonies.
  - Volunteer to organize or assist with you community's Veterans Day observances.
3. In 2026, American Legion Family Day will be on Saturday, April 25th. This aligns with the annual observance of the day on the last Saturday of April, [according to the American Legion](#). The event is a chance for Legion posts to open their doors to the public, showcase their programs, and raise awareness for the [#BeTheOne initiative](#), which aims to reduce veteran suicide.
- a. Ideas for American Legion Family Day
- Invite the Fire Department to park the Fire Truck at the post and explain the functioning parts to those in attendance. Forest Service always has Smokey the Bear available at no charge.
  - Hold a Bar-B-Que
  - Have a table with membership applications, brochures on our programs, a list of what we have accomplished in the previous year, and give aways.
  - Have a dunk tank to dunk the Commander, President or Squadron Commander.
  - have music, Face painting, Car show, Corn hole tournament, Paint & sip
  - Invite the community.

#### 4. Special Projects:

- a. The “Buddy Angel Challenge” was the idea of Sandy Morris “*100 Acts of Kindness Community Service Challenge*”, Sandy challenged all American Legion Auxiliary Members to perform, record and report 100 Acts of Kindness during the 2023-2024 year. A “Buddy Angel” lapel pin was awarded to all who complete 100-Acts of Kindness, Sandy has asked if I could continue this. Anyone sending me their “100 Acts of Kindness” will receive *Sandy’s Buddy Angel Pin*.
- b. PDP Terry Ouelette promoted “Socks of Love” during her term as Community Service Chairman. Stuffing one-pair of socks with personal care items for our homeless veterans.
- c. PDP Joyce Flanders put a twist on Terri’s idea; “Stuff a Winter Cap” stuff with mittens, scarfs and gloves (handwarmers).
- d. DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL PROJECT?

#### DEPARTMENT TROPHIES:

##### *District Trophies:*

**Muriel Racheotes Trophy** – to the Unit in District 1 submitting the best Community Service Report.

**Germaine Boucher Memorial Community Service Award** - to the Unit in District 2 submitting the best Community Service Report.

**Dumais Trophy** – to the Unit in District 3 submitting the best Community Service Report.

**John Poirier Trophy** – to the Unit in District 4 submitting the best Community Service Report to the District 4 Director & Department Chair by April 1st.

**Ernst E. Tiede Trophy** – to the Unit in District 5 submitting the best Community Service Report.

**Viola Thompson Community Service Trophy** – to the Unit in District 6 submitting the best Community Service Report.

**Millie Roberts Trophy** – A traveling Trophy awarded to the Unit in District 7 submitting the best Community Service Report to District 7 Director and the Department Chairperson by April 1st.

**Unit 82 Gold Star Mother’s Trophy** – to the Unit in District 8 submitting the best Community Service Report.

##### *Department Trophies: Chosen from the District Award Winners*

**Feather Trophy** – to the Unit in Department submitting the best overall report.

**Drake Trophy** – to the Unit in Department submitting the second-best overall report.

**Community Service Color Guard Trophy** – To be awarded to the Color Guard Unit submitting the best narrative report in their community service activities. Report must be type-written in narrative form, not exceeding 1,000 words. The Title: “Color Guard Community Service Activities” and entries cover from Dept. Convention through April 1, 2026.

### **NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS:**

#### *2025-2026 National Community Service Program Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements*

All award submissions must include a narrative (either a PDF or Microsoft Word document) explaining why the department or 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 works your department or 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.

#### **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.

Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.

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

#### **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.

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

Photos (in a high-resolution format) that show unit mission Community Service Committee activities accompany these reports.

*Note: Individual members and units should follow their department’s guidelines and deadlines.*

#### **Specific Reporting Guidelines:**

- What specific things did units in your department do to make their communities a better place to live?
- What did units do to mobilize community support for those who are serving our country?
- How did units participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and the 9/11 National Day of Service? Please give as many specific details as possible.
- Did units in your department find new and creative ways to promote the ALA Community Service program? Please give specific examples.
- How did your Post, Unit Squadron, chapter work together to promote and carry out an American Legion family day activity? Please send a description of the activity with photos.
- You are amazing, without realizing you volunteer and give yourselves to the community more than you think.