

Community Service

The American Legion Auxiliary's community service encourages and supports all programs and services that improve the quality of life in the Unit's local communities.

How can this be done?

Units can closely examine the NEEDS of their local community and try to complete programs either by Unit Participation or in cooperation with the American Legion. Other organizations can be asked to help with the projects enabling the community to be a better place to live. Units may team with other organizations to help promote the community programs.

I. Community Recognition Programs

- A. **Serving the community that Veterans have secured for us.**
- B. **Community Support for our troops/families (Area of emphasis)**

II. Collaborative Programs Efforts

- A. **Make a Difference Every Day (Area of special emphasis)**
 - 1. Random acts of kindness
 - 2. Support local homeless shelter and food banks
 - 3. Plan to assist with Green activities to help clean and beautify the community.
- B. **Habitat for Humanity (Area of emphasis)**
 - 1. Contact local group to get your name (Unit, ALA) out as a willing participant.
- C. **Adopt – A – Highway (Area of emphasis)**
 - 1. Contact city/village/county offices:
 - A. Find areas that need trash pick up
 - B. Obtain a sign for area that will be cleaned – this will publicize your Unit's good contribution.
 - 2. Send thank you cards or recognize other organizations who have adopted a highway.
- D. **Supporting programs of the American Legion (Area of emphasis)**

III. Additional communities programs and activities

- 1. Libraries
- 2. Senior Citizens Centers
- 3. Nursing Homes
- 4. Domestic Violence Centers
- 5. Alzheimer Memory Walk
- 6. Wee Care

7. Welcome Troops Home
8. Youth Appreciation week
9. Health Issues (Area of emphasis)
10. Organ and Tissue donations
11. Blood Donor programs
12. Teen Read Week (Get active @ your library)
13. Commission on Aging
14. Senior citizen center (Nutrition center)
15. Salvation Army
16. Community Beautification
17. Recycling
18. Homeless shelters
19. Food Banks
20. Loaning of Medical equipment

IV Community Service Contests and Awards

A. Department Award

An award will be presented to the Department Community Service Chairman in each division with the most outstanding overall promotion of the community service program during the 2008-2009 administrative years. Each entry must include at least two of designated areas of special emphasis. Entry must be in narrative form not to exceed one thousand words and must include a completed copy of the annual community service report form. **All entries must be post-marked by May 1, 2009 and sent to Florence Wasley, Department Community Chairman, 415 West Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533.** Entries will be judged and sent to the Division Chairman.

B. Unit Award

1, An award will be presented to the Unit in each division with the most outstanding single activity for Community Service during the 2008-2009 administrative years. Each entry must be in narrative form not to exceed one thousand words. The name of the department and Unit name and address and a completed copy of the annual community service form must also be included. **All entries must be post-marked by May 1, 2009 and be sent to Florence Wasley, Department Community Service Chairman, 415 West Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533.** Entries will be judged and sent on to the Division Chairman.

2. An award will be presented to the Unit in each division with the Best Overall activities for Community Service during the 2008-2009 administrative years. Entry must include at least one designated area of emphasis. Entry must be in narrative form not to exceed one thousand

words. The name of the department and unit name and address and a completed copy of the annual community service report form. **Must be post-marked by May 1, 2009** and sent to Department Community Service Chairman Florence Wasley, 415 West Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533. Winning entry will be sent to the Division Chairmen.

C. Senior Volunteer of the Year Award

A senior member from each division will be awarded two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for her outstanding volunteer service during the 2008-2009 administrative years in one or more of the activities emphasized in the plan of work. The entry must be accompanied by the 2009 Senior Volunteer of the Year application (page E9) and a narrative of 300-500 words completed and signed by the entrant.

All Unit entries must be postmarked by May 1, 2009 and be sent to Department Community Service Chairman Florence Wasley, 415 West Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533. The Department Chairman will select a winning entry and submit it to the National Chairman.

D. Junior Volunteer of the Year Award

A junior member from each division will be awarded one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and a certificate for outstanding volunteer service during the 2008-2009 administrative years in one or more of the activities emphasized in the plan of work. The entry must be accompanied by the 2009 Junior Volunteer application paper (page E11) and a narrative of not more than two hundred and fifty words, completed and signed by the entrant.

All unit entries must be submitted by May 1, 2009 to the Department Community Service Chairman Florence Wasley, 415 West Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533. The winning entry will be submitted to National.

E. Award for serving the Community that Veterans have secured for us

An award will be given to the Unit in each division that submits the best overall report on serving the community that Veterans have secured for us. Entries must be in narrative form, not to exceed one thousand five hundred words and must include the name of the department, name and number of the Unit Community Service chairman. Units should submit their entry directly to the Central Division Chairman Deborah Meskill, 2036 McDonald Drive, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858. Entries must arrive to her no later than June 1, 2009.