

Updated 4/8/26

In-Kind Support for Wreath Day & Cleanup

When planning for Wreath Day or cleanup, some locations may benefit from in-kind support (donated goods or services, such as porta-potties, dumpsters, or PA systems).

Because not all requests are eligible for receipts, we recommend using the steps below and working closely with your Regional Liaison Team.

Start Here: Connect with Your Regional Liaison Team

Before reaching out to any business, contact your Regional Liaison Team. This helps ensure consistency and avoids situations where we cannot provide an in-kind donation receipt.

They can help:

- ❖ Confirm if your request is appropriate for Wreath Day/cleanup
- ❖ Determine if the donation may qualify for an in-kind receipt
- ❖ Guide you on the next steps and approvals if needed

Step 1: Identify a Clear Need

Be specific about what will support your event. Examples:

- ❖ Porta-potties for volunteers
- ❖ Dumpster or waste removal services
- ❖ PA/sound system for ceremony
- ❖ Water or volunteer support items

 *Not appropriate:*

- ❖ Gift cards, auction items, or merchandise for fundraising events (these benefit the group—not directly WAA—and are not eligible for in-kind receipts from WAA)

Step 2: Think Local

Look for businesses that naturally align with your needs:

- ❖ Waste companies → dumpsters, recycle bins
- ❖ Rental companies → sound system, porta-potties, forklifts, other equipment
- ❖ Grocery stores → water and coffee donations
- ❖ Schools and churches → shuttle buses for off-site parking

- ❖ Golf courses → golf carts for shuttling people with disabilities or the elderly from the ceremony to the wreath placement area
- ❖ Hardware stores → flags to mark graves, stands for ceremonial wreaths

Connections through volunteers can be especially helpful.

Step 3: Make a Simple, Personal Ask

Instead of a formal template, use a personal, conversational approach:

- ❖ Introduce yourself and your role with Wreaths Across America
- ❖ Briefly explain National Wreaths Across America Day or the cleanup
- ❖ Clearly state what you need and when
- ❖ Share how it supports honoring veterans

Keep it genuine—this often works better than a formal letter.

Step 4: Be Clear About Impact

Help them understand why it matters:

- ❖ Supports volunteers
- ❖ Helps ensure a respectful, organized event
- ❖ Contributes to honoring veterans in the community

Step 5: Loop Back with Your Regional Liaison Team

If a business is interested:

- ❖ Let your Regional Liaison Team know right away
- ❖ They will confirm eligibility and next steps
- ❖ They can assist with any required documentation

Important Reminder About Receipts

Not all donations qualify for an in-kind receipt.

- ✓ Items/services that directly support Wreath Day or cleanup may qualify
- ✗ Items used for fundraising (gift cards, auction items, etc.) do not qualify

When in doubt → always check with your Regional Liaison Team first.