



Connecting to Veterans and Their Families

Sam Hodnett, Clinch River Chapter VSP Coordinator
Beverly Smith, VP for Volunteer Operations

The TU Veterans Service Partnership



- ✎ What is the VSP?
- ✎ How does this all work?
- ✎ How is impact measured and sustained?



Brandon Deaton

and stories of a whole lot of vets just like him...



**TROUT UNLIMITED
VETERANS SERVICE
PARTNERSHIP**



Our Model of Inclusivity



The TU VSP welcomes our nation's military family – all veterans, able and disabled, active duty military, their spouses and their families – to a nationwide community of 400 TU chapters and 300,000 members and supporters.



What is it about this so-called quiet sport, with its incantation of rod and fly, river, and nature, a sport of both stealth and strategy, that helps to lessen stress and calm the brain?



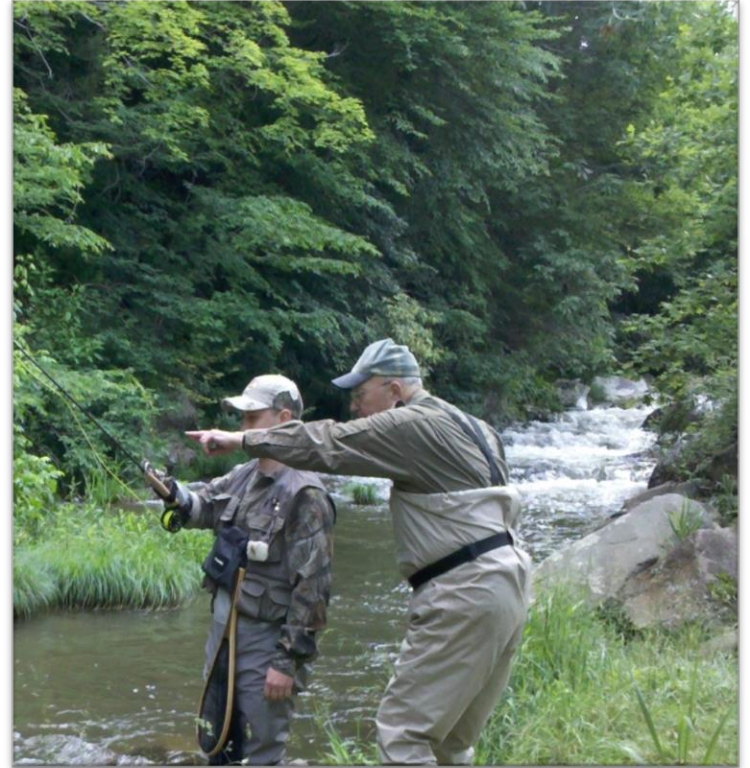
TU VSP Trips: A Place to be Served



The TU Chapter: A Place to be Served



- ✎ The recognized therapeutic impact of angling
- ✎ Our strong partnerships with wounded warrior groups like PHWFF



