



# The Stars of the SHOW

VOLUNTEER  
SYMPOSIUM 2024

IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD  
SERVICE MEMBER & FAMILY  
SUPPORT

# WELCOME STARS



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Volunteers are a key element in the overall wellbeing and readiness of our military Family community. Without your willingness to volunteer your time and service, our organization would not be able to support our Soldiers and Families the way that we do. I'd like to thank each of you for raising your hand to join us this weekend - your voice matters. You are the force behind the scenes, and your contribution makes a genuine difference in the lives of the people we serve. Thank you!



LTC Christian O'Leary  
J9 Director  
Service Member & Family Support, Idaho

## MEET YOUR MILITARY & FAMILY READINESS SPECIALIST TEAM

The Military & Family Readiness Specialist (MFRS) Team is here to assist Service Members and Families of all branches of service with questions regarding benefits, deployment preparation and navigating the reintegration process. The team also acts as a community advocate for our local military population.



In addition to resource referral and case work, our MFRS also assist Soldier & Family Readiness Groups (SFRGs), as well as Military Youth Groups with training and activities.

# The Boise Center

# VENUE MAP



Saturday and Sunday's sessions will be held in **Room 120** & the Awards Banquet in **Room 100** of the Boise Center, identified by the arrows below.

Child Care will be located on the 2nd Floor in **Room 200**.



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Friday

- Icebreaker Social @ M43 Outdoor Fieldhouse

### Saturday

#### Room 120

- 0700 - 0800 Check-in & Breakfast
- 0900 - 1600 Volunteer training

#### Room 100 A/B

- 1730 - 1830 No-Host Social
- 1830 - 2100 Awards Banquet

### Sunday

#### Room 120

- 0700 - 0800 Check-in & Breakfast
- 0800 - 1200 Joint Idaho National Guard Leadership & Volunteer Training

# Volunteer Symposium 2024

## AGENDA



### SATURDAY

#### Check in and Breakfast

- Welcome and Introductions
- MRT / Icebreaker

#### -Break-

- O.A.R.S -Total Health

#### Breakout 1

- New Leaders:** Military Acronyms/Terminology, Customs & Courtesies
- Experienced Leaders:** Finding & Maintaining Your “Why”

#### Breakout 2

- New Leaders:** SFRG Volunteer Training
- Experienced Leaders:** Meetings & Events 101

#### -Lunch-

- How to Build/Maintain your SFRG

#### -Break-

- OPSEC, Emergency Preparedness

### SUNDAY

#### Check in and Breakfast

- Welcome & Introductions
- Readiness Reports / Volunteer Awards
- Commanders SFRG & Informal Funds Training

#### -Break-

- Commanders Expectations & SFRG/MFRS Roles
- Regional Breakouts

## Topics of Discussion:

Please use the corresponding QR codes to access the AARs following each session



### O.A.R.S.

Enhancing communication to build strong connections using a technique called O.A.R.S. This technique uses open-ended questions, affirmations, reflections, and summaries to better understand others and develop connections.



### MILITARY CUSTOMS & COURTESIES

A class for volunteers that provides essential insights into the unique protocols and traditions inherent in military culture. Designed to enhance understanding, spouses learn about appropriate conduct at military events, the significance of rank, and proper forms of address. This course aims to strengthen the connection between military families and foster a sense of community and support within the military spouse network. This course also provides an introduction to military terms and acronyms commonly used by service members and what military date and time formats look like.



### "FINDING YOUR WHY"

A class for military volunteers is a transformative experience aimed at helping individuals discover their personal purpose and motivation within the military lifestyle. Participants engage in self-reflection, goal-setting, and resilience-building to connect with their intrinsic motivations. This empowering class provides practical tools for volunteers to navigate challenges, find fulfillment, and contribute meaningfully to their own growth and the military family community. Finding your why creates a ripple effect beyond yourself in bringing creative inspiration, motivation, opportunity, and hope to others around you!



### SFRG VOLUNTEER TRAINING

A course specific to NGB that follows all HQDA policy and regulations. The intended audience is new SFRG leaders. During this session attendees will be provided with an overview of the SFRG program and will also discuss recent changes in policy and regulation to the SFRG Program.



### MEETINGS & EVENTS IOI

A course for volunteers that equips participants with essential skills and knowledge to effectively plan, organize, and execute successful meetings and events. Volunteers learn key principles of event coordination, including logistics, communication strategies, and problem-solving techniques. This course is designed to empower volunteers, ensuring they contribute to seamless and impactful gatherings within their SFRG or communities.



### VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT & ENGAGEMENT

We will explore key considerations for organizations looking to attract volunteers. A versatile recruitment strategy, exemplifying practical implementation across diverse organizations, will be shared. Additionally, effective retention strategies will be discussed, providing insights into sustaining volunteer commitment over the long term.





## Topics of Discussion:

Please use the corresponding QR codes to access the AARs following each session

### OPSEC (OPERATIONAL SECURITY)

A course for volunteers that provides critical training on safeguarding sensitive information and maintaining operational security within organizational activities. Volunteers learn essential practices to identify and mitigate potential risks, emphasizing the protection of confidential data and sensitive details. This course is designed to enhance the overall security posture of volunteer-driven initiatives by instilling a culture of awareness and responsibility.



### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Red Cross helps members of the military, veterans and their families prepare for, cope with, and respond to, the challenges of military service.

- Support military families during deployments and emergencies
- Continue serving our nation's veterans after their service ends

### SFRG COMMAND TRAINING

A course specific to NGB and follows all HQDA policy and regulations. The intended audience is Company and Battalion level Commanders and iSGs. Training is geared toward orienting Commands to the SFRG program.



### COMMANDERS EXPECTATIONS

Participants will receive first hand insight from the Brigade Commander on the expectations, roles and responsibilities of the SFRG, MFRS and commander from the Brigade Commander's viewpoint as each group works together to support the soldiers and families of their unit.



### REGIONAL BREAKOUTS

Participants will network and engage with fellow volunteers and leadership from within their respective region. Here we encourage participants to develop a game plan to support your units moving forward, establish expectations for communication, and identify any areas your regional MFRS may support your team's goals.



## Visit our Landing Page for More Information:

- Soldier and Family Readiness Group Volunteer Handbook
- Soldier & Family Readiness Group Informal Fund Custodian Handbook
- Army Regulation 608-1
- Links to additional trainings:
  - Army Family Team Building
  - Army Financial Literacy Milestone Training





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**JOIN OUR CIRCLE!**

**MAKE MEMORIES**

**SHARE YOUR  
PHOTOS FROM THE  
WEEKEND**

**STAY CONNECTED!**



**PLEASE JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:**



**AND VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE  
INFORMATION ABOUT OUR  
PROGRAM!**



# Notes



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# Notes

# THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

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