

Buddy Poppy Ambassador Guidelines

Program Year 2023-24

Department of Texas VFW

Mission: The 2023 – 2024 Texas Buddy Poppy Ambassador program is to promote the Buddy Poppy Program, Buddy Poppy Drives, help raise funds for our VFW National Home and to honor the dead by helping the living

Age Criteria: Boy or Girl ages 5 to 10 years old by April 15, 2024

How's Money to be Collected: Please note: This fundraising is entirely separate from your Post or District Buddy Poppy drive funds. Participation will require a motion to clarify that all funds from the Buddy Poppy Ambassador program will be exclusively for the VFW Texas Home at VFW National Home under Sec. 219 b. of the MOP. All money collected (**per Ambassador**) outside of the VFW Post must be tracked and handled by parent or guardian (Cash, Venmo, Zelle, etc.). Funds are turned in to Post once their Buddy Poppy Ambassador is submitted to their Post for consideration. (Honor system in place). The ambassador with the most funds collected will be selected as the winner, in all 3 categories - (Post, District and State). If more than one ambassador is submitted for competition (per category) all funds will be added to the ultimate winner.

Additional Criteria's:

- Ambassadors must always have a parent or Legal guardian escorting them (Safety is a Priority for Ambassadors)
- Post Winner will be announced at a Post meeting in January. All Posts/Auxiliary's in the Department of Texas VFW are encouraged to have a Buddy Poppy Ambassador
- Each District Ambassador must be selected and then announced at the District February or March District meetings
- All proceeds from each Posts/Auxiliary's within their District will be collected by the Post Quartermaster and final Post total is turned in to the respective District Quartermasters. The District Quartermaster is responsible for submitting the overall monies collected within their District. All money and District nominee is then sent to the VFW Texas State Quartermaster NLT 1 April 2024
- The State VFW Buddy Poppy Chair & State Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Chair will convene a committee to select the overall winner on/about 15 April 2024 to select the VFW Texas State Ambassadors
- Uniform must be patriotic with full Buddy Poppy or Texas Theme (In a tasteful manner)
- All participating VFW Post's must adhere to All State requirements to order and purchase a minimum of 1 Box (500 count) Buddy Poppy by December 31, 2023 (Note increase in price to \$150 for Box of 500 count) Average Poppy drive distribution is 200 per person

If you have any questions, please free to contact the State Buddy Poppy Chairperson Comrade RG Ruelas at Commanderrg@yahoo.com or the VFW Texas Auxiliary Chair Mrs. Denise Dubois at duboisdc@aol.com.

In closing, this is our inaugural Buddy Poppy Ambassador Program for the Department of Texas VFW and State Commander Larry Sanders is asking for your full support in this important new and worthwhile initiative.