



JULY 5th - 8th - 2012



The Next Great Generation and the Vietnam Veterans of America, Buckeye State Council are inviting you and your student organizations to participate in a state-wide event that is unprecedented in its scope and community impact. The Patriot Games is a four day event where Ohio's Post 9-11 student veterans and GI grads will be competing in several athletic events for gold, silver and bronze medals, (and bragging rights). There are over 25 public and private campuses that will be sending teams and individuals to compete in the Games. They will be held in and around Delaware Ohio. Some of the events include marksmanship, flag football, softball, triathlons, track & field and Golf. In the evening there will be fund-raising concerts with top names performing in the Delaware County Fairgrounds.

The purpose of the Games is to reward those student veterans who have chosen to take advantage of their GI Bill, (only 18% have as of Fall 2011) while encouraging other Post 9-11 veterans to join their local campus 'teams' and start the process of obtaining the education that they have earned. The Games are also a way for the civilians of Ohio to 'Cheer Thank You' to a group of women and men who have kept us safe and free since 9-11, and to give the Ohio and the nation a chance to apologize to the Vietnam Veteran, indirectly, and in person, before it is too late to do so.

To get grass roots attention of the Games there will be a 5 part (representing the 5 branches of service) Academic-Veteran Torch Relay that spans 3,000 miles through the big cities and small towns of Ohio. There are over 800,000 veterans in Ohio encompassing 5 generations of war and peace-time service. The Torch Relay will run for approximately 60 days from May 1st to July 5th 2012- where they will then be joined together to light the Flame during the epic opening ceremonies of the Patriot Games.

The participants in the relay will be veterans from all eras and college students of participating campuses throughout the state. The students will earn the right to carry the torch by raising money via pledges per mile, and local sponsorship on merchandise that will be displayed as the Torch passes through each town. These dollars raised will then be split between the student organizations and the region's veteran organizations, military mom groups, FRG's etc., of each of the communities that the torch passes through. The veterans do not have to raise money to carry the torch, they have already earned this right. The torch will be handed off to a student, then to a community veteran/service-member, then to a student, then to a community veteran/service-member , etc., for the entire length of the torch's path.

Each campus, each student organization on each campus and the veterans in the campus' community will be responsible for a certain 'radius of responsibility' (ROR) in getting the torch from point A to point B. It will then hand off this responsibility to the next campuses 'point A', as it enters this next campus's ROR.

The goals are several.

- 1. To encourage the college students to reach out to the veteran community and find them, understand them, encourage them and work with them to succeed with this 'mission'.**
- 2. To have the college students understand what its like to 'work together for the common goal'**
- 3. To be self-reliant (no government grants or political monies will be used or accepted).**
- 4. How to put yourself second and the bigger picture first.**
- 5. To have both the college students and veterans of Ohio celebrate together as one when the five torches come together to light the flame to start the Patriot Games.**

A few of these goals are Qualities that our veteran community understands very well, and qualities that, when a particular 'veteran era' is embraced, helps the country grow and prosper. It is hoped that the students will remember this mission, and the qualities that it took to have it succeed and they will carry it with them as they begin to lead the country into the decades to come.

Dr. John Schupp can provide your organization with the details of both the Patriot Games and Torch Relay, including miles of each radius of responsibility,(each campus and community will map out its own path within this radius) participating campuses, veteran contacts in each community, potential dollars raised via pledges per mile and corporate sponsorship of merchandise. Dr. Schupp can also provide you with veteran population within each county and zip code, along with potential sponsors that each student organization may want to contact for financial support.

This is a very large project, requiring many volunteers, logistics, and significant cooperation from many campuses and individuals. It has never been done before on this level, and with these participants. But it is a project that I feel we must embrace, to show the country what Ohioans can do, and to show each other that cooperation is the best method for success, as a campus, as a community and most importantly, as a nation.

I look forward to working with you

Kind regards

Dr. John Schupp

Executive Director- The Patriot Games