



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Community Service Reporting Guidelines

Accompanies the Community Service Tally Sheet (Form #CSR1)

Thank you for all you do for our veterans and their families, your community, and our organization. Reporting these community volunteer hours, miles, and donations reflects the effectiveness of our organization in fulfilling our mission. Numbers from each member, each Chapter, and each Department add up to make a big difference, and we are grateful for your dedication and service.

Timeline for Community Service Reporting:

- **February 1:** Deadline for each AGSM member to submit previous year's Community Service Tally Sheet (Form #CSR1), or compatible Chapter form, to their Chapter CSR Rep or Chapter President.
- **March 1:** Deadline for Chapter CSR Rep or President to complete the Community Service CHAPTER Year-end Summary (Form #CSR2) and submit to the Department CSR Rep or President.
- **April 1:** Deadline for Departments to complete the DEPARTMENT Year-end Summary (Form #CSR3) and submit to the National CSR Representative.

For our new members, as well as a great reminder for our seasoned Moms, below are a few guidelines and answers to questions for use in completing your Community Service report:

- Any activity in which you are involved that helps serve members of your community, veterans and their families, or our American Gold Star Mothers is eligible to record hours, miles, donations, etc. An **EXCEPTION** is Church activity and giving. VAVS hours are also treated differently.
- Can **VAVS** volunteer hours be recorded on my AGSM Community Service Report? **NO.**
 - Your VAVS volunteer hours are recorded for you by the VA, and they send them directly to our National VAVS Rep, Pam Stemple.
 - What is VAVS? Veterans Administration Volunteer Services. Volunteers register with the VA Hospital and work scheduled hours, which are tracked by the VA.
- Many members have asked about specific activities to check whether they qualify, and we have listed just a few of them below, with a YES or NO answer:
 - What about volunteer hours to help during my City's Clean-up Day? **YES.**
 - What about miles travelled and hours spent Christmas shopping for active-military members' children? **YES.**
 - What about volunteering to help students read at my local school? **YES.**
 - What about attending a Wreaths Across America ceremony and laying a wreath? **YES.**
 - What about time spent getting sponsors for Wreaths Across America? **YES.**
 - What about time and money donated to purchase donuts for the doctors and nurses at our hospital during the COVID crisis? **YES.**
 - What about helping organize a community Labor Day parade? **YES.**
 - What about attending a Veteran's Day ceremony in my community or school? **YES.**
 - What about offering to babysit for free for a neighbor or sit with a sick person? **YES.**
 - What about attending the funeral of a fallen soldier or veteran? **YES.**
 - Do my volunteer hours, miles, etc. have to be veteran-related or military-related? **NO.** Any community service counts, in (except church activities and VAVS).
- May I record my volunteer hours at the American Legion Auxiliary or TAPS on the AGSM report? **YES,** but you may not report them to **BOTH** organizations—only one. In other words, if you put in 25 volunteer hours with TAPS, you may record those service hours with AGSM, but you may not also report them to TAPS (and vice versa).
- AGSM has several **PARTNERS** for which you may record your activities, too! Don't forget your efforts in helping out Toys for Tots, Operation Gratitude, Quilts of Valor, Boy Scouts, Wreaths Across America, GWOT Memorial Foundation, and Fisher House!

Hope this information is helpful for you in completing your Community Service Report.

Thank you for your service.