

State of Michigan VFW 2026-2027 Buddy Poppy Program

Key Details and Guidelines for Ordering, Distribution, Awards, and Display Contest

Ordering Buddy Poppies

Buddy Poppies are available for order throughout the year. For traditional Buddy Poppy days in May, Posts should submit their requests to State Headquarters at least six weeks before the planned event. Both the Traditional artificial flower and the Tin Tab Buddy Poppy will be offered for 2026-2027, each requiring its own separate order form. These forms can be downloaded from the State website's Buddy Poppy Program page or from the Forms and Guides section under Resources. Completed forms and payment must be sent to State Headquarters. Orders will then be processed and shipped directly to the member's provided address (PO Boxes are not permitted). Auxiliary members may also order poppies using their home address, ensuring they specify their affiliation on the form.

District and Post Chairmen Responsibilities

District Chairmen are responsible for introducing the Buddy Poppy program at the first District meeting and making sure every Post has an appointed Buddy Poppy Chairman. Chairpersons should encourage Posts to increase their orders compared to the prior year and remind them that all Buddy Poppy donations are to be deposited into the Post Relief Fund to support veterans. Additionally, Scouts and other youth groups are welcome to assist with donations.

Fundraising Dates and Awards

The main fundraising days for Buddy Poppies are May 7, 8, and 9, 2027, but fundraising is allowed year-round.

Districts in which 100% of Posts buy at least 500 Buddy Poppies prior to June 30, 2027 will receive a Certificate of Achievement from the State Commander at the first District meeting following the 2027 State Convention.

Posts that increase their order by at least 500 poppies over the prior year prior to June 30, 2027 will receive a Citation at the first District meeting following the 2027 State Convention.

The Post member in each membership division who collects the most donations between July 1, 2026, and May 15, 2027, will be recognized with a Citation at the 2027 State Convention. Verification of the fundraiser's name and donation amount must be given in writing by the Post Commander or Quartermaster to the State Buddy Poppy Director by May 20, 2027.

Annual Joint Buddy Poppy Display Contest

The Annual Joint VFW and Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Display Contest will be held at the 2027 Mid-Winter Conference. All entries are welcome and will be judged according to National Buddy Poppy Contest rules. The National Contest rules features three categories, ensuring fair and comprehensive evaluation for all displays. Participation is strongly encouraged—we invite all Posts and Auxiliaries to showcase their creativity and enthusiasm in presenting the Buddy Poppy theme. Only official VFW Buddy Poppies may be used in creating your display contest entry. The Department Director will provide a Department Contest entry form.

Your involvement helps highlight the significance and impact of the Buddy Poppy Program through inspiring displays.

Membership Divisions

- I: under 50 members
- II: 51 to 90 members
- III: 91 to 139 members
- IV: over 140 members

These divisions are used to determine the top fundraisers for awards.

Contact Information

For questions or to request a presentation about the Buddy Poppy program at a Post or District meeting, please contact:

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