

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

**Community service is an activity or program sponsored by a VFW Post or Auxiliaries, which benefits the city, community, other organizations, institutions or individuals not affiliated with the VFW or its Auxiliaries.**

The projects that a Post and/or its Auxiliaries are involved with will depend on the needs of the community, the size of the Post and/or Auxiliary and their budgets. These projects will vary by location. A Post should consider the needs of the community and select activities that are best suited and will benefit the community the most. It is better to do a few projects and do them well instead of half way by doing many projects.

Helpful guidelines for a successful year in Community Activities are:

Post Commander appoints a competent Chairman. This person should be one who is knowledgeable in the program or is willing to learn in a short time. The Chairman should be familiar with the community and know its needs. Knowledge of the community will be a huge asset in knowing what projects will benefit the community the most and be easiest to complete.

The Chairman selects a few members to be on the committee, three to five should be sufficient. The Committee members are not expected to do all of the work but plan and develop the projects that the Post will be involved in. If the Post has an Auxiliary both organizations should work closely together in planning and carrying out the projects.

After the project has been planned including the date, time and location, determine how many workers will be needed. Too many and people will be standing around doing nothing and getting bored. The next event they may not volunteer.

Invite the local news media to cover the event. Also have the Post Public Relation Officer take pictures and write an article for the local newspaper. A little bit of PR goes a long way in promoting the VFW.

Have a follow up meeting to analyze the activity, discuss the good points and how to improve on the weak points of the event. At the same meeting start planning your next event.

TEAMWORK is the success to any community activity. If the VFW and its Auxiliaries work together it means less work for all.

Begin with the basic VFW National and Department projects and those that the Post/Auxiliary has already developed and intends to continue. Consult the CHAIRMAN'S MANUAL VFW COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION manual. It can be accessed thru VFW Missouri website on the right hand toolbar click on LEADERSHIP.

Community involvement is essential for a Post to survive and grow. Being active in the community builds a good strong lasting relationship with the people. A Post will grow because of what they do. Posts that don't grow are usually Posts that are not active in their community.