

# 2025 Mid-Winter Conference Voluntary Services



- DAV's mission of empowering veterans to lead high-quality, fulfilled lives relies on the kindness of the men, women and youth who volunteer.
- We have thousands of devoted volunteers across the country providing our nation's heroes the best possible care, morale and assistance.
- In **2024**, DAV dedicated nearly **\$48 million** to voluntary service initiatives through our vast network of programs.



- **VolunteerForVeterans.org**

- This is the overarching suite of DAV's Voluntary Services Programs.

- **Local Veterans Assistance Program**

- Direct assistance to veterans, surviving spouses, or families.

- **DAV Transportation Network**

- The backbone of DAV Voluntary Services Program.

- **DAV Volunteer Days at NHQ**

- Opportunity to educate the community about DAV.

- **VA Voluntary Services**

- Volunteering in brick-and-mortar VA Facility.

- **Community Impact Day**

- National call to action for people to volunteer their time in support of veterans.

- **DAV Scholarships Program**

- Very robust program offering \$110,000 in scholarships annually.



**DAV has revamped the volunteer for veterans website to make it easier for veterans to find the help they need by going online and simply clicking one button!**

**You can also sign up for DAV's many programs while you're here!**

### Volunteer For Veterans

DAV offers a wide range of opportunities to assist our nation's heroes. Volunteer to transport veterans to and from their VA medical appointments, help at a VA facility or assist veterans in your local community.

No matter who you are, or what your level of experience, you can stand by our nation's veterans.

Are you a veteran or do you know a veteran in need of help?

Click the link below to inform Voluntary Services Department of your need.

**I Need Help**

Do you want to help veterans in your local community?

Click the link below to register with our Voluntary Services Department to find local veterans in need of help in your area.

**I Would Like To Help**

### Other Notable DAV Volunteer Programs

Drive A Vehicle

Volunteer Locally

For Veterans

For Volunteers

It is also very resourceful for those volunteers who are not near a VA Medical Facility but still want to make a difference in the lives of our nation's heroes.

Volunteers can visit [www.volunteerforveterans.org](http://www.volunteerforveterans.org) to sign up for opportunities in their local communities. Or, you can visit <https://www.dav.org/help-dav/volunteer/>

When you fill out an “**I Need Help**” form, all that is needed is your name, email, phone number, physical address (including the city and state), and a brief description of what you need assistance with. Once the form has been submitted, a Voluntary Services Specialist will contact your local department/chapter office to find a volunteer in the area to help.

[Home](#) > [Help DAV](#) > [Volunteer](#) > **I Need Help**

Are you a veteran, or do you know a veteran that needs assistance? Please fill out the form below and a voluntary services representative will reach out to volunteers in your area who may be able to help.

Personal Information

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Email\*

Phone\*

Address Information

Address Line 1\*

City\*

State\*

Zip Code\*

I Need Help With:

Select A Category\*

Description Of Your Need\*

When you fill out an “**I Would Like to Help**” form, you have to supply your name, email, phone number, physical address (including the city and state), and a brief description of what you have experience doing. Once the form has been submitted, you will get alerts via e-mail that will notify you when a veteran in your area needs assistance.

[Home](#) > [Help DAV](#) > [Volunteer](#) > [I Would Like To Help](#)

Do you want to help veterans in your community?  
Please fill out the form below and a voluntary services representative will try to match you with heroes in need of help.

Personal Information

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Email\*

Phone\*

Address Information

Address Line 1\*

City\*

State\*

Zip Code\*

Are you volunteering as a group or individual?  
Select A Category\*

Please describe how you can help.\*



# Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP)

- The Local Veterans Assistance Program was created to allow the many volunteers who want to be involved with veteran support activities outside the VA medical facilities to record their hours of volunteerism and report them to the DAV.
- LVAP allows people to provide needed services to veterans and their families as DAV Volunteers. It honors our organization, encourages and recognizes volunteerism.
- LVAP initiatives are managed by state-level DAV departments and are carried out through our departments, chapters, auxiliary units, associated organizations, corporations and individual volunteers.
- In **2024** there was a total of **2,377,316** volunteer hours reported with **348,240** hours reported for DAV's Department and Chapter Service Officers. This is an additional **\$11.6 million in savings** for the Veterans Administration that the DAV volunteers provide through their services.





