



# How to help veterans in need

Millions of men and women serve in the military and make the sacrifices that such service requires. Risking their lives to serve their countries, veterans sometimes endure mental and physical trauma, returning home to face uphill battles as they deal with their injuries.

Many veterans in need are not just in need of medical attention. Learning that their efforts and sacrifices are recognized and appreciated by the ordinary citizens they protect can make a world of difference to veterans as they recover from their injuries. Men, women and children who want to help veterans in need can do so in various ways.

- Visit a veterans hospital. Contact a local veterans hospital to inquire about their volunteer programs. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs notes that each year more than 75,000 volunteers spend more than 11 million hours in service to America's veterans. Visiting veterans at the hospital to hear their stories can lift their spirits and aid in their recoveries. In addition, veterans hospitals may have volunteer opportunities that make it easier for hospitals to operate at optimal capacity.

- Help a neighbor. Unfortunately, many veterans return home with injuries that affect their ability to make it through a typical day without assistance. Disabled veterans may

be unable to do their own grocery shopping or maintain their homes. If a neighbor or nearby veteran is facing such hurdles, offer to do his or her shopping or mow his or her lawn. Such tasks won't take much time but can make a world of difference to veterans.

- Offer professional services free of charge. Professionals who want to help veterans can offer their services free of charge. Accountants can offer to prepare veterans tax returns for free, while attorneys can provide legal advice to veterans who need it. Contractors can help disabled veterans by offering to make alterations to their homes for free or at cost.

- Employ social media to help local veterans. Many people who want to help local veterans might not be able to do so more than one day per week. But some veterans may require daily assistance. Men and women can start a locally-based Facebook group for fellow members of their community who want to pitch in to help local veterans. Such a group can make it easier to share information and arrange help for veterans in need.

Many veterans return home from serving overseas in need of help. Offering such help can improve veterans lives while letting them know their efforts and sacrifices are appreciated.



## Yukon's Freedom Fest to feature live music, food trucks, and fireworks

**By Van Mitchell**  
Staff Writer

Yukon's Fourth of July celebration Freedom Fest returns again with two nights of live music, food trucks, car show and fireworks on Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4.

The annual celebration is held at Chisholm Trail Park, 500 W. Vandament and City Park, 2200 S. Holly Ave. Fireworks start at 10 p.m. both nights.

"When it's July 4th, there's no better place to be than Yukon," said Jenna Roberson, Public Information Officer/Media Specialist for the City of Yukon. "The city's grand Freedom Fest celebration draws thousands of people each year to a festival of fun and food, topped off with two elaborate fireworks shows that rival any in the state."

Things kick off the evening of July 3 with a tribute to Yukon veterans at Chisholm Trail Park.

Oklahoma's own Hi-Fi Hillbillies bring their rootsy, rock 'n' roll show to Yukon from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Irv Wagner's Concert Band follows with an 8:30 p.m. tribute to Yukon veterans. A fireworks show at 10 p.m. concludes

the evening.

On July 4, head on over to the Freedom Fest Car Show, at City Park, 2200 S. Holly Ave.

"This popular competition begins at 10 a.m. and continues until 2:30 p.m.," Roberson said. "Don't miss your opportunity to see these one-of-a-kind machines up close! Registration begins at 8 a.m. Awards are presented at 2:30 p.m."

July 4 evening events are held at Chisholm Trail Park. A live concert by Super Freak is scheduled from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Chisholm Trail Stage. The Oklahoma Community Orchestra, conducted by John Fletcher, makes their Freedom Fest debut with a patriotic program. A fireworks show starts at 10 p.m.

Handicapped parking is available for those who need it at the Oklahoma Parking Lot, which is located on the north end of Chisholm Trail Park and opens at 5:30 p.m. Parking is first come, first served.

For more information about Freedom Fest activities, visit the City of Yukon's website at [www.yukonok.gov/freedom-fest](http://www.yukonok.gov/freedom-fest) or contact 350-8937 or 354-8442.