The TU Chapter: A Place to Serve



🐟 Warrior Ethos

🐟 Community connections

🐟 TU mission

🐟 A coldwater conservation army

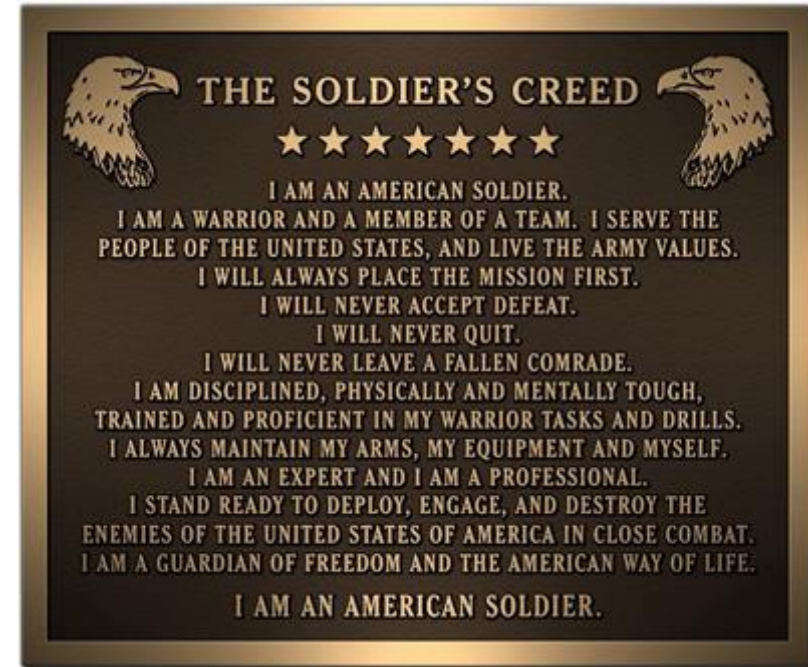
Military Family Civic Engagement



- 25% of the general public reported they had volunteered for community service while 73% of the military family respondents indicated they had volunteered in the last year.

2016
★ BLUE STAR FAMILIES
**MILITARY FAMILY
LIFESTYLE SURVEY**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT



The TU Chapter: A Place to Serve AND be Served



[MENU](#) [Home](#) [Local News](#) [Obituaries](#) [Local Sports](#) [Best of Flathead](#) [Classifieds](#) [Subscriptions](#)

[BACK TO LOCAL NEWS](#)

TROUT UNLIMITED SUPPORTS LOCAL VETERANS WITH ANNUAL FLY-FISHING TRIP

July 22, 2018 at 5:00 am | By SCOTT SHINDLEDECKER Daily Inter Lake

 Print Article



Peter Ziehli works to get a trout to his dry fly while Kalispell's Kyle Smalley mans the oars of their

NORTH SOUND TROUT UNLIMITED PRESENTS
VETERANS SERVICES PROGRAM
FLY CASTING CLINIC & BBQ
SEPTEMBER 16TH 2017
11:00AM - 3:00PM

FREE FOR ALL VETERANS, MILITARY CIVILIANS, SPOUSES, CHILDREN
EDGEWATER PARK
MOUNT VERNON, WA
808-728-9832

 CASTING SEMINARS / BBQ / CASTING CONTEST / PRIZE GIVEAWAY
Teaching veterans and their families the skills to cast a fly rod!

Maximizing Our Partnerships



Chapter to chapter support

- 278 - Coulee Region ↔ 061 - Southern Wisconsin
- 633 - Tualatin Valley ↔ 024 - Madison-Gallatin
- 037 - Donegal ↔ 258 - Mianus

Maximizing Our Partnerships



Support for Your VSP Program



Visit www.tu.org/veterans for resources including

- Free one-year membership for veterans link
- VSP flyer and logos
- Links to VSP partner programs
- VSP Council and Chapter Coordinator position descriptions
- Train the Trainer volunteer manual

How to Talk to Someone with a Disability
Advanced De-escalation Technique for Volunteers
How to Interact with Assistance Animals
Helping Others Hold On
Communication Skills with Veterans
Supporting Someone with Invisible Wounds
15 Things Veterans Want You to Know
Trauma Informed Interactions with Veterans
Recreational Volunteer Opportunities with Disabled Veterans

- ✎ At present, we're contributing a total annual investment to veterans services of over \$1.2 million dollars.
- ✎ But, we've only engaged 1/2 of our TU chapters so far, and may of those engaged aren't yet seeing their full potential.

Help Grow TU's Veterans Service Partnership



- Please fill the role of the Veterans Service Partnership Coordinator at your chapter and council level, and then:
 - Update the Leaders Only Tools section of tu.org
 - Connect these people with the TU VSP Coordinator and resources at tu.org/veterans
- Don't forget to offer complimentary, one-year TU memberships to veterans and their families participating in your local VSP program. The link is available at tu.org/veterans.



