

**2025-2026 American Legion Auxiliary
Department of New York
Community Service**

Department Chairman

Ardella Turner

20 W. Mosholu Pkwy. Apt 35G

Bronx, NY 10468

C: 718-690-1123

E-mail: nyalacommunityservice@gmail.com

Purpose: The purpose of the Community Service Committee is to promote the American Legion Auxiliary's commitment to making our communities better places to live by supporting local service projects.

Promote American Legion Family Day — April 25, 2026

The National Executive Committee of The American Legion Passed Resolution No. 7 in October 2022, establishing 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" initiative to improve access and reduce the stigma around mental health services.
- Use the "How To" sheet to assist ALA members in promoting American Legion Family Day.
- Plan activities for various age groups.
- Highlight our 100+ years of service to veterans and the community.

Find new and creative ways to promote the program.

Continue to use what works but think outside the box for fresh ideas.

- Promote participation in blood drives, CPR training, and emergency preparedness (National Security).
- Suggest participation in child safety programs (Children & Youth).
- Participate in patriotic holidays (Americanism).
- Develop new ways to reach diverse groups (age, ethnicity, etc.).
- Encourage units to create visible events in the community that support veterans (VA&R).
- Use community events to raise awareness of The American Legion's Be the One initiative to reduce the rate of veteran suicide.

Participate in a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

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 participate in a stand down.
- 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 the 9/11 National Day of Service.

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.
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- Invite members to “pass It on!” and share their pledge with others through Instagram, Twitter, 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.

DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

DEPARTMENT AWARD RULES

- Entries must be typed, double spaced, not to exceed 1,000 words.
- Word count in lower left corner of cover sheet unless otherwise noted under award instructions.
- Entries must be in narrative form and placed in folder.
- Pictures, newspapers clippings and other materials and/or documents may be included.
- All entries must include a cover sheet with the name of the award entry, name of the Unit/County/District, name, and address of the Unit/County/Chairman.
- Entries must be received by Department Chairman no later than MAY 1st unless a different date is specified.

THE JANET P. MAHONEY AWARD: To the County Community Service Chairman reporting the most outstanding County wide Community Service Award Event.

2025-2026 NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Deadlines and Submission Requirements

All award submissions must include a narrative (either a PDF or Microsoft Word document) explaining why the department or unit you are nominating should receive the award. You may also upload other supporting documentation that will give the committee a full picture of the important mission work your department or unit has accomplished this year. These files can be photos (JPG, JPEG or TIFs — no larger than 14MB) or PDF documents. If you have more than three supporting files, please email the committee email address listed in the form.

National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program (per division)

All unit entries must be submitted via [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted.

Unit Award: Best Promotion of American Legion Family Day (one per division)

All unit entries must be submitted via [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Department Award: Best Department Community Service Program (per division)

All department entries must be submitted via [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted.

2025-2026 UNIT COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT FORM

Reporting dates: **November 1, 2025** **March 1, 2026** **May 1, 2026**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address _____ Phone: _____

Unit: _____ County: _____ District: _____

_____ **Unit does not have a community Service Chairman**

Number of ALA volunteers _____ Total hours members volunteered _____

Number of community volunteers _____ Value of donations _____

Value of a volunteer hour is \$34.79 X total hours **ALA members** volunteered = \$ _____.

- What specific things did the unit do to make their community a better place to live?
- What did the unit do to mobilize community support for those who are serving our country?
- How did the unit participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and the 9/11 National Day of Service? Please give as many specific details as possible.
- Did the unit find new and creative ways to promote the ALA Community Service program? Please give specific examples.
- How did the unit participate in American Legion Family Day?

Attach copies of narratives, pictures, and newspaper articles. Additional details can be provided on the back of this report or a separate page.

******* YOU MUST FILL IN THIS INFORMATION FOR IMPACT REPORTS *******

4. Our Service Representing the ALA in Our Community

Impact Report Line #	For any service not included in Sections 1-3	Obtain Total From	Total
Line 19	Total number of hours	* Hours members volunteered	
Line 20	Total dollars spent	* Value of Donations	\$

**Unit reports should be sent to your County Community Service Chairman
Please retain a copy for your records**

2025-2026 COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT FORM

Reporting dates: November 10, 2025 March 10, 2026 May 10, 2026

Name: _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone: _____

County: _____ District: _____

_____ County does not have a community Service Chairman

Number of ALA volunteers _____ Total hours members volunteered _____

Number of community volunteers _____ Value of donations _____

Value of a volunteer hour is \$34.79 X total hours **ALA members** volunteered = \$ _____.

- What specific things did units in your county do to make their communities a better place to live?
- What did units do to mobilize community support for those who are serving our country?
- How did units participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and the 9/11 National Day of Service? Please give as many specific details as possible.
- Did units in your county find new and creative ways to promote the ALA Community Service program? Please give specific examples.
- How did units in your county participate in American Legion Family Day?

Attach copies of narratives, pictures, and newspaper articles. Additional details can be provided on the back of this report or a separate page.

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County reports should be mailed or emailed to the Department Community Service Chairman. Please retain a copy for your records

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