

# Community Service

## ***Things that count as Community Service***

- American Legion Family Day – Last Saturday of April  
If the last Saturday does not work you can change the date to before or after.  
Webinar is scheduled for Feb. 10, 2026. More information to come. Learn how to organize, advertise, planning. All members are welcome to attend the webinar.
- Any activities done for the National Days of Service:
  - MLK National Day of Service  
Host a meal for Veterans or community  
Thank you cards to Veterans or First Responders  
**Something to remember on MLK Day of Service: All events that you hold, even those that are usually considered Veterans Rehabilitation or National Security, can be reported under Community Service.**
  - 9/11 National Day of Service 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2026
- Service volunteered — with or without your unit — to help the community. This includes service at your local library, domestic violence shelter, senior citizen center, assisted living centers, nursing homes, place of worship, food pantry and more.
- Service where all community members are together. For example, those using a food pantry are likely not identified as a veteran or member of their family.
- Volunteer service with no clear beneficiary like landscaping or cleaning a community park or other public area.

## ***Things that do **\*\*NOT\*\*** count as Community Service***

- Something reported in another committee's report.
  - We celebrate all services, but please only report your service to one committee.
- Any hours for VAVS. (Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service)
- Directly helping a veteran, servicemember, or a member of their family (this should go under VA&R, National Security, or Children & Youth).
  - For example, volunteering somewhere like the Fisher House or a stand down would go under VA&R, volunteering at a Yellow Ribbon event would go under National Security, etc.
- Tithes to a place of worship.

## **Narrative Reports**

Consider keeping a log of your volunteer service over the year to help when it time to write your annual narrative reports. For narrative reports, think about where the project fits best. If the activity you're reporting on was on a sticky note, and you can only put the sticky on one committee, which would you choose?

## **Impact Numbers**

In addition to keeping a log of the volunteer service activities you take part in throughout the year, you should also track every hour you spend planning, preparing, and performing those activities for Impact Numbers.

### **Promote American Legion Family Day – Last Saturday in April**

- The National Executive Committee of the American Legion Passed Resolution No. 7 in October 2022, setting up American Legion Family Day to be observed annually on the last Saturday of April.
  - Posts are encouraged to open their doors to members of their community for the day to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion Members, Legion Riders, and American Legion Auxiliary.
  - Bring awareness to the American Legion’s Be the One mission to improve access and reduce the stigma around mental health services
- Plan activities for various groups.
- Highlight our 100+ years of service to veterans and the community.

### **Participate in a Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service – the third Monday in January**

- Promote patriotic community service activities to build community partnerships,
- Use this holiday as an opportunity to serve veterans as our mission statement states.
  - Help veterans in their home with projects like building an accessible ramp, yard work or home repairs.
  - Organize or take part in a stand down. (event that helps homeless with meals, haircuts etc.)
- Encourage members to check with their employers for Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service opportunities.
- Keep good records of hours and activities for year-end reporting.

### **Participate in 9/11 National Day of Service – September 11**

- Encourage members to make an official pledge of service on the 9/11 Day of Service website.
- A service pledge can be as broad or specific as the member would like, so long as it is in the spirit of service and remembrance.
- Invite members to “pass it on” and share their pledge with others through Instagram, Facebook or other means.
- Participate in a volunteer activity or project of which they are already a part and encourage others to join.
- Organize a service activity specifically for 9/11 Day.
- Record hours and activities for year-end reporting.

### **Additional community Service activities**

- Organize or promote participation in blood drives, CPR training, and emergency preparedness (National Security)
- Organize or take part in child safety programs (Children & Youth)

### **2025-2026 National Community Service Program Awards – Deadline June 1**

- Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program
- Unit Award: Best Promotion of American Legion Family Day
- Department Award: Best Department Community Service Program

**Websites to find more information:**

**<https://member.legion-aux.org/programs>** - Community Service Awards, must be submitted online.

**9/11 Day of Service** – go to resources drop down box Toolkits or Good deeds

**CommunityService@ALAforVeterans.org** or scan the QR Code



**PLEASE HAVE YOUR ANNUAL REPORTS SENT IN TO COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR BY MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>, all pictures should be sent as a jpeg file attachment. Do not send pictures in the body of your email, pictures come over grainy and cannot be used in newsletters or at National Convention.**

**Shelley Schuster – [communityservice@ndala.org](mailto:communityservice@ndala.org)  
Community Service Chair**