



VFW Auxiliary Membership Moment

Understanding the Basics of Membership Eligibility

One of the fundamental differences between the VFW Auxiliary and other veterans service organizations (VSOs) is our eligibility requirements. In order for an individual (as outlined on the VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel) to be considered for membership, his/her eligible veteran:

- Must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national;
- Must have honorable service in the U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard)
- Must have served in any foreign war, insurrection, or expedition as reflected by **one** of the following:
 1. A VFW-authorized campaign or service medal of the United States.
 2. Receipt of Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay, as verified by a copy of a Leave and Earning Statement (LES) issued by the U.S. Armed Forces.
 3. Service in Korea for 30 consecutive/60 non-consecutive days after June 30, 1949.

The eligible veteran and the prospective VFW Auxiliary member must have a familial relationship within two generations; step, half and adopted family members meet the “two generations” standard set forth by the IRS. However, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews of the eligible veteran do not meet the “two generations” standard and are therefore not permitted to join the VFW Auxiliary.

Proof of the veteran’s service to establish eligibility for membership rests with the applicant. The local VFW Auxiliary’s Investigating Committee is responsible for assuring the eligibility of every person accepted for membership. A careful check of eligibility (as outlined in Section 102 of the 2017 VFW Auxiliary Bylaws) at the time a person joins will help to avoid any future concerns.

Information on a veteran’s service record can be obtained by contacting the National Archives and Records Administration at:

- Phone: 1.866.272.6272
- Online: www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/

If you have membership questions or need more information, please contact the VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters at 816.561.8655 or info@vfwauxiliary.org.