**LVAP volunteers can dedicate their time in the following ways:**

- Department and Chapter Service Officer work.
- DAV specific outreach efforts and fundraising efforts.
- DAV/DAV Auxiliary special events (state fair, homeless assistance including stand downs, etc.).
- Direct assistance to veterans, surviving spouses, or families.
- Seminars, training, and activities designed to operate the department/chapter smoothly.
- Legislative support – Benefit Protection Team Leader (BPTL).



DAV Transportation Network is the largest program of its kind for veterans in the nation. This program ensures our veterans, who may not have access to reliable transportation, are able to get to their VA health care appointments.

DAV Hospital Service Coordinator's (HSC) play an important role in our efforts to assist injured and ill veterans. They are the front line for the DAV Transportation Network, by scheduling rides, keeping vehicles running safely and reporting volunteer activities to DAV National Headquarters.



There are **133** Hospital Service Coordinators covering transportation programs at more than **247** VA medical facilities. These DAV HSCs assemble corps of volunteer drivers and coordinate them with hospital transportation requests. The Transportation Network volunteers transported more than **236,000** veterans over **9.3** million miles in **2024** alone!

## Transportation Network

Over **586,000** hours spent by DAV volunteer drivers producing

more than **9.3 million** logged miles, totalling

over **235,000** no-cost rides  
for ill and injured veterans to and  
from VA medical facilities.



Since 1987, at a cost of

more than **\$100 million**



donated  
**3,833**  
vehicles



donated  
**269**  
vehicles

Since 1987, volunteer drivers traveled more than **761 million** miles providing over **20 million** rides.

## Media Ride-along

- DAV, in coordination with the VA, arranges for local news outlets in a geographic area to ride along with a volunteer driver who is taking veterans to and from their appointments.
- The driver and others interviewed are able to share their story of why they volunteer while sharing the message that the TN needs more volunteer drivers.

### **This is a powerful volunteer recruiting tool that:**

- Highlights the critical role of volunteers within the Transportation Network
- Showcases the opportunity to directly make a difference in veterans' lives
- Promotes local chapters' involvement in the community
- Increases DAV's brand awareness
- It highlights our mission
- This is good for donations and memberships
- Earned media



## Media Ride-along Considerations

- **A successful ride-along requires coordination between:**

- DAV Communications
- DAV Voluntary Services
- Department or Chapter Volunteer Representative or Deputy Representative
- VA Volunteer Coordinator
- Local VA public affairs

- **Identify a volunteer driver who will represent DAV well:**

- Compelling story
- Well-spoken
- Knows the program and the needs well



## Media Ride-along Expectations

### DAV Communications will:

- Serve as the central point of contact.
- Handle media outreach.
- Provide media coaching/interview prep.

### The Department or Chapter will:

- **Identify** a willing volunteer driver (and their availability) for the media to highlight.
- **Provide** an additional on-camera interview subject who can communicate the need for volunteers and the process for them to sign-up (ideally the Rep or Dep).
- **Assist** DAV Communications as a local VA liaison.



**Contact Voluntary Services to learn more and to get started!**

**(859) 441-7300 extension 3235 or [VAVS@dav.org](mailto:VAVS@dav.org)**



- The Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program (VAVS) is one of our most significant volunteer initiatives.
- The VA Voluntary Services Program provides a broad array of services to veterans in VA health care facilities throughout our nation.
- There is a real and continuing need for volunteer assistance in VA health care facilities. DAV volunteers perform crucial duties, from being a buddy to a veteran during days of recovery or therapy to doing tasks that require highly technical and professional skills.
- Volunteers bring an extra service to the care and treatment of veteran patients that cannot be provided by paid staff regardless of its size and effectiveness.
- Our DAV VAVS State Chairpersons and Representatives carry out an important role for DAV; recruiting volunteers, attending quarterly meetings, and reporting VAVS hours to DAV National Headquarters.



## **VAVS Representatives**

- These individuals should be very knowledgeable with all of DAV's programs and services.
- These Representatives are some of your most important volunteers. They need to attend all quarterly meetings and maintain DAV's presence within the VA Medical Facilities.
- When appointing a Representative make sure they are willing to attend the meetings. In some facilities your Representative may do more than one thing so make sure it does not conflict with their day-to-day responsibilities.
- They are and should be responsible for establishing and maintaining local relationships/presence within the VA Medical Centers.



