



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of North Carolina

Community Service Program Action Plan

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The purpose of the Community Service program is to promote the American Legion Auxiliary's visibility in our local areas by assisting individuals and organizations in our community, state, and nation.

What can we do during this highly unfamiliar/uncomfortable time?

Connect

While we may not be able to volunteer in the same way we did last year, there is still much we can do. The most important gift we can give others at this time is to let them know they are not alone and there is someone to reach out to, if needed.

Reaching out via email, postal mail and phones provides us the opportunity to reduce someone's loneliness as well as our own. Cards can be sent to Legion family members, rest homes and hospitals. One unit has divided their group between the card creators and the card message writers. Please consider options like this to build on the strengths of your members. Find ways to include everyone.

Celebrate

While it is unclear on what celebrations will be allowed this year, it is up to us to create ways to enjoy special occasions with each other. Host online meetings to virtually recognize big events. Be part of parades for birthdays and exciting times. Don't let our momentum slow down until face to face celebrations are the norm.

Other ways to contribute:

- Have a drive-thru food drive. Food pantries are in running low with so much need in many communities.
- Continue to sew custom masks. With many public buildings requiring masks, there is an increase need.
- Donate school supplies. Although many schools are having virtual classes, there are still many students in need of basic supplies. Contact schools for distribution options.
- Offer to online tutor or read with students. Parents in many situations are trying to work from home and be part-time teaching assistants.
- Adopt A Highway near your post. A great way to interact with others, while social distancing.

Make sure your deeds are remembered (Repeated from last year, but still relevant)

Mid-Year and Year-End Reports from the Unit

1. Send pictures, stories, and newspaper clippings to highlight all the good work that your members have been doing.
2. Send successes and challenges to help other units that might be considering the same type of activity.
3. Be sure to include in the report when events were part of a Day of Service.

Impact Reporting

There is a new impact report where donations of money, objects, time and mileage need to be captured. Although there are MANY ways to volunteer and make a difference in the community, please keep in mind there are specific categories where information needs to be recorded.

Example 1:

Donated school supplies to the local school – Great service project!

Recorded under: OUR ALA SERVICE FOR YOUTH *NOT* OUR SERVICE REPRESENTING THE ALA IN OUR COMMUNITY

Example 2:

Participated in a local blood drive by helping check-in people, provided snacks and drove people to the blood mobile.

Recorded under:

OUR SERVICE REPRESENTING THE ALA IN OUR COMMUNITY

Number of hours for any service <hours spent checking people in, making/buying snacks, driving donors to and from>

Dollars spent on any service <money for snacks>

MILES DRIVEN BY MEMBER IN PROVIDING THE ABOVE ALA SERVICE

Mileage <mileage for picking up and returning donors>