

# 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 service members and their families, and our communities. Our National Programs are designed to bring needed services, information and assistance to these groups.

Visit [vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do](http://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.

## AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Encourages members and Auxiliaries to volunteer their time under the direction of another organization for the benefit of the community.

## “BUDDY”<sup>®</sup> POPPY & VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

- Promotes and supports the VFW “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy Program.
- Promotes and supports the VFW National Home for Children.
- Promotes the National Home Helpline.

## CHIEF OF STAFF & EXTENSION

- Establishes new Auxiliaries.
- Maintains current Auxiliaries.

## HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS

- Compiles and chronicles memories and events in written format, photographs, memorabilia, print news and video clips.
- Works with local media to promote our National Programs and share how the VFW Auxiliary makes a positive impact in the lives of veterans, active-duty service members and their families.

## 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.

## 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 475,000 male and female members and more than 3,500 Auxiliaries representing all 50 states. 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.

## MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

- Incorporates respecting the Auxiliary's past, embracing the present and planning for our organization's future by pairing experienced Auxiliary leaders with members who wish to expand their knowledge of the our organization.

## 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 veteran and military suicide awareness and prevention.
- Promotes the VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS).
- Promotes the VFW's Veterans & Military Support Programs:
  - VFW's "Sport Clips Help-A-Hero Scholarship"
  - Unmet Needs
  - Military Assistance Program (MAP)

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- Sponsors and works with youth groups such as youth sports teams; faith-based 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.
- Promotes and conducts Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!, a national anthem singing contest for youth in grades K-12.
- Promotes and conducts Illustrating America, an art contest for elementary and middle/junior high school students.
- Promotes Patriotism through Literacy.
- Recognizes Random Acts of Patriotism (R.A.P.)
- Recognizes youth and youth groups with Patriotic Youth Awards and Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations for their efforts and service projects honoring veterans, active-duty service members and their families.



[vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org)