## **Representatives Responsibilities**

- **VAVS Deputy Representative:**

A Deputy Representative's primary responsibility is to assist the Representative in any way possible. They are also expected to assume the Representative's duties if they are unable to carry out those responsibilities.

- **VAVS Associate Representative:**

An Associate Representative's primary responsibility is to assist the appointed Representative by developing and coordinating the participation of volunteers in your Department at the VA Medical Center in any way possible.

- **VAVS Associate Deputy Representative:**

An Associate Deputy Representative's primary responsibility is to assist the appointed Associate Representative by helping to develop and coordinate the participation of volunteers in your Department at the VA Medical Center in any way possible.

- **Honorary Representative:**

An Honorary Representative must be a past DAV/VAVS representative who has served 10 years or more and be recommended by the DAV. Appointment is for an indefinite period of time and will not expire except by request.

## Traditional ways you can assist as a DAV volunteer in a VA facility:

- Escorting patients, library circulation and processing assistance.
- Information desk receptionists.
- Preparing displays and assisting patients in menu selections in nutrition and food service.
- Helping with the clinical preparation procedures and patient-motivation activities in the physical therapy clinic.
- Helping patients with socialization and other therapeutic activities.
- Red Coat Ambassador Program.



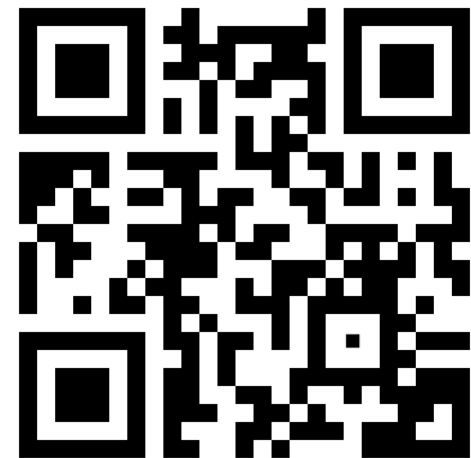


# Volunteer Award Incentive Milestones

- DAV is one of the only Veterans Service Organizations that provides its volunteers with small tokens of appreciation.
- It is essential that VAVS hours are reported to DAV in a timely manner. Without accurate hours, we are unable to recognize the dedicated volunteers for their efforts.
- When we do our part in submitting hours, volunteers that donate their time to DAV are eligible for the Volunteer Recognition Program.
- At each volunteer milestone listed, the volunteer will receive a generous gift from DAV as a token of DAV's appreciation in their time spent helping veterans.

Incentive Award Level	Miles	Hours
1	1	1
2	2,500	50
3	5,000	100
4	7,500	150
5	10,000	200
6	15,000	250
7	25,000	500
8	35,000	750
9	50,000	1,000
10	75,000	2,000
11	100,000	3,000
12	150,000	5,000
13	175,000	7,500
14	200,000	10,000
15	225,000	15,000
16	300,000	20,000
17	325,000	25,000
18	350,000	30,000
19	400,000	35,000
20	500,000	40,000

- ❖ DAV Community Impact Day is **April 5, 2025**.
- ❖ It's a **national call to action** for people to volunteer their time in support of veterans.
- ❖ We see this day as a **beacon to unify communities** across the United States for a day of service and volunteering for veterans.
- ❖ It's a great **opportunity to introduce DAV and its mission** to those who may not know about it.
- ❖ **Everyone who participates needs to sign up at [communityimpactday.org](https://communityimpactday.org).**
- ❖ If you are not able to participate on April 5th **you can still do something through out the month of April.**



“Thank you for your service” is more than words; **it’s action.**

- When you give even an hour of your time to a veteran, you show them they are valued and appreciated.
- We’re showing that **it doesn’t have to be complicated or time-consuming** to get involved. One heartfelt, simple act of service added to others compounds to create an immeasurable effect.
- **There’s a home for everyone at DAV to volunteer.** You don’t have to be a DAV member or even a veteran to participate or volunteer with DAV!
- **Everyone has a gift or a skill that can make a difference.** Never underestimate what you offer.
- **We hope this inspires** more people to get involved in community service year-round.
- DAV has year-round opportunities to serve.
- This can be a great introduction or hours-builder for scholarship applicants.
- **It doesn’t take a lot of time to make a big difference.**





- **Realize the power** of face-to-face conversations. A simple, direct ask is often the most effective way to get people in your community to join you.
- **Complement your conversations** with social media, texts and emails, but don't rely on them as the only ways you get others to join in.
- **Seek input from others** to help uncover ideas and identify needs in your area.
- **Encourage others to pledge** an hour of their time.

