

Dear Chapter DAR Librarians,

This list of possible activities was forwarded to me from the NSDAR Library Outreach Committee. It is an outline of suggestions to help you support local libraries and communities. Using the dar.org (members only) website, you can see what other chapters are doing.

Once activities begin, please request a picture and typewritten explanation of any event you do and send it to me so I may forward it to our Eastern Division Chair for placement in the committee website.

All libraries are important! Not only your local public library, but schools too! Anywhere there is a library we, want to be a part of it! So, use your imagination and come up with your own ideas!

The best way to begin is to meet with the library staff and introduce yourself as a DAR representative and explain our goals. The building of relationships with the staff is of the utmost importance. A good rapport is a must for success!

Ask if they have any important needs and how we might assist them. Be good listeners! Besides being a great meeting place for DAR chapters, scouts, and other local clubs it can also be a marvelous museum for all areas of life.

Some suggestions are as follows:

Volunteer in your local libraries. Ask the librarian how you or your chapter can be of service such as conducting story hours, tutoring students with homework, ESL, etc., or helping with shelving books.

Honor the librarians during National Library Week which will be April 23-29 in 2023 with a tea, or have an "Open House" to serve refreshments and honor the staff. This is not limited to public libraries but schools as well. Spotlight librarians and the staff during the year. Show that ALL are appreciated.

Set up displays for Constitution Week, Flag Day, Black History Week, July 4, local town history, founding of the library, etc. All patrons enjoy viewing displays and learning at the same time!

For diversity, think about other countries where the patrons are from. Consider possible citizenship classes preparing people to become U.S. citizens.

Educate diversity with a display by working with the patrons through the librarian.

Provide bookmarks at the desk where people check out books. DAR brochures are great too!

Sponsor a coat drive or school supply drive "anything" that would give back to the community we serve which could be seasonal.

Sponsor a "Library Lunch Bunch" where you could serve a light lunch, read several books, and do a craft. There is much hunger in our nation so this would be greatly appreciated.

Sponsor a book club for patrons, especially seniors. Support book drives and book fairs as well.

Sponsor a DAR exhibit about DAR with information on how to join and what we're all about. Have plenty of DAR brochures to hand out!

Donate a subscription to American Spirit Magazine for someone as a gift or contact local libraries or genealogical societies who may appreciate such a gesture. This may also encourage DAR membership.

Spotlight local authors. Do a book review with them in the local library and invite the public to participate.

Consider honoring a deceased DAR chapter member by making a chapter monetary donation to the library in her memory.

Sponsor a "Children's Day" at the library. Show how to locate, checkout and use computer equipment. Also consider the library as a "safe place" for children to go to after school or visit during the summer months.

Sponsor a community Library Day. Help the library staff to introduce the many ways a library card is helpful, not only in their local community but worldwide!

Please consider joining the popular DAR Book Club too. This information is also on the NSDAR website.

I hope you found these suggestions helpful. Also please be on the lookout in your area for books to donate to the National DAR Library. You get credit for your chapter and West Virginia also gets credit.

Thank you to Dani Felty, Eastern Division Vice Chair of the DAR Outreach Committee for providing us with this information.

For questions or suggestions, contact.

Gail Potter, WV State Librarian

[pottertng@yahoo.com](mailto:pottertng@yahoo.com)

(home) 717-294-6124