

Community Service Heroes in Action 2018-2019



The Community Service program theme for the 2018-2019 Auxiliary year is Community Service Heroes in Action. We are all heroes simply by choosing to improve the lives in our communities every day. The population of those who need our assistance continues to increase and so do their needs.

By being visible in our localities, the Community Service program demonstrates who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

The opportunities to utilize our hero powers and render assistance to our communities are endless:

- **Make a Difference Day** is October 27, 2018. What a great time to organize a community service project for a senior citizen, veteran's family, etc.
- Make a pledge to yourself to perform a single day of service or a single activity. Once you communicate how great you feel, other members will want to join!
- Invite other citizens from within your communities to assist with your community service activities and projects.
- Participate in the **American Legion Auxiliary Department of Virginia Day of Service!** (More information to follow).

Remember to always wear an American Legion Auxiliary branded item when participating in community service activities. Let the community know that we are present.

Never forget that any day that we volunteer and pay it forward is a great day for Community Service!

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Community Service Heroes in Action

2018-2019

The Community Service program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's visibility within our localities through our commitment to community, state and nation.

What can you do?

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

Member Ideas:

- Always wear your American Legion Auxiliary apparel or pin while volunteering in the community; it reinforces our brand promise by telling people who we are, what we do, and why we matter.
- **Note:** If you are ordering anything with the ALA name or emblem from a source other than Emblem Sales, remember that a request first must be submitted through your Department headquarters to National Headquarters for approval by the national secretary. Contact your unit for more information on this process.
- Reach out to local ministers and first responders to indicate your willingness to be a designated responder for veteran families in need. Be sure to keep a list of veteran resources handy so you will be ready.
- Get involved with your neighbors and those outside our Legion family by volunteering at your local library, food pantry, domestic violence shelter, senior citizen centers, assisted living centers, nursing homes.
- Represent the Auxiliary as a member of local community boards and committees.
- Volunteer with your local Meals on Wheels to deliver meals on days when they are typically closed (i.e. Christmas and Thanksgiving).

Unit Ideas

- Volunteer to organize or assist with your community's Veterans Day observance.
- 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.
- 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 citizen 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.

Community Service Reporting

Mid-Year Reports

Your Mid-Year report reflects the Unit's program work and is intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction. Each Unit should submit a mid-year report to the Department Community Service Chairman by **December 1, 2018**. The mid-year report is provided in the Program Action Plan.

Year-End Reports

Year-end reports reflect the Unit's program and may result in a department national award for participants if award requirements are met. Each Unit should submit a year-end report to the Department Community Service Chairman by **April 15, 2019**. The year-end report is provided in the Program Action Plan.

Department of Virginia Community Service Awards 2018 -2019

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

Department Award: Best Overall Program

- Awarded to the Unit that conducted the best overall promotion of the Community Service program.
- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words and include the "Total Word Count" at the bottom of the narrative.
- May include pictures, news articles, new releases, etc.
- Attach an award cover sheet, including the name of the award, as well as, the name and contact information for the Unit President or Community Service Chairman.
- Entries must be postmarked by April 15, 2019.

Convention Award: Outstanding Unit Promotion of Community Service Activities

- Awarded to the Unit that conducted the best overall promotion of the Community Service program.
- Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words and include the "Total Word Count" at the bottom of the narrative.
- May include pictures, news articles, new releases, etc.
- Attach an award cover sheet, including the name of the award, as well as, the name and contact information for the Unit President or Community Service Chairman.
- Entries must be postmarked by April 15, 2019.

Additional Resources You Can Use

1. See your national Community Service Committee page of the national website:
 - *ALA Service Not Self Volunteer Toolbox*
 - How to Partner with Organizations for Community Outreach
 - How to Mobilize Community Support for Those Who Serve
 - How to Serve on National Days of Service

2. ALA suggested days of service:
 - 9-11 National Day of Service and Remembrance (September 11, 2018)
 - Make a Difference Day (October 27, 2019)
 - Veterans Day (November 11, 2018)
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (January 21, 2019)
 - National Volunteer Week (April 7 – 13, 2019)

3. The national Community Service Committee Facebook group:
 - www.facebook.com/groups/ALACommunityService

**Community Service Program
Department of Virginia
2018 - 2019
Mid-Year Report**

**Please complete report and mail no later than December 1, 2018 to:
Pamela Elam-Lipscombe, P O Box 8976, Richmond, VA 23225**

Unit Name & Number _____ District _____ Zone _____
Unit Chairman's Name _____
Unit Chairman's Address: _____
Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Please tell us about your Community Service Heroes in Action.

Did your Unit recruit any members from your community volunteers? Yes No How many? _____

What types of community service activities and/or projects were done in your Unit? _____

Which activities/projects brought in the most community interest? _____

Did your members volunteer for service projects in any of the ALA suggested days of service? Yes No
If so, which days were most successful for offering service projects? _____

Please list any challenges with the days of service _____

Did your Unit engage high school students (with or without service hour requirements) in ALA Community Service activities? Yes No

If so, which activities/projects? _____

Did your Unit engage elementary and middle school students, community groups, or other civic organizations in ALA Community Service activities? ? Yes No

If so, which activities/projects? _____

**Only reports with Narratives and Cover Sheets will be considered for Department and National Awards.
Please attach a narrative of 1,000 words or less describing your Community Service Program.
Please include a total word count at the end of your narrative**

**Community Service Program
Department of Virginia
2018 - 2019
Year End Report**

**Please complete report and mail no later than April 15, 2019 to:
Pamela Elam-Lipscombe, P O Box 8976, Richmond, VA 23225**

Unit Name & Number _____ District _____ Zone _____
Unit Chairman's Name _____
Unit Chairman's Address: _____
Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

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