



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
Community Service
September 2024 Bulletin



Hello Fellow Village People!

How is your program going so far? Did you participate in National Night Out? Did you make your pledge to volunteer on the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance? If so, remember to track those hours and share your experiences, stories, and photos with us! Reflecting on these activities helps us learn and grow as a community.

Planning Ahead: Veterans Day and Beyond

Last month, we encouraged you to brainstorm community service ideas for the first half of the year. With Veterans Day fast approaching, now is a great time to start coordinating with local community organizations and planning to participate in parades or community events. Let's come together to honor our veterans and make a meaningful impact in our communities. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- **Organize a Family Resources Picnic for Military Families:** Collaborate with local businesses and organizations to sponsor food and activities. Use this opportunity to provide information about community resources available to military families.
- **Prepare and Deliver Warm Meals to Homeless or Homebound Veterans:** Work with local shelters and food banks to identify veterans who would benefit from a hot meal. Gather a team of volunteers to cook and deliver meals, ensuring to follow any necessary safety protocols.
- **Host a Movie Night at a Local Veterans Affairs Medical Center:** Contact your local VA medical center to arrange a movie night. Coordinate with volunteers to bring snacks, set up a projector, and ensure a welcoming atmosphere for the veterans.
- **Organize a Furniture Donation Drive for Veterans Transitioning into Housing:** Reach out to community members to donate gently used furniture and household items. Partner with local moving companies or volunteers with trucks to collect and deliver donations.
- **Restock the USO Hospitality Room at the Airport:** Coordinate with your local USO chapter to find out what supplies are needed. Organize a collection drive for snacks, toiletries, and reading materials, and arrange a group trip to deliver them.
- **Start a Monthly Visit to Veterans at a Local Senior Center:** Contact local senior centers to schedule regular visits. Plan activities like games, crafts, or just a friendly chat. Bring hygiene supplies, clothes, and other needed items.

Tips for Success:

- **Start Small:** Begin with manageable projects and gradually take on more as you gain experience.
- **Collaborate with Others:** Partner with your American Legion Family, community organizations, and other Auxiliary units to share resources and amplify your impact.
- **Plan Ahead:** Create a timeline and assign tasks to ensure everything runs smoothly.
- **Reflect and Share:** After completing a project, gather your team to discuss what worked well and what could be improved. Share your successes and lessons learned with the rest of The Village.

Remember our theme, "The Village," symbolizes the strength we have when we work together. Let's continue building our village by supporting one another and taking action to improve our communities.

Together, we make a difference. Together, we are "The Village."

In Service, Not Self,

Rebecca Glenny

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