



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota
State Veterans Service Building
20 W 12th St. #314 St Paul MN 55155
Telephone 651-224-7634 Fax 651-224-5243
Toll Free 1-888-217-9598
Email – deptoffice@mnala.org
Website - www.mnala.org

Community Service: 2018 National Volunteer Week Mar/Apr 2018

National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to recognize and thank volunteers/members who lend their time, talent, voice, and support to causes they care about in their community and around the world. Their stories serve to inspire others to take action and discover their collective power to unite in making a difference. What inspired you to serve?

National Volunteer Week in the United States was first established by Presidential Proclamation 4288 and signed by Richard Nixon in 1974. Former President George H.W. Bush showed his support of American volunteering in his 1991 State of the Union address, commending “a volunteer’s generous gesture,” and calling it “an idea that is simply right.” A new National Volunteer Week proclamation is issued by the American president each year. The manner of celebration for National Volunteer Week varies, but many organizations host special events to help engage their local communities in volunteering and make them aware of opportunities available year-round.

This year, National Volunteer Week will be celebrated April 15-21, 2018. The week is sponsored by the Points of Light Institute and is run by its Hands-on Network. The theme for 2018 is “Celebrate the Value of Volunteering.”

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What inspired you to serve?

Let the whole world know about your awesome volunteers/members by shouting their praises!
Here are a couple of ideas:

- Write a press release about National Volunteer Week and how the American Legion Auxiliary is celebrating volunteers.
- Send a letter to the editor about the difference your volunteers make in the community.
- Mail letters to volunteers’ and members’ employers that express how grateful you are that their employee contributes time to your organization.

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Design a social media campaign on your star volunteers. Each day during National Volunteer Week, spotlight a different volunteer on your blog, Twitter feed, and Facebook timeline. During National Volunteer Week, share on Instagram or Twitter using **#ivolunteer** and **#NVW**.

This quote by Elizabeth Andrew is very fitting for the American Legion Auxiliary volunteers: “Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”

This article is from an eBulletin issued by the American Legion Auxiliary.

Joanne Joachim
Department Chairman Community Service