

Service to Veterans

Examples of locations and activities

An orientation course is no longer required by the National Organization in order to earn hours for Service to Veterans, however, individual departments may still require an orientation course in order to accumulate Service to Veterans hours. Please contact your department VA&R chairman for requirements. Junior members may earn Service to Veterans hours under supervision of a senior volunteer.

The following are examples of the many ways you can help the veterans in your area through the American Legion Auxiliary Service to Veterans program. Service to Veterans is one of two VA&R programs that help veterans in your area; the other VAVS. VAVS serves veterans within the VA hospital setting.

Per the VA&R Guide for Volunteers, Service to Veterans is any service provided to a sick or injured veteran outside of a VAMC or within a volunteer's home.

Examples of Locations:

- . any work done on behalf of veterans in state- or community-based nursing homes
- . adult daycare centers
- . adult foster homes
- . adult halfway houses
- . hospices
- . homeless shelters
- . stand downs
- . Christmas shops (NOT AT A VAMC).

Other examples of volunteering opportunities for Service to Veterans,

Assisting a veteran's family:

- . assisting with veterans' burial or graveside upkeep
- . transportation
- . snow removal
- . landscaping/yard work
- . tax preparation

- . organizing food and blanket drives

Examples of work completed within ones home for military/veterans and/or their families who are not related to the volunteer. The hours can benefit the homebound, sick or injured service members and veterans. The hours reported should be directly related to the care, rehabilitation or welfare of a sick or wounded veteran.

Examples of activities:

- . crafting (quilts, scarves, hats, gloves, etc.)
- . sewing
- . cooking/baking
- . laundry
- . coupon clipping
- . babysitting
- . shopping for material and supplies for services performed in your own home
- . hospital gift shop items (made at home)
- . computer research on a veteran's
- . benefits or assisting with veterans' job search

Examples of **Service to Veterans or their families for Junior Volunteers:**

- . reading aloud to a veteran or group of veterans or their children
- . playing board games or card games
- . planning activities (holidays)
- . help establish an email account or social media page

Reporting Annual Impact Numbers: These hours can be counted only once for reporting purposes, which may be separate from the tracking of your hours toward earning hour bars. If reported under VA&R, you shouldn't report them again under another committee such as National Security or Community Service.

NOTE:

Hospital Service (VAVS) - VA Voluntary Service is in the VA Healthcare System; each facility is responsible for the orientation and placement of volunteers. Each volunteer is assigned a regularly scheduled assignment. VA facilities track volunteer hours electronically.

The VAVS certification forms can be found online at www.ALAforVeterans.org in the VA&R member resources tab.

Department secretaries can order certification cards to order hour bars for all programs at no charge through National Headquarters' VA&R email address at VA&R@ALAforVeterans.org or download them online at www.ALAforVeterans.org in the VA&R member resources tab.

Sources:

This information was compiled from findings in the American Legion Auxiliary VA&R Guide for Volunteers (Newly Revised), policy and procedures of the American Legion Auxiliary guide to effective leadership, and articles from Auxiliary magazine.