

FIELD SERVICE
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The American Legion was organized to aid veterans returning home from World War I. In 1964, a new American Legion Auxiliary program called Field Service was inaugurated. This program gave properly trained volunteers the opportunity to serve in the local community where veterans were placed in nursing homes or other types of institutions (veteran's homes, convalescent homes, foster homes, half-way houses, etc.) for follow-up treatment and care. As the program developed, Field Service came to mean care and assistance to all non-hospitalized veterans in a community in need of help, also to include cemetery services.

With the continued budgetary cuts in the Veterans Administration funding has meant tightening admittance guidelines, placing greater reliance on outpatient care. Veterans not classified as service connected or in critical need of care are being forced to find alternative sources of aid. This is where Field Service volunteers need to be sure to record and report all hours and funds spent for the veterans that we serve. With our recording we have record: without reporting we have no proof. The Congress and Senate don't want to see these numbers, they are staggering, yet every year we compile these numbers and bombard our Congressmen and Senators with them. Our work is not for us but for those who have served.

In the Unit, all Field Service work is under the direction of the Unit Field Service Director and/or Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman who should maintain a card file listing the name of the volunteer, date of orientation, record of hours (regular and occasional) and funds expended. Orientations must be presented by someone who has previously taken the course, been authorized by the President and has served fifty (50) hours or more of voluntary service in the Field Service program. The names of members who take the course must be sent to this Department Chairman, in order for the hours to be individually counted.

Field Service is volunteer work done **DIRECTLY FOR THE VETERAN.**

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

A one-time Field Service pin is available after 50 hours of volunteerism has been accumulated at a cost of \$10.95 from Department. These hours can be accumulated over a period of years. According to **Guide for Volunteers**; "The cost of the Field Service Pin and hour bars are to be defrayed by the Unit unless otherwise specified by Department".