



AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Department of Tennessee VFW Auxiliary

Something new has been added to this program this year. We can all agree the first responders of our communities, some of whom have been working around the pandemic, give so much to our communities and deserve a helping hand. **This fall marks the 20th anniversary of 9/11, and to commemorate that date we are adding the initiative of volunteering with a group of or for an organization that supports first responders.** There are ideas below to help you get started with planning or participating in events, projects, or programs within your community to support and/or recognize first responders.

We can check with our counties and communities to see if there will be anything held to remember 9/11 that we could volunteer as auxiliary members to help in any way we could. When you volunteer, you are encouraged to wear VFW Auxiliary attire. Attires included, but is not limited to, an auxiliary name badge, shirt, hat, jacket, etc.

Help First Responders

- Volunteer at a safety fair (e.g., fire safety seminar, CPR training, bike helmet distribution, Child ID kits).
- Educate the public about Project Blue Light
- Help with and/or participate in fundraisers (e. g., bowling team, car wash, spaghetti fundraiser, motorcycle ride, 5K walk/run, bailout of “jail,” fill the boot, etc.)
- Partner with the community to host a local First Responder Appreciation Day or Week. I know that some of the ones below has passed, but think about next year for 2022.

Opportunities include:

1. January 9 – National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D.)
2. Second Week of April – National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week
3. May 4 – International Firefighters’ Day (IFFD)
4. May 15 – National Peace Officers Memorial Day

5. **Week of May 15 – National Police Week**
6. **Third Full Week of May – National EMS Week**
7. **October 28 – National First Responders Day**

Let's step up, support and Volunteer for those who keep us safe in our communities – our first responders.

These are the Award for Auxiliaries:

1. **Most outstanding photo collage featuring Auxiliary members volunteering with first responders at their community activity and/or event. Citation and \$25.00**
2. **Number of Auxiliary Members who participated in Auxiliary Community Outreach the most from each Auxiliary. Citation and \$20.00**
3. **Number of hours members volunteered for programs NOT AFFILIATED with VFW or VFW Auxiliary Programs. Citation and \$20.00**
4. **The auxiliary who implements an Auxiliary Community Outreach Program. If a lot, will be a draw award. Citation and \$20.00**

Use the Department of Tennessee 2021-2022 VFW Auxiliary Report Forms This is different than the one for 2020-2021. Some things were added and some were deleted. For example, VFW Auxiliary Outreach Program had three lines last year and this year it has four lines. If you turn in 2020-2021, the auxiliary will not get credit for number four. Also do not use the VFW forms as theirs different from Auxiliary.

Daisy Short

**VFW Auxiliary Community Outreach
Chairman**

“Loyal and Strong for Our Veterans”