

**2015-2016 Community Service Plan of Action
American Legion Auxiliary**

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

1. Become visible within your community by working with and inviting other organizations to work on service projects so that people will recognize the American Legion Auxiliary's local efforts to support our veterans, service members, their families and the community.

- Purchase shirts 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 department, remember that a request first must be submitted through your department headquarters to National Headquarters for approval by the national secretary.

- Organize and participate in service projects for veterans, service members, their families and local community programs on ALA suggested days of service.

- Register service projects on websites, community forums and social media to attract other community members to participate in your service projects.

- Join a Community Forces Alliance or Community Blueprint coalition, participate actively as a source of knowledge in your community, and help plan and participate in various volunteer opportunities.

- Volunteer for local service projects and causes (walks, special events, etc.). Work with your post home to offer space and their participation in local service projects and causes.

- Sponsor and participate in activities at local libraries, senior citizens centers, assisted living centers, nursing homes, service projects and causes (walks, special events, etc.).

- Attend and represent the Auxiliary at special celebration events in the community such as holiday parades, grand openings of community facilities and community leader recognition ceremonies.

- Connect to and be supportive of ALA Call to Service Corps AmeriCorps members and members serving other AmeriCorps veteran and military family projects in their communities. Apply for an AmeriCorps VISTA member through the ALA Call to Service Corps project to develop and organize community support programs in your town or city.

- Partner with local Meals on Wheels to deliver meals on days they are closed (i.e. Christmas and Thanksgiving).

Additional Resources:

- www.ALAforVeterans.org:
 - a. How to Partner with Organizations for Community Outreach
 - b. How to Promote Service Project with All for Good
 - c. How to Set Up a Service Project with Eventbrite
 - d. How to Mobilize Community Support for Those Who Serve
 - e. How to Participate in a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service
- 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance website: www.911day.org
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service website: www.mlkday.gov
- The Community Blueprint website: www.pointsoflight.org/programs/military-initiatives/community-blueprint
- American Legion Auxiliary Community Service Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/110203022459992/ or search for “ALA Community Service”
- Joining Community Forces Alliance website: www.jointservicesupport.org/communityforces/
- ALA Call to Service Corps AmeriCorps Project: www.ALAforVeterans.org/About/ALA-Call-to-Service-Corps

Community Service Reporting

Mid-Year Reports

Due by **December 15, 2015**

Year-End Reports

Due by **April 30, 2016**

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?*

National Awards

Unit Award: Unit Community Service Award

Type of Award: Citation

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

Materials and Guidelines:

- Entries must include the award cover sheet located in this Plan.
- Awarded to the most outstanding overall Community Service program in the division during the 2015-2016 administrative year.
- Include pictures and newspaper articles.

Unit Award: Million Members Award

Type of Award: Citation Plaque

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

Materials and Guidelines:

- Entries must include the award cover sheet located in this Plan.
- Awarded to the best demonstration on how working the mission of the Community Service Committee engaged, retained and attracted members to grow membership in the unit.
- Include pictures and newspaper articles.

National Awards

Member Award: Community Service Senior Member Volunteer of the Year Award

Type of Award: Citation *and* a Gift Certificate

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

Materials and Guidelines:

- Entries must include the award cover sheet located in this Plan.
- Awarded for outstanding service in at least one Community Service activity or project conducted during the 2015-2016 administrative year.
- Members being considered for this award may be nominated by a fellow Auxiliary member or nominate themselves.
- Nominators or applicants need to provide a summary of the nominee's activities. Be sure to include the nominee's unit name and number.
- Include pictures and newspapers articles.
- Units should submit their nominee to their department chairman by her deadline.

Member Award: Community Service Junior Member Volunteer of the Year Award

Type of Award: Citation *and* a Special Gift from the National Chairman

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

Materials and Guidelines:

- Entries must include the award cover sheet located in this Plan.
- For outstanding service in at least one Community Service activity or project conducted during the 2015-2016 administrative year.
- Members being considered for this award may be nominated by a fellow Auxiliary member or nominate themselves.
- Nominators or applicants need to provide a summary of the nominee's activities. Be sure to include the nominee's unit name and number.
- Include pictures and newspaper articles.

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)
- To a junior member who records the most volunteer hours in Community Service
(certificate & gift)

*****Be sure to include a description of your activities and include any names/information for all pictures you send*****