



10 Veterans Day Activity Ideas for Seniors



Easy ways to honor veterans at a senior center, in assisted living, or at home.

1. A moment of silence at 11 a.m. The fighting in World War I stopped at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Pause together for one quiet minute at 11 o'clock.

3. Write thank-you cards. Print the thank-you cards below and give them to veterans in your group, your family or your neighborhood.

5. Veterans Day trivia. Read the 20 large print questions aloud and let the whole room help. Answers and sources are included.

7. Invite a local veterans group. Ask a nearby veterans organization, such as a VFW or American Legion post, if a member would visit for coffee and conversation.

9. Watch the national ceremony. The Veterans Day National Ceremony is held at Arlington National Cemetery. Check VA.gov for how to watch it.

2. Stories of Service circle. Invite veterans and family members to share a memory. Use the gentle prompts and leader guide on the last page.

4. A Wall of Honor. With permission, post photos of members and their loved ones who served, with their branch and years of service.

6. Veterans Day word search. Two big-letter puzzles with answer keys: honoring veterans, and the branches and history.

8. Music and memories. Play songs your group grew up with and ask what each song brings to mind.

10. Learn the difference. Talk about how Veterans Day (thanking all who served) differs from Memorial Day (remembering those who died in service).

Veterans Day activities for seniors at home

- Call or write to a veteran you know and say thank you.
- Look through old photos or letters from a family member who served, and write down the story behind one of them.
- Do the word search and trivia with a grandchild over the phone or a video call.
- Fly a flag or wear red, white and blue.
- Pause for a quiet minute at 11 a.m. on November 11.



Veterans Day Word Search 1: Honoring Veterans



Words about saying thank you to the people who served. Circle each word you find.

F	S	P	N	K	O	P	U	V	V	H	J
A	F	A	W	T	H	A	N	K	Y	O	U
R	I	F	L	O	G	R	C	F	N	M	K
S	I	A	R	U	V	A	V	M	O	D	V
M	E	I	O	E	T	D	M	F	V	D	N
K	E	R	C	V	E	E	K	B	E	L	B
A	U	B	V	O	E	D	P	L	M	P	J
K	T	B	Y	I	C	T	O	C	B	M	M
G	F	L	A	G	C	H	E	M	E	J	E
N	C	O	B	U	R	E	G	R	R	K	D
G	N	E	O	A	B	I	K	L	A	B	A
I	K	M	P	H	O	N	O	R	W	N	L

Find these words

☐ VETERAN

☐ SERVICE

☐ PARADE

☐ THANK YOU

☐ MEDAL

☐ HONOR

☐ FLAG

☐ SALUTE

☐ NOVEMBER

☐ FREEDOM

Words only go left to right, top to bottom, or diagonally down. Words with a space, like THANK YOU, appear without the space.



Veterans Day Word Search 2: Branches and History



The military branches and words from Veterans Day history. Circle each word you find.

O	R	A	P	Y	M	A	R	I	N	E	S
C	P	S	I	B	G	O	P	W	C	U	A
U	O	P	R	R	U	L	F	P	T	N	R
C	J	A	P	I	F	G	O	K	M	I	M
E	D	C	S	R	W	O	L	W	L	F	I
V	H	E	P	T	E	R	R	E	V	O	S
U	S	F	R	V	G	P	M	C	L	R	T
R	U	O	I	G	G	U	O	O	E	M	I
E	U	R	A	D	K	U	A	P	E	D	C
Y	W	C	R	A	J	F	A	R	P	N	E
A	B	E	M	P	W	M	L	G	D	Y	F
W	S	E	Y	N	A	V	Y	R	G	F	J

Find these words

☐ ARMY

☐ MARINES

☐ COAST GUARD

☐ ARMISTICE

☐ UNIFORM

☐ NAVY

☐ AIR FORCE

☐ SPACE FORCE

☐ POPPY

☐ BUGLE

Words only go left to right, top to bottom, or diagonally down. Words with a space, like AIR FORCE, appear without the space.

Word search answer keys

1. Honoring Veterans

F	S	P	N	K	O	P	U	V	V	H	J
A	F	A	W	T	H	A	N	K	Y	O	U
R	I	F	L	O	G	R	C	F	N	M	K
S	I	A	R	U	V	A	V	M	O	D	V
M	E	I	O	E	T	D	M	F	V	D	N
K	E	R	C	V	E	E	K	B	E	L	B
A	U	B	V	O	E	D	P	L	M	P	J
K	T	B	Y	I	C	T	O	C	B	M	M
G	F	L	A	G	C	H	E	M	E	J	E
N	C	O	B	U	R	E	G	R	R	K	D
G	N	E	O	A	B	I	K	L	A	B	A
I	K	M	P	H	O	N	O	R	W	N	L

2. Branches and History

O	R	A	P	Y	M	A	R	I	N	E	S
C	P	S	I	B	G	O	P	W	C	U	A
U	O	P	R	R	U	L	F	P	T	N	R
C	J	A	P	I	F	G	O	K	M	I	M
E	D	C	S	R	W	O	L	W	L	F	I
V	H	E	P	T	E	R	R	E	V	O	S
U	S	F	R	V	G	P	M	C	L	R	T
R	U	O	I	G	G	U	O	O	E	M	I
E	U	R	A	D	K	U	A	P	E	D	C
Y	W	C	R	A	J	F	A	R	P	N	E
A	B	E	M	P	W	M	L	G	D	Y	F
W	S	E	Y	N	A	V	Y	R	G	F	J

Talk about it

- Which branch did someone in your family serve in?
- Do you remember a Veterans Day or Armistice Day parade in your hometown?
- Who is a veteran you would like to thank this year?



Veterans Day Trivia Questions



Circle the best answer. Read them aloud and let the whole room help.

