

HEROES' HARVESTS



Purpose

To provide our Nation's service members, to include active duty military members, reserve, national guard, veterans, and Gold Star families, a dynamic therapeutic environment through exclusive hunting, fishing, and outdoor experiences. We also directly support our community members in conjunction with outfitters across different states for transitioning service members who seek a career in the outdoor industry.

Background

Currently, there are ~20 million veterans of the US military and around 2 million active duty, reserve, and National Guard Soldiers. We at Heroes' Harvests founded this non-profit with the simple idea of using our outdoor experience to help service members deal with the physical and emotional stress that many have endured for years. Our events are tailored to be a dynamic therapeutic environment no matter what battles, emotionally or physically, they are still fighting.





In addition to our outdoor events, we facilitate the Wilderness Guide Training Program; which recognizes the value of military service. It empowers veterans through basic and advanced learning opportunities, preparing each individual with the necessary skills to succeed in a new professional role. A natural intersection exists between the therapeutic benefits of the outdoors and the continuing need for trained professional guides in the outfitting industry.

Outdoor Recreation As Therapy



However, recent scientific research suggests group-based outdoor recreation programs can have significant positive impacts. This approach is more likely to pique the interest of veterans since many find nature and recreational programs more appealing than conventional clinical treatments. The physical challenge, goal achievement, and camaraderie found with outdoor activities parallel experiences that make military service profoundly meaningful and rewarding.

It is essential to our country and communities that veteran mental and physical health services continue to evolve to help with the management of challenging issues associated with military service. Negative connotations are often attributed to traditional, clinical-based therapy and deter veterans from receiving treatment.





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Our Impact

Veterans Impacted: 106

Number of Events Held: 24

Number of states participating: 8





Future Events

Wisconsin Heroes and Horses family event (3)
Wisconsin family ice fishing event
Spring Thunder Turkey Hunt
Colorado archery elk hunt
Florida kayak fishing
Lake Superior Lake Trout outing
North Carolina fishing events (3)
Idaho spring turkey hunt
Spring Warrior Clash Fishing Tournament

Testimonials



"I would say the thing I got most out of this trip was the fact that I just got out of inpatient after 2 months and I was able to just get away from the hustle of everyday life, go into the woods and interact with kind loving people. I wasn't worried about my hypervigilance, anger, depression, anxiety, or anything else I was just present in the moment." - Veteran, Florida Osceola Turkey Hunt, 2022

"I feel this event allows for individuals with similar backgrounds to come together & share stories, experiences while being able to experience excellent outdoor experiences, while being supported by some of the greatest Americans I ever met!" - Veteran, Spring Thunder Turkey 2022

