

Department of South Dakota Community Service Engagement Plan 2026-2027

The Purpose of the American Legion Auxiliary's Community Service is to strengthen our communities by making them better places to live for all community members.

- Making our communities better places is something that we as American Legion Auxiliary members strive to do on a daily basis and fits directly in with our mission and vision statements.
- Community Service has been a major outreach program of the American Legion Auxiliary since 1926 and during that time period has demonstrated their commitment to working together with the American Legion family as well as other community organizations for the betterment of their community.

There are four big service days that the Community Service Chairman actively promotes and encourages statewide participation in during the year. They include:

- 9/11 National Day of Service
 - Encourage fellow members to make an official pledge of service on the 9/11 Day of Service Website.
 - Invite fellow members to "pass it on" and share their pledge of service on social media platforms of their choice.
 - Participate in a volunteer service or project and encourage others to join in.
 - Organize a volunteer service or project specifically for 9/11 Day of Service.
 - Take pictures and document the event for end of the year reporting.
- Make A Difference Day of Service
 - Promote fellow community members to come together to provide a service open to community members or for the betterment of the community as a whole.
 - Encourage those participating to invite family members, friends, and other organization members to be a part of the event in order to build community relationships.
 - Promote events on social media, in the newspaper, word of mouth, monthly newsletters, etc.
 - Organize a volunteer service or project and encourage others specifically in honor of Make A Difference Day.
 - Take pictures and document the event for end of the year reporting.

- 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.
 - Encourage members to check with their employers for Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service opportunities.
 - Organize or join an existing volunteer service project or event for this day of service.
 - Take pictures and document the event for end of the year reporting.
- Promote American Legion Family Day
 - Promote the mission and vision of the American Legion family by hosting a family day in the community.
 - This event should demonstrate some of the amazing benefits of being a member of any one or more of our American Legion family organizations. The comradery, the emphasis on service, community, etc. should be on full display.
 - The event should have individuals that know the different organizations well and can positively speak about the organizations in order to find and recruit new members for any one or more of the organizations.
 - Take pictures and document the event for the end of the year reporting.

Year End Reports:

- Submitted to Department Chair by April 1, 2027
- Submitted to Northwestern Division Chair by May 1, 2027
- Uploaded to the National website by May 1, 2027