1. On what date is Veterans Day observed each year?

- A) November 1 B) November 11
- C) The last Monday in May

2. What was Veterans Day first called?

- A) Armistice Day B) Victory Day C) Liberty Day

3. Veterans Day began by marking the end of the fighting in which war?

- A) The Civil War B) World War I C) World War II

4. The fighting stopped at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of which year?

- A) 1914 B) 1918 C) 1945

5. What was World War I often called at the time?

- A) The Great War B) The Big One
- C) The Long War

6. Which treaty officially ended World War I in 1919?

- A) Treaty of Paris B) Treaty of Versailles
- C) Treaty of Ghent

7. Which president proclaimed the first Armistice Day in November 1919?

- A) Woodrow Wilson B) Theodore Roosevelt
- C) Calvin Coolidge

8. In what year did Congress make November 11 a legal holiday called Armistice Day?

- A) 1920 B) 1938 C) 1960

9. In what year was Armistice Day renamed Veterans Day?

- A) 1946 B) 1954 C) 1971

10. Which president issued the first Veterans Day Proclamation in 1954?

- A) Harry Truman B) Dwight D. Eisenhower
- C) John F. Kennedy

11. For a few years in the 1970s, Veterans Day was moved to a Monday in which month?

- A) September B) October C) December

12. Which president signed the 1975 law that returned Veterans Day to November 11?

- A) Richard Nixon B) Gerald Ford C) Jimmy Carter

13. Which is the correct spelling of the holiday?

- A) Veteran's Day B) Veterans' Day
- C) Veterans Day

14. Who does Veterans Day honor?

- A) Only those who died in battle
- B) All who served, in war or in peace
- C) Only generals and admirals

15. Which holiday is set aside to remember service members who died serving their country?

- A) Memorial Day B) Flag Day C) Labor Day

16. Wearing red poppies to honor the fallen comes from which 1915 poem?

- A) "In Flanders Fields" B) "The Road Not Taken"
- C) "America the Beautiful"

17. What do Canada and Australia call November 11?

- A) Remembrance Day B) Heroes Day C) Peace Day

18. On November 11, 1921, an unknown World War I soldier was laid to rest at which cemetery?

- A) Gettysburg National Cemetery
- B) Arlington National Cemetery
- C) Normandy American Cemetery

19. Which president spoke at that 1921 ceremony and placed the Medal of Honor on the casket?

- A) Warren G. Harding B) Herbert Hoover
- C) Franklin D. Roosevelt

20. Which is the newest branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, created in 2019?

- A) Coast Guard B) Air Force C) Space Force

Veterans Day trivia answers

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. B) November 11 | 2. A) Armistice Day |
| 3. B) World War I | 4. B) 1918 |
| 5. A) The Great War | 6. B) Treaty of Versailles |
| 7. A) Woodrow Wilson | 8. B) 1938 |
| 9. B) 1954 | 10. B) Dwight D. Eisenhower |
| 11. B) October | 12. B) Gerald Ford |
| 13. C) Veterans Day | 14. B) All who served, in war or in peace |
| 15. A) Memorial Day | 16. A) "In Flanders Fields" |
| 17. A) Remembrance Day | 18. B) Arlington National Cemetery |
| 19. A) Warren G. Harding | 20. C) Space Force |

Did you know?

- Veterans Day is always observed on November 11, no matter what day of the week it falls on.
- The first Armistice Day was planned with parades, public meetings and a short pause in business at 11 a.m.
- In Great Britain, people keep a two-minute silence at 11 a.m. on Remembrance Sunday.

Sources (checked October 2026)

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: History of Veterans Day: <https://department.va.gov/veterans-day/history-of-veterans-day/>
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: Veterans Day Facts and Information: <https://department.va.gov/veterans-day/facts-and-information/>
- Arlington National Cemetery: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Monuments-and-Memorials/Tomb-of-the-Unknown-Soldier>
- U.S. Space Force: About the United States Space Force: <https://www.spaceforce.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheet-Display/Article/2197775/united-states-space-force/>



Thank You for Your Service



Dear _____,

Thank you for _____

With gratitude, _____

Happy Veterans Day, November 11 · aiseniors.app

✂ cut here



Thank You for Your Service



Dear _____,

Thank you for _____

With gratitude, _____

Happy Veterans Day, November 11 · aiseniors.app



Stories of Service: A Group Activity

A 30 minute memory-sharing circle for senior centers and assisted living.



1. **Before (5 minutes):** set chairs in a circle. Invite veterans, military spouses and family members. Have photos, a flag or a map on a table to spark memories.
2. **Welcome (3 minutes):** thank everyone for coming. Say: "Share as much or as little as you like. You can always pass."
3. **Moment of silence (1 minute):** a quiet minute for all who served.
4. **Share (15 minutes):** go around the circle with one prompt at a time. Family members can share about a loved one who served.
5. **Thank you (5 minutes):** write thank-you cards together, or go around and say one word about how you feel.
6. **Close:** thank each storyteller by name. With permission, write down a story or two for a memory book.

Gentle prompts

- Where did you serve, or who in your family served?
- What do you remember about your first days in uniform?
- Tell us about a friend you made while serving.
- What did you look forward to in a letter from home?
- What music, food or saying always reminds you of that time?
- What is something funny that happened that you still laugh about?
- What would you like younger people to know about serving?
- How did your family stay close while someone was away?

For the leader: be kind with memories

- Some memories are hard. Never press for details. Listening is enough.
- Keep the focus on friendship, home and everyday life, not on battles.
- If someone becomes upset, pause, offer a quiet moment and a cup of water, and check in with them afterward.
- Veterans Crisis Line (from the VA), any time, day or night: dial **988 then press 1**, or text **838255**.