



HOW TO SERVE ON NATIONAL DAYS OF SERVICE

What are National Days of Service?

National Days of Service are certain days of the year, designated either by the U.S. Congress or a service organization, which aim to inspire individuals across the country to make an impact in their local communities by serving on the same day.

Why Serve on National Days of Service?

National Days of Service are a great way for you to take part in making a nationwide impact, while serving in your local community.

Why Should ALA Members Get Involved in National Days of Service?

Since National Days of Service tend to attract a lot of media attention, they are a great way for the American Legion Auxiliary to get positive publicity for our service to veterans and to communities. In addition, National Days of Service might attract individuals who don't normally serve, including ALA members with busy work and child caring schedules. National Days of Service are also great opportunities for ALA units and members to introduce community members to the Auxiliary.

When are National Days of Service?

The ALA suggested Days of Service are as follows:

9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance *Congressionally Designated Day of Service*

Date: September 11 (annually)
Purpose: To promote community service as a remembrance of the events of September 11th, 2001
Lead Organization: MyGoodDeed
Web Address: www.911day.org
Sign Up: www.911day.org/volunteer
Resources: www.911day.org

Make a Difference Day

Date: Annually on the last Saturday of October
Purpose: To inspire Americans to volunteer and make a difference in their communities, providing a national trend of service
Lead Organization: USA Weekend
Web Address: www.makeadifferenceday.com
Sign Up: www.makeadifferenceday.com
Resources: www.makeadifferenceday.com/about/resources

Veterans Day

Date: November 11 (annually)
Purpose: To inspire service in our communities in honor and remembrance of our nation's veterans
Lead Organization: U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs
Web Address: www.va.gov/opa/vetsday
Sign Up: www.allforgood.org
Resources: www.va.gov/opa/vetsday



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SUPPORT TOOLS

A collection of resources from National Headquarters to assist and guide members and volunteers in serving veterans, servicemembers and their families.

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Family Volunteer Day

- Date:** Annually the Saturday before Thanksgiving
- Purpose:** To start the holiday season with giving and service, as well as to recognize the power of families in changing their communities
- Lead Organization:** Points of Light's Generation On
- Web Address:** www.pointsoflight.org/signature-events/family-volunteer-day or
www.generationon.org/fvd
- Sign Up:** www.allforgood.org
- Resources:**
- For Parents: www.generationon.org/parents/resources
 - For Kids: www.generationon.org/kids
 - For Teachers: www.generationon.org/educators

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day *Congressionally Designated Day of Service*

- Date:** Annually on the third Monday in January
- Purpose:** To honor the memory of Dr. King by serving our neighbors and communities; as well as to answer the question: "What are you doing for others?"
- Lead Organization:** Corporation for National and Community Service
- Web Address:** www.nationalservice.gov/mlkday
- Sign Up:** www.allforgood.org
- Resources:** www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/days-service/martin-luther-king-jr-day-service/toolkits

National Volunteer Week

- Date:** April 10-16, 2016 and April 23-29, 2017
- Purpose:** To encourage individuals to seek out ways to help their communities
- Lead Organization:** Points of Light
- Web Address:** www.pointsoflight.org/signature-events/national-volunteer-week
- Sign Up:** www.pointsoflight.org/signature-events/national-volunteer-week
- Resources:** www.pointsoflight.org/signature-events/national-volunteer-week (Resource Guide listed on right)

Promote ALA and Report Your Impact:

The ALA encourages members serving on National Days of Service to identify themselves as such, wear your ALA apparel and be ready to talk about why you are a member and what you do for your community and our veterans.

Please also be sure to report your volunteer activities and hours to your unit's Community Service chairman, the committee with oversight of ALA's National Days of Service activities.