

VFW Auxiliary National Programs: *An Overview*



Since 1914, the VFW Auxiliary has united Americans from all walks of life with a common purpose: to improve the lives of veterans, active-duty military and their families, and our communities. Our National Programs are designed to bring needed services, information and assistance to these target groups.

Visit <http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do>, consult the National Program Book and/or speak to your Auxiliary for more information about our National Programs.

AMERICANISM

- Promotes Patriotism by celebrating patriotic holidays.
- Teaches respect and proper care for the U.S. Flag.
- Brings attention to Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action by hosting POW/MIA ceremonies to both educate the public and honor these special veterans.
- Recognizes the nation's top classroom elementary, junior high (middle school) and high school teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history and traditions effectively. Teachers who are prime candidates for the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism.

CHIEF OF STAFF/EXTENSION

- Establishes New Auxiliaries.
- Maintains Current Auxiliaries.

HOSPITAL

- Promotes volunteerism of members, non-members, youth and families in local hospitals, veterans' homes, nursing homes, domiciliaries and both VA and non-VA medical centers and clinics. Opportunities vary based on the facility and age and abilities of the volunteer.
- Promotes Veterans Voices Writing Project.
- Promotes Veteran and Military Suicide Awareness.

LEGISLATIVE

- Promotes the VFW Priority Goals - The Priority Goals reflect the resolutions passed by the VFW to strengthen and ensure an adequate VA system for millions of current and future veterans.
- Promotes VFW Action Corps.
- Encourages all citizens to exercise their right to vote and contact legislators regarding issues impacting veterans and their families.

MEMBERSHIP

- The VFW Auxiliary started with a small group of women who wanted to serve veterans. Today, we have nearly 470,000 male and female members and more than 4,000 Auxiliaries representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Membership in the VFW Auxiliary is an excellent way to show your support of America's veterans; we encourage you to participate in Auxiliary activities and volunteer projects and to help grow the organization by asking someone else to join.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Promotes and conducts the VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship.
- Promotes and conducts the VFW Auxiliary Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest.
- Promotes and supports the VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest.
- Promotes and supports the VFW Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest.

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

- Offers support for veterans, service members and their families.
- Promotes VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS).
- Promotes VFW's Veterans & Military Support Programs:
 - VFW's "Sport Clips Help-A-Hero Scholarship"
 - Unmet Needs
 - Military Assistance Program (MAP)
 - Operation Uplink™
- Promotes and supports the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy Program.
- Promotes and supports the VFW National Home for Children.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- Sponsors and works with youth groups such as youth sports teams; church youth groups; after-school programs; youth-focused organizations; school clubs; home-school associations; youth community service groups; nonprofit organization youth advisory councils; service learning and civic departments in high school and colleges, and other youth-oriented groups.
- Recognizes Random Acts of Patriotism (R.A.P.)
- Recognizes youth and youth groups recognized for their efforts and service projects honoring our veterans and assisting active-duty military and their families with for Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations.