**News Release**

For Immediate Release

American Legion posts encouraged to support 100 Miles for Hope

Second annual event promotes wellness, raises donations to support disabled veterans and military families, and serves as an opportunity to engage with community groups.

**(DATE, 2021)** — The American Legion Department of **XXXXX** encourages districts, posts and members throughout the state to support National Commander Bill Oxford’s second annual 100 Miles for Hope challenge.

“The first 100 Miles for Hope exceeded expectations in every way, getting American Legion Family members active amid the pandemic while raising funds and awareness for the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (V&CF),” Oxford said. “We raised about $150,000 last year for the foundation and our goal for this year’s campaign is to double that.”

American Legion Family members and friends have two options to register: via Emblem Sales or on a new smartphone app that allows them to track activities and encourage donations from supporters. Registration is open now, and details on both options, fundraising for V&CF and more information is available on [the 100 miles web page](http://www.legion.org/100miles).

While the event officially runs April 1 to Sept. 6, participants are encouraged to register now and [visit Emblem Sales](https://emblem.legion.org/100-Miles-For-Hope/products/1437/) to review and purchase their choice of commemorative gear. Proceeds from sales go directly to the foundation that provides resources for department service officers and grants for military families with children at home who are facing urgent financial emergencies.

Oxford suggested that American Legion posts reach out to other members in their communities to join in, while following local social-distancing rules. For example, posts could connect with Boy Scout troops, other civic organizations, churches, high school cross-country teams or veterans service organizations like Team Red White Blue, Student Veterans of America, and others in their communities. By connecting with these or other organizations, American Legion posts are leading from the front, promoting physical and mental wellness, and helping to drive more needed resources to the Veterans & Children Foundation.

The department is making available two press releases that districts and posts can use. One is to promote a specific 100 Miles for Hope event in their communities, and the other is to reach out to other community groups and invite them to participate. **Both of which can be found (department fills in).**

Among the changes in the program for 2021 is the ability to track activities instead of miles. This opens up the challenge to everyone, regardless of fitness level. There are more than 40 activities to choose from, including pet fitness, volunteering, advocacy, pickleball and more. And, if your activity is not listed — riding a motorcycle or gardening, for example — you can manually enter it as long as it lasts for at least 30 minutes.

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Department of **XXXXXX** Commander **XXXXXX** is looking forward to participating in the challenge.

“I am so grateful that Commander Oxford is not only bringing back 100 Miles for Hope but expanding it this year,” **XXXXXX** said. “I look forward to our members getting outside and committing to this challenge once again. And I am just as excited to see the creative ways in which districts and posts will turn this challenge into a special event in their communities.”

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For more information and links to relevant materials please visit [the 100 Miles for Hope web page](http://www.legion.org/100miles).

**About The American Legion**

The American Legion is the largest wartime veterans service organization with nearly 2 million members in 12,875 posts across the nation. Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome community programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security and continued devotion to servicemembers and veterans. Learn more at [legion.org](http://www.legion.org).