

3) Choose Your Assignment Preference

| Traditional Assignments | Non-Traditional Assignments |
|-------------------------|---|
| Patient Escort | Virtual Volunteers |
| Volunteer Drivers | Fund Raisers |
| Clerical Positions | Managers and Recruiters |
| Information Desk | Corporate Representatives |
| Ambassador Program | Trainers and Educators |
| Chaplain Service | Writers (Newsletters, Recruitment ads) |
| Pharmacy | Community Liaisons |
| Nursing | Volunteer Sports Opportunities (Team River Runner- Kayaking; Ride to Recovery, Cycling; Golf Supports Our Troops- Golfing) |
| Guest Relations Program | |
| Outpatient Assignment | |
| Caregiver Positions | |



4) Contact the VAVS Program Manager at the VA Facility of choice or sign up at <http://www.va.gov/volunteer>

For information concerning individual or Post participation contact the VAVS Program Manager at your nearest VA medical center. They will arrange an initial screening and help you in choosing the program that best meets your time and interests. Information is also available on the Internet at <http://www.va.gov/volunteer>.

BECAUSE WE KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO SERVE

*Volunteers are the cornerstone
of our great organization
as highlighted in the preamble
to the Constitution...
"to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship
by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."*

local contact information:



THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
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THE AMERICAN LEGION

VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE

VAVS
PROGRAM

*The American Legion has been
a staunch supporter and active participant
in the Department of Veterans Affairs
Voluntary Service (VAVS) program since its
inception in 1946. Today, across the country
close to 6,000 American Legion volunteers
contribute over 900,000 hours annually at
various VA Medical Centers, Community
Based Outpatient Centers, Vet Centers,
Nursing Homes, State Veterans Homes,
and many more locations in support
of our hospitalized veterans.*

With a new generation of veterans, new locations, and technological advancements comes increased opportunities for American Legion volunteers to make a difference through the VAVS program. When Legionnaires provide the time, talent and desire, the VA provides opportunities ranging from direct patient contact to developing new marketing technology, and everything in-between. American Legion posts and members volunteer post facilities, sponsor youth volunteers, and serve veterans through partnerships with local businesses and agencies. Make a difference- VOLUNTEER TODAY!

THE FOUR STEPS TO VOLUNTEERING ARE:

- 1) Decide if you want to be Regularly Scheduled (RS), Occasional or Special Event Volunteer
- 2) Choose your volunteer location
- 3) Choose your assignment preference
- 4) Contact the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center and speak with the VAVS Program Manager or sign up at <http://www.va.gov/volunteer>

1) Decide if you want to be a regularly scheduled, occasional, special events or youth volunteer.

- a. **Regularly Scheduled (RS) volunteers** – work with VA on a scheduled basis. RS volunteers are considered employees who work on a “without compensation” basis. These volunteers go through a formal VA orientation and receive individual rewards for hours and service given.
- b. **Occasional volunteers** – represent The American Legion by volunteering on an infrequent, occasional basis. Match your availability with opportunities to serve and make a positive impact in the lives of fellow veterans.
- c. **Special Events** – VA has many annual events that volunteer support is needed. Some of these include: National Wheelchair Games, National Golden Age Games, National Creative Arts Festival, National Winter Sports Clinic,

Homeless Stand Downs, Annual Red Cross Blood Drive and the Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) Welcome Home Event Celebrations.

- d. **Youth Volunteers (VolunTeens)** – VA offers excellent opportunities for youth exploring career options, gaining experience in a health care environment and learning new skills. Volunteering helps students enhance their resumes/college applications, secure a better job during summers and open doors to networking with community and business leaders. Students can also qualify for the James H. Parke Scholarship if they volunteer over 100 hundred hours, are in 10th grade or higher and have not reached their 19th birthday. (<http://www1.va.gov/volunteer/studentprgm.cfm>)

2) Choose your Volunteer Location

• VA Medical Centers

As VA health care delivery continues to evolve, there are abundant opportunities for Legionnaires to contribute as volunteers in their own way and for their own reasons. VA hospitals and Polytrauma Centers offer opportunities to volunteers in such diverse areas as: administration support, patient escort, food court ambassador, coffee server, information desk worker, shuttle drivers and assisting with the Veterans History Project. In the local community, volunteer Legionnaires may serve at Fisher Houses, Community Based Outpatient Clinics and at Vet Centers.

• VA Polytrauma Centers

At four regional and 17 Network Poly-Trauma Centers nationwide, OEF/OIF wounded warriors receive world-class treatment for traumatic brain injury, amputation, blindness, or other visual impairment, complex orthopedic injuries and mental health concerns. Unique opportunities exist for American Legion volunteers to serve the needs of these wounded heroes and their family members in a number of exciting and rewarding ways. (<http://www.polytrauma.va.gov>)

• VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC)

CBOC's improve veterans' access to healthcare by offering primary care in local communities. Volunteer opportunities include: making coffee, answering phones and scheduling appointments. Local American Legion posts may provide transportation for needy veterans in their community. Coordinating with on-site VA-administrative officers will ensure proper certification of volunteer hours. Legionnaires serving the needs of local veterans highlights a commitment to “individual obligation to community, state, and nation” that is a core principle of The American Legion.

• Fisher Houses

The Fisher House Foundation offers support and provides lodging for families while they are visiting the hospital for extended periods of time due to patients receiving care. Assistance is needed in donations of paper goods, linens, food, books and videos, assisting in fund raising efforts to support existing houses and to promote development of new Fisher Houses. Please confer with the local VA Hospital's Chief of Voluntary Service. (<http://www.fisherhouse.org/>)

• State Veterans Homes

Volunteers at State Veterans Homes help plan social events, assist with transportation, direct patient care, food and beverage services and answering phones. State Veterans Homes' volunteers receive the same recognition and credit for volunteer hours as VAVS volunteers. (<http://www.nasvh.org/home/index.cfm>)

• Vet Center

Vet Centers serve combat veterans and their families by providing readjustment and counseling services, community education, outreach to special populations and coordinate with community organizations. Vet Centers provide coordination of other services provided by the VA. Volunteer opportunities include answering phones, making coffee, transportation and planning holiday and social activities. (<http://www.vetcenter.va.gov>).