



AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIOR (AFW2) PROGRAM

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Community Programs Staff Highlight

Jessica Raya is a Military Adaptive Sports Program (MASP) Service Lead for the Air Force Wounded Warrior (AFW2) Program. She currently works with the Adaptive Sports and Community Programs team. Jessica graduated from Texas State University with a degree in Recreation Administration. Following her degree, she received her certification as a Recreational Therapist in order to help people in their recovery through

the use of adaptive sports. Before working for AFW2, Jessica worked for a year at Laurel Ridge Treatment center in Fort Hood, TX - educating wounded Soldiers with coping skills through recreational therapy. During this time, she taught swimming lessons for Warriors, in the Warrior Transi-



tion Battalion, and military children. Following her work in Fort Hood, Jessica went to Fort Sill, OK where she led the Warrior Transition Unit adaptive sports program. After a year at Fort Sill, she was offered a position at AFW2 in San Antonio, TX. Jessica's passion has always been to serve wounded, ill and injured service members through recreation and adaptive sports. She is excited and ready to assist You!

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**July-September
2020**

**July 04
Independence Day**

**September 07
Labor Day**

Summer Safety

Summer is the season for relaxing, having fun and spending time with your family and friends.

- When spending time outside, it's important to protect your skin and eyes from the sun's ultraviolet rays. So make sure to wear sunglasses and sunblock.
- When preparing food on a grill, always follow the grill manufacturer's instructions and proper food safety procedures.
- Summertime is a prime time for use of motorcycles and bikes. Remember to wear a helmet and follow basic biker safety instructions.
- Independence Day celebrations and outdoor parties are an enjoyable part of the summer. Make sure to drink responsibly and never let anyone drink and drive.

National Resource Directory

The National Resource Directory (NRD) is a resource website that connects Wounded Warriors, Service Members, Veterans, Caregivers and their families to programs and services

specifically designed for them. The NRD is hosted, managed, maintained, sustained and developed by the Defense Health Agency's Recovery Coordination Program. The NRD

provides services and resources at the national, state and local levels to support recovery, rehabilitation and community reintegration.

For more info visit:
www.nrd.gov

KICK-START YOUR SUMMER WITH THESE MILITARY FAMILY ACTIVITIES



With the school year over and PCS season in full swing, many military families are looking for cost effective ways to usher in those summer days. There are many activities available to the military community. We hope you take a chance to register your military child for Operation Purple Camp or your family for a retreat. But there are many weeks to fill before the start of the new school year—so here are some ideas to kick-start the summer fun!

FAMILY CAMP TRIP

Military installations around the country have campground facilities for authorized patrons.

WAVES OF HONOR

SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment and their Waves of Honor program is another excellent way to make memories with your family without breaking the bank. SeaWorld and Busch Gardens offers free admission each year (4th of July) to military members and up to three dependents.

NATIONAL PARKS

The National Park Service offers a free annual pass to their national parks and federal land sites to all current U.S. military members and dependents. Living the military life can make it more difficult to establish family traditions, but with free park passes to these parks, you can make visiting these national treasures a tradition regardless of where the military takes you.

ARMED FORCES VACATION CLUB

The Armed Forces Vacation Club offers a free membership to all active duty, guard, reserve and retired U.S. military and civilian Department of Defense (DoD) employees for their Space-Available (Space-A) program. You'll have access to accommodations at over 4,000 resorts, condominiums, apartments or homes in over 100 countries worldwide starting at only \$349 a week!

YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Sometimes a staycation is just what the doctor ordered. Spend the summer relaxing tourist-style by exploring your local area. Whether you want to pop a tent in your backyard with the kiddos or rent a pontoon boat for a day on the water with your service member, check out what rentals are available at your installation MWR/MCCS.

LIVE BREAKING NEWS

The Community Programs team has some exciting news to share with you! The Community Peer Activities Coordinator (CPAC) program, which originally fell under the Recovery Airman Mentorship Program (RAMP), will be moving over to Community Programs. With this realignment, we changed the name CPAC to Warrior and Family Social Connections to clearly express the vision of this new initiative.

This realignment drives a unified effort to promote and connect Warriors and their families with community-based events, opportunities, resources and each other all under one program!

What is a Warrior and Family Social Connection (WAFSC)?

- When an AFW2 warrior or caregiver host/lead a group activity with other local AFW2 members in their community to help build the sense of unity and reinforce never being alone.



Ramstein AFB first ever CPAC hosted by RCC Liz Anderson, December 2019.

Are you interested in hosting/leading a WAFSC? Please submit your WAFSC event information:

- ◇ What
- ◇ When
- ◇ Where

to the Community Programs team by email. We can help advertise your event to local warriors in your area, or you may post about your event on the **AFW2 Warrior and Family Social Connections** Facebook Page (closed group- request to join!)

Examples on WAFSC activities you can host:

- BBQ at your home
- A meal at a restaurant
- Teaching a new skill
- Social meet and greet with local warriors and RCC
- Movie night

Examples on events and outings that you can lead:

- 5k run, Tough Mudder
- Valor Games, Endeavor Games
- Local fundraiser
- Local music festival
- Outdoor recreational events: sailing, hunting, fishing, hiking, etc.

**For More Information on
Community Programs
Contact us at:**

Email:

AFPC.DPFW.AFW2CommunityPrgm@
us.af.mil

Follow us on Facebook:

- AFW2 Community Programs
- AFW2 Warrior and Family Social Connections



**JARED ALLEN'S
HOMES FOR
WOUNDED WARRIORS**

Their mission is to raise money to build and remodel injury-specific, accessible and mortgage-free homes for our critically injured United States Military Veterans.

Who does Jared Allen's Homes For Wounded Warriors Serve?

JAH4WW serves wounded US military veterans who sustained a physical injury or wounds during their military service in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom, making it challenging for them to comfortably get around in the privacy of their homes.

Qualifications:

- Candidates must have been wounded in combat in a post 9/11 conflict and declared 100% disabled through the VA
- Purple Heart Recipient
- Sustained critical injuries including: Paralysis, blindness or loss of Limb or TBI.
- Upon discharge received a DD214 with a good RE Code

For information on how to apply to get your final Dream Home contact:

Bobby Puckett, Community Programs Manager

Email: robert.puckett.9@us.af.mil

Looking for Resources, Look no Further!

The Community Programs team would like to share with you all our newest **Airman Resource Request** form to better assist you, our warriors and caregivers. If you are in need of finding/connecting with resources, feel free to email us to receive the form or find it on our webpage:

www.woundedwarrior.af.mil/Programs-and-Initiatives/Community-Programs/

Areas we focus on:

- Adaptive Sports and Outdoor Recreation Opportunities
- Caregiver and Family Support Programs
- Home Modification and Equipment
- Resiliency and Personal Growth

