AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

October 2026 Issue # 2

FROM THE 2026-2027 NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

What Counts as Community Service and what does 'Not'

Making our communities better places to live is the core mission of our Community Service program. Understanding what counts as Community Service—and what does not—can sometimes be unclear.

Here are a few examples and explanations to help navigate the program guidelines

- ◊ **Partnering with the American Legion post to host a blood drive open to the public:**
  - **YES,** the event is benefits the entire community.
- ◊ **Clean a public park, trail, or shared community space:**
  - **YES**, the project serves the community
- ◊ **Join another veteran organization and partner to organize a public park cleanup for the 9/11 National Day of Service:**
  - **YES**, the project serves the public, even though partnering with veteran organization
- ◊ **Placing Flags on Flag Day:**
  - **NO**, project related to Flag Day, reporting is under Americanism program
- ◊ **Hosting a Food Drive for a Military Only Food Bank:**
  - **NO**, specific to military only, reporting is under National Security program
- ◊ **Hosting a Blood Drive or help an American Legion post to host:**
  - **YES**, the service benefits the community
- ◊ **Assisting with church activities such as Sunday school teacher, choir, etc:**
  - **NO**, the ALA is not being represented, counting tithes are excluded as well.

Visit the Community Service Page for more information:
https://www.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Community-Service/What-Counts-as-ALA-Community-Service

Wagner Greer, South Dakota 9/11 Community Project



Wagner Greer hosted a 9/11 Community Service project open to the entire community.

Visibility in the Community Unit 164



Spearfish Unit 164, South Dakota visibility in the community during a community parade

A Beacon For Our Veterans!

The American Legion Family 228, Waseca, Minnesota



The American Legion Family 228 Waseca, Minnesota caring for the community, presenting $4500 to New Highland Area Food Bank

Community Service All Year

Community service is a year-round program, and every event presents an opportunity to get involved. Please refer to page one of this newsletter or the Community Service page on our site to determine which activities are reportable under the program.

For the month of October, please check out the following topics for ideas on how to collaborate with the community.

- Host a Coat Drive
- Rake Leaves
- Soup kitchen or pantry

The ideas are endless…let your imagination flow.

Share your event photos in the ALA Community Service Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALACommunityService

Community Service resources:
https://www.legion-aux.org/member/committees/community-service/partner-with-organizations-for-community-outreach

SAVE THE DATES

Community Service Quarterly Zooms

Q1 - October 21, 2026, at 7:00 PM ET

Department Chairs register here:
https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/legislative_quarterly

Q2 - January 20, 2027, at 7:00 PM ET
Q3 - April 7, 2027, at 7:00 PM ET

2026-2027 Mission Training and National Junior Meetings

November 14, 2026 –Omaha, NE*
January 30, 2027– Albany, NY* and Springfield, IL
February 6, 2027 – Atlanta, GA and Las Vegas, NV*

*Events will be held with The American Legion National Information Conference and the SAL Regional Meeting.

Register at: https://www.legion-aux.org/Meetings/Mission-Train



Important Dates
Department Chairman Report Due to Committee: June 1

Department and Unit Award Nomination Forms completed and Submitted: June 1