

**Community Service
Programs Action Plan
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What is this program and why do we have it?

The Community Service program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's visibility within our localities through our commitment to community, state and nation. This program promotes being a good citizen outside of our Legion family. We promote ourselves by being involved in our community programs and events.

What can you do to work this program?

Become visible within your community as a link to the veteran community. Get involved in community service projects and events to bring awareness of our mission to support veterans, servicemembers, their families and the community.

Here are a few ideas to start with:

- The easiest is ALWAYS wear ALA branded apparel when volunteering. If the group you are working with has a shirt for you to wear, wear a hat with our emblem on it. Put on a pin if you are working a registration booth. Jewelry is another easy way to wear your ALA heart on your sleeve.
- Get involved with your local library, food pantry, domestic violence shelter, senior citizen centers and other programs in your community.
- Represent your unit and the ALA on local community boards and committees.
- Volunteer with Meals on Wheels to deliver meals.
- Get a group of ALA members together for fundraisers for other causes (Alzheimer's, Cancer, local animal shelter). If you can design your own shirt, put "American Legion Auxiliary" on it.
- Sponsor and participate in activities at libraries, assisted living centers and other community locations.
- Participate in community events and festivals. Have an entry in a local parade.

- Participate in local National Days of Service events
 - 9-11 National Day of Service and Remembrance (Sept 11)
 - Make a Difference Day (4th Saturday in October)
 - Veterans Day (November 11)
 - Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service (3rd Monday in January)
 - National Volunteer Week (3rd week in April)

Every time we recite the Preamble, we speak of our service to the community, state and nation. Working this program keeps us true to our words. We need to be involved in our community outside of the Legion in order to be good citizens. National no longer recognizes service at your post home as community service. Only service outside of your post home is considered community service.

Important due dates:

- Midyear Unit reports are due to the District Chairman by December 1st.
- Yearend Unit reports are due to the District Chairman by April 15th.
- Yearend District reports are due to the Department Chairman by April 27th.

Awards:

Department Awards:

- 1) Carolyn Cunningham Monetary Award to the Unit with the best year-round community service program.

Personal Chairman Awards:

- 1) Award to the Units that participate in a community event each month from August 2019 to April 2020. This can be any community event and it can be one member or many members. It must be reported on the midyear and year end reports. There will be a spot for that. This is for EVERY unit that meets this goal. If I must give hundreds of awards, I'm good with that.
- 2) Award to the District that has the most units that participate in a community event each month. This also must be reported on the midyear and year end reports.

Please include pictures with your reports. You can send pictures directly to me if that is easier. Also, if I am your Facebook friend, tag me so I can find them.

There are National Awards for Units that have an outstanding community service program. Visit www.alaforveterans.org for more details. Or drop me an email, phone call or snail mail and I'll send the information.

Getting out into our communities does so much for us. We get to meet new people. We get to show what we can do while working with our community. We get to share how much fun we can have outside our post. It may get people to join us with our projects! Get out there with a big smile, big heart and helping hands and invest in our communities.