

Celebrating Veterans Day

A guide for young Americans



What is a veteran?

A veteran is someone who served in the United States military, which is made up of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard and their National Guard and Reserve components. These are called branches. Around 18 million Americans have served in the military to defend our country.

Most veterans volunteered to join the military, but some were drafted, which means they were required to serve in a time of need. The last time people were drafted into the military was in 1972 during the Vietnam War.

What is Veterans Day?

Veterans Day is a national holiday to honor the people who served in the military, regardless of how or why they joined. It was created in 1954 and is celebrated on Nov. 11 every year.

Why do we celebrate it?

The men and women who served in the military sacrificed a lot to protect our country and freedoms. Some of them fought in war, and many of them were injured. Veterans Day is a chance for us to thank them for all that they did for us and our nation.

What is DAV?

DAV stands for Disabled American Veterans. It is a charity that helps veterans who were injured or became sick as a result of their time in the military. DAV provides free services for these veterans and helps them in numerous ways. DAV programs help veterans find good jobs, ensure they can get the health care they need and more. The organization also fights for laws that support veterans and their families.



How can you support veterans?

Volunteering

You can volunteer your time helping veterans in your own community to thank them for their service. This can include helping them with yardwork, running errands or volunteering at an event for veterans. There are also opportunities to volunteer at your local medical center for veterans, which is run by the Department of Veterans Affairs. If you're 21 years old or younger, you can qualify for one of DAV's college scholarships that recognize young people who volunteer their time for veterans in the name of DAV.



► Learn more at volunteerforveterans.org.



DAV Auxiliary

If you're a family member of a veteran and 17 years old or younger, you can become a junior member of the DAV Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is primarily made up of veterans' family members—including children, spouses and siblings—and supports DAV's larger mission. The Auxiliary recognizes the sacrifices military and veteran families make and how they are an essential part of honoring and supporting those who served.

► Learn more at auxiliary.dav.org.



Field of Flags

You can show your appreciation and help veterans by participating in DAV's Field of Flags initiative. After you sign up online, ask your friends and family for donations so you can receive a kit of American flags to plant in your yard to raise funds to support heroes. Schools and businesses can also participate.



► Learn more at fieldofflags.org.



DAV 5K

Every year around Veterans Day, DAV hosts a 5K event where veterans and supporters run, walk, ride or roll over three miles in support of veterans. The event raises funds and awareness for veterans. You can participate in person in Cincinnati or virtually.

► Learn more at dav5k.org.



Saying thank you!

Sometimes the simplest action is the most meaningful. When you meet a veteran or see someone wearing military clothing, don't be shy about saying, "Thank you for your service." Take it a step further and ask a veteran why they served, which shows you recognize their service and care about what they did.



Learn more about DAV and how you can help veterans at dav.org.



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