Veterans Services At Clinch River Chapter

Background

- 🐟 Extensive Experience with Project Healing Waters
- 🐟 2019 Initiative to Expand Service to Non-Disabled
- 🐟 First Event for All Veterans Scheduled for May 18th

MOU With Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

- 🐟 Sponsored Start-up of Knoxville Program in 2012
- 🐟 Volunteers Support All Activities of the Program
 - Average Eight (8) Fishing Events per Season
 - Monthly Meetings, Fly Tying Classes, Rod Building, Casting Instruction
- 🐟 Some Joint Events with Wounded Warriors









Lessons Learned from PHWFF

- 🐟 It is All About People and Relationships !!!
- 🐟 Saw Changed Lives
- 🐟 PHWFF Participants Step Up to Lead
- 🐟 Dividends from Free One-year TU Membership
- 🐟 Many Participants Cross Over to Clinch River Chapter and Contribute Heavily
- 🐟 Saw Need to Serve Non-Disabled Veterans

HEALING THOSE WHO SERVE
www.projecthealingwaters.org







How We Engage Veterans

- ✎ Regularly Promote TU Sponsorship in PHWFF Meetings
- ✎ Encourage Free One-year TU Membership
- ✎ Distribute Annual Calendar of Chapter Events
- ✎ Publish Reminders of All Chapter Activities
- ✎ Invite PHWFF to Participate in All Activities
- ✎ Focused Veterans Activities Beyond PHWFF (New)

Non-Disabled Veterans

- ✎ Many Came to PHWFF but were Ineligible
- ✎ Can Be Just As Damaged As the Officially Disabled
- ✎ Lasting Effects from Combat Experiences
- ✎ Need for Camaraderie and Therapeutic Activities
- ✎ Clinch River Chapter Decided to Make a Start

“ Supporting Someone with Invisible Wounds “

Acknowledged Limitations

- 🐟 Time and Resources
- 🐟 Aggressive Chapter and PHWFF Schedule
- 🐟 Activities About Every Two Weeks, Plus Meetings
- 🐟 Volunteer Overload and Burnout
- 🐟 Decided on First Baby Step to Serve Non-Disabled
 - May 18th Family Event for All Veterans

May 18th - All Veterans Event

Clinch River Chapter Trout Unlimited will Host:

- An event for All Veterans and Their Families
- 9:00 to 1:00, Miller Island Boat Ramp on Clinch River
- Fly Casting Clinic
- Guided Fishing for Entire Family – spin cast or fly cast
- All Equipment Will be Provided. Or Bring Your Own.
- Enjoy a Hosted Picnic Lunch
- Meet Our Dedicated Volunteers

To Express Tentative Interest, Contact: Sam Hodnett, shodnett@msn.com

Getting The Word Out

- Broad Outreach to Veterans Community
- Social Media, Clinch River Chapter Website
- Distributing Flyer Advertising Event
- East Tennessee Military Advisory Council Network
- News Releases to Local Papers
- Reached Out to Student Veterans Groups at University of Tennessee and Maryville College



VSP Future at Clinch River Chapter

- Current Model: Attract Any Veteran – No Specific Group
- See How It Works – Maybe Different Next Year
- Potential for Veteran-Focused Small Group Activities
 - Fly Tying, Fishing Skill Building, Social, etc.
- Explore Partnering with Specific Groups
 - Similar to PHWFF Model

Our Vision

Clinch River Chapter Trout Unlimited Veterans Service Partnership

Disabled Veterans

Knoxville Program



All Veterans

Other Local
Veterans Groups
And Individual
Veterans

Clinch River Chapter

Opportunities for Veterans

- Supportive Relationships with Other Veterans
- Learning Therapeutic Fishing Skills including fly casting, fly tying, rod building, and on-the-water fishing events
- Lifelong Fellowship with other TU Members, Veterans and Their Families
- Engagement in TU Conservation of Cold-Water Fisheries
- Family Oriented Activities including Women's and Youth Programs
- *Free One-Year Introductory Membership in TU*



Questions?

**Contact Dave Kumlien, VSP Coordinator 406-570-0023
or email to /Dkumlien@tu.org**

