

### 3. Choose your assignment preference

Traditional assignments	Non-traditional assignments
Patient escort	Virtual volunteers
Volunteer drivers	Fundraisers
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 2 Recovery - cycling; Golf Supports Our Troops - golfing)
Guest relations program	
Outpatient assignment	
Caregiver positions	



### 4. Contact the VAVS program manager at a nearby VA facility or sign up at [www.va.gov/volunteer](http://www.va.gov/volunteer)

For information concerning individual 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 interests. More information is available at [www.va.gov/volunteer](http://www.va.gov/volunteer)

## NEARLY 100 YEARS OF SERVING VETERANS

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



## THE AMERICAN LEGION

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission  
1608 K St. NW  
Washington DC 20006  
[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



## THE AMERICAN LEGION

VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE

# VAVS



[www.legion.org/vavolunteers](http://www.legion.org/vavolunteers)

## VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

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 more than 8,000 American Legion volunteers contribute nearly 900,000 hours annually at various VA medical centers, Community Based Outpatient Centers, vet centers, nursing homes, state veterans homes and many more facilities in support of our hospitalized veterans.

When Legionnaires provide the time, talent and desire, the VA provides opportunities including directly assisting patients, developing new marketing techniques and more. American Legion posts and members also sponsor youth volunteers and serve veterans through partnerships with businesses and agencies.

For more information, visit [www.va.gov/volunteer](http://www.va.gov/volunteer)  
Make a difference: Volunteer today!

## FOUR STEPS TO VOLUNTEERING

### 1. Determine your availability to become a:

- a. **Regularly scheduled volunteer:** This group works with VA on a scheduled basis. Members go through formal VA orientation and can receive individual rewards for hours and services provided.
- b. **Occasional volunteer.** These volunteers represent The American Legion by volunteering on an infrequent basis.
- c. **Special events volunteer.** VA often requires volunteer support for specific events. 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 welcome home celebrations for troops.

d. **Youth volunteers (VolunTeens).** This VA program 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 opens doors to networking with community and business leaders. Students can also qualify for the James H. Parke Scholarship if they volunteer over 100 hours, are in 10th grade or higher and have not reached age 19.

[www1.va.gov/volunteer/studentprgm.cfm](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. Volunteer Legionnaires may serve at Fisher Houses, Community Based Outpatient Clinics and at vet centers.
- **VA polytrauma centers:** At five regional and 18 network polytrauma centers nationwide, 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 rewarding ways.  
[www.polytrauma.va.gov](http://www.polytrauma.va.gov)
- **VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC):** These facilities improve veterans' access to health care by offering primary care in local communities. Volunteer opportunities include: making coffee, answering phones and scheduling appointments. American Legion posts may provide transportation for needy

veterans in their communities. Coordinating with on-site VA-administrative officers will ensure proper certification of volunteer hours.

- **Fisher Houses:** The Fisher House Foundation offers support and provides lodging for families while they are visiting hospitals 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 fundraising efforts to support existing houses and to promote development of new Fisher Houses. Please confer with your local VA hospital's chief of voluntary service.  
[www.fisherhouse.org](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 home volunteers receive the same recognition and credit for volunteer hours as VAVS volunteers.  
[www.nasvh.org/index.cfm](http://www.nasvh.org/index.cfm)
- **Vet centers:** These 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.  
[www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov)