

2016-2017 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM ACTION PLAN

American Legion Auxiliary – Department of North Carolina

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The American Legion Auxiliary's Community Service Program promotes visibility within our localities through our commitment to community, state and nation. By being visible in our localities, the Community Service Program demonstrates who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

GOAL: To become visible within our own communities by working with and inviting other organizations to work on service projects. By doing this, people will recognize the American Legion Auxiliary's local efforts to support our veterans, service members, their families, and the community.

IDEAS FOR UNITS AND MEMBERS:

- Purchase shirts or vests with the American Legion Auxiliary name or emblem for members to wear while they volunteer.
(NOTE: If your unit is ordering anything with the ALA name or emblem from a source other than Emblem Sales or your ALA Department, remember that a request must first be submitted through your Department Headquarters to National Headquarters for approval by the national secretary.)
- Volunteer for local service projects and causes (walks, special events, etc).
- Sponsor and participate in activities at local libraries, senior citizen centers, nursing homes, and local special events.
- Represent the Auxiliary at special community celebratory events such as holiday parades, grand openings of community facilities, and at community leader recognition ceremonies.
- Partner with local Meals on Wheels to deliver meals on days they are closed (i.e., on Christmas and Thanksgiving)
- Organize and participate in service projects for veterans, service members, their families, and local community programs on ALA suggested Days of Service.
- Volunteer at local food pantries, domestic violence shelters, and assisted living centers.
- Volunteer to drive veterans, senior citizens, or those in the community needing a ride to the voting polls for this important November election.
- Register service projects on websites and social media to attract other community members to participate in your service projects.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING:

Mid-Year Reports due to Department Chairperson by December 15, 2016

Year-End Reports due to Department Chairperson by April 30, 2017

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

- What was the number of volunteers (members and non-members) completing Community Service activities and/or projects?
- What was the number of volunteer hours completed by members and non-members for Community Service activities and/or projects?
- How much money was spent on Community Service activities and/or projects during the administrative year?
- What was the value of in-kind donations received for Community Service activities and/or projects during the administrative year?

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS:

Awards will be announced at National Convention during the Community Service pre-convention meetings.

Unit Award: Unit Community Service Award

Type of Award: Citation

Presented to: One unit in each division (5 overall awards)

Materials and Guidelines:

- Entries must include the award cover sheet located in this program Plan.
- Awarded to the most outstanding overall Community Service program in the division during the 2016-2017 administrative year.
- Each entry must be typewritten in narrative form.
- Include pictures and newspaper articles.
- Attach an award cover sheet, including the name of the award, as well as the name and contact information for the department and unit Community Service chairperson.
- All entries must be sent by the department chairperson to her national division chairperson postmarked by June 1, 2017, or emailed by 5:00 p.m. EDT June 1, 2017. (See addresses located at the front of this program Plan for specific division contact information.)

PERSONAL AWARDS:

- To the unit with the best overall Community Service Program (certificate & gift)
- To the unit member who did the most outstanding work in Community Service (certificate & gift)

(NOTE: Please be sure to include a description of your activities and include any names/information for all pictures you send.)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES YOU CAN USE:

1. www.ALAforVeterans.org:

- *ALA Service Not Self Volunteer Toolbox*
- How to Partner with Organizations for Community Outreach
- How to Register a Service Project with All for Good
- How to Register a Service Project with Eventbrite
- How to Mobilize Community Support for Those Who Serve
- How to Participate in a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service
- How to Offer a Day of Service to a Veteran/Service member/Family/Community

2. ALA Suggested Days of Service:

- 9-11 National Day of Service and Remembrance (Sept. 11, 2016)
- Make a Difference Day (Oct. 22, 2016)
- Veterans Day (Nov. 11, 2016)
- National Family Volunteer Day (Nov. 19, 2016)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (Jan. 16, 2017)
- National Volunteer Week (April 23-29, 2017)

3. 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance website: www.911day.org

4. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service website: www.mlkday.gov

5. The Community Blueprint website:

www.pointsoflight.org/programs/military-initiatives/community-blueprint

6. Follow us on Facebook:

- American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters:

www.facebook.com/alaforveterans

- American Legion Auxiliary Community Service Facebook group:

www.facebook.com/groups/ALACommunityService

7. Joining Community Forces Alliance website:

www.jointservicessupport.org/communityforces