- **Collect** items and create care packages for hospitalized veterans.
- **Read** to veterans who are blind.
- **Host** a pancake breakfast for community veterans.
- **Donate** blood for your local Department of Veterans Affairs Medical facility.
- **Teach** a class that could benefit those veterans who've served.
- **Make** quilts, blankets, hats or scarves for veterans.
- **Write** letters thanking veterans.
- **Paint** a mural honoring your community's veterans.
- **Create** a newsletter highlighting stories of veterans in your community.
- **Clean up** veterans' yard or mow their lawns.
- **Bring** a meal and visit with a veteran who is homebound.
- **Organize** a Homeless Veterans Stand Down.
- **Help** with basic home repairs.
- **Clean** headstones at your local veterans cemetery.
- **Maintain** or spruce up a local veterans memorial or marker.
- **Host** a donation drive for clothing or other needed items for a veterans homeless shelter.





Volunteering with others is more fun and more impactful.

Find opportunities for DAV to be visible in the community.

Encourage all your members to sign up and participate.

DAV Community Impact Day can help with member recruiting.

## We want to see what you did!

- Make sure to take lots of photos and videos.
- Visit [dav.memfox.io/communityimpactday](https://dav.memfox.io/communityimpactday) and tell us about your volunteer experience.
- Don't forget to add captions and tell us who's in the photos.
- We'll share some of our favorite stories and ideas in DAV Magazine and on social media.



If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to:

DAV Communications Department

Brian Buckwalter

[bbuckwalter@dav.org](mailto:bbuckwalter@dav.org)





Since its inception, DAV has awarded **241** individual scholarships, including this year's winners, valued at more than **\$1.97 million**, which enables these exceptional young people to pursue their goals in higher education and experience the value and satisfaction of volunteering.

This program was designed to encourage youth volunteers to become active in the DAV's Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) and/or the Department of Veteran Affairs Voluntary Service Program (VAVS).

DAV offers ten scholarships that are awarded annually totaling **\$110,000** to help fund the recipients higher education.

## New Scholarship Amounts:

**\$30,000; \$20,000; \$15,000; \$10,000; (2) \$7,500; and (4) \$5,000**

## Volunteer Days began in 2023 with 12 scheduled events

- Assemble bags for Disaster Relief efforts
- Assemble Homeless Stand Down bags
- Forget Me Nots
- Assemble DAV 5K race packets
- Assemble National Convention bags
- Field of Flags Packet Assembling
- Cleaning of headstones, for Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and removing the wreaths after the holidays at the KVCN.
- **These events are a significant cost savings to the DAV.**





## Volunteer Days Statistics



- **DAV Volunteer Days 2024:**
  - Volunteer Opportunities : **29**
  - Number of Hours: **3,537.5**
  - Number of Volunteers: **1,185**
- **Since 2023:**
  - Volunteer Opportunities: **52**
  - Number of Hours: **5,814**
  - Number of Volunteers: **1,774**



- These relationships are local member leaders/volunteers responsibility to maintain.
- The most precious commodity we have as individuals is our time.
- Always be on the lookout for new volunteers.
- **There is a place in DAV for everyone!**



- **John Kleindienst - National Voluntary Services Director**
  - Direct line - 859-442-2056
  - Email - [Jkleindienst@dav.org](mailto:Jkleindienst@dav.org)
- **Oscar Olguin – Assistant National Voluntary Services Director**
  - Direct line - 859-442-2054
  - Email – [Oolguin@dav.org](mailto:Oolguin@dav.org)

**Email:** VAVS@dav.org

**Mail:** Voluntary Services  
860 Dolwick Drive  
Erlanger, KY 41018

**Phone:** (859) 441-7300 ext. 1313  
(877) 426-2838 ext. 1313



The background of the slide is a photograph of a sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with large, billowing clouds that are illuminated from below by the sun, creating a warm, golden glow. The sun itself is partially visible on the left side, creating a bright, hazy area. The overall color palette is dominated by oranges, yellows, and dark greys.

Without volunteers, we'd  
be a nation without a soul.

Rosalynn Carter

 quote fancy