

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025



We extend our warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season. May this time of year bring peace, happiness, and cherished moments with Family and friends. As we look ahead to the new year, we remain committed to serving our community with dedication and care.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OVERSEAS BRIEF

Dec 1 | Korea: 10 am | Germany: 11 am | Hawaii: 1:30 pm

Other locations: Please call to schedule an appointment.

Army Community Service (B2111)

Before your PCS overseas, you must complete this briefing through ACS's Relocation Readiness Program. To register, [e-mail here](#) or call 502-898-2359.

PLAY MORNINGS

Dec 2, 9 & 16 | 10 am - 12 pm

ACS Family Building (B2161)

Do you want to connect with other parents? If you are looking for something to do with your children ages 4 and younger, please join us. To register, [e-mail here](#) or call 502-898-2412.

***PLEASE NOTE: The ACS Office will be closed
Dec 25 - 26 in observation of Christmas.***



Fort McCoy's annual **Christmas Tree Lighting** event will be **Dec 4** from **4 - 6:30 pm** at **McCoy's Community Center.**

- Doors open at 4 pm
- Holiday Skit at 4:30 pm
- Children's activities, photos with Santa and Santa's Workshop at 5 pm



UPCOMING EVENTS

SPONSORSHIP TRAINING

Dec 5 | Military Personnel: 10 am - 11 pm

Civilian Personnel: 1 pm - 2 pm

Army Community Service (B2111)

Get equipped with the strategies and tools to sponsor incoming personnel. To register, [e-mail here](#) or call 502-898-2359.

NEWCOMER'S ORIENTATION

Dec 10 | 8 am - 1 pm

Building 905

Start your journey off right with local insights and support to make you feel at home in your new community. Spouses are highly encouraged to attend. To register, [e-mail here](#) or call 502-898-2359.

SOLDIER & FAMILY READINESS GROUP (SFRG) TRAINING

Dec 16 | 1 pm - 3 pm

Army Community Service (B2111)

Attendees will define & understand mission essential activities and learn SFRG roles and responsibilities. To register, [e-mail here](#) or call 502-898-6507.

ALL ABILITIES CRAFT NIGHT

Dec 17 | 4:30 pm - 7 pm

ACS Family Building (B2161)

Art offers individuals with all abilities a way to communicate. There are many art projects to choose from including stamping, painting, card-making, diamond art and more. To register, please [email here](#) or call 502-898-7262.

ACS BUILDING BONDS WORKSHOP

DECORATE A PALLET TREE



Spending Time Together as a Family Builds Family resilience!

Create family memories as you make your own yard decoration to display for the holidays!

Single and geographical bachelors welcome!

- All materials and instruction supplied
- One tree per family
- Class size is limited
- Children must be accompanied by an adult

2025 DATES
Dec 2, 9 or 18 | 4:00 – 6:30 pm
ACS Building Bonds Workshop | B1133

To register, please call 502-898-6507 or email michael.d.larsen8.civ@army.mil

Must be registered one week prior to the class

ACS events are open to Military, Retirees, Civilian workforce, Family Members and registered Fort McCoy Volunteers, unless otherwise stated. For information on upcoming training opportunities through ACS, please go to <http://mccoy.armymwr.com> and click on Calendar.



Family Time



FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARD WORKSHOP

December 16, 2025
2161 South J Street
4:30-7:30 pm | Early start time (1 hour) for EFMP Families

Get into the creative spirit.

Using rubber stamp art and stickers, Families will work together to design their own personalized Christmas cards. This workshop gives parents and children an opportunity to increase interaction skills while having a good time and accomplishing a goal.

Details

- All supplies are furnished including multi-cultural supplies
- Class sizes will be limited
- Children must be accompanied by an adult

Call Army Community Service to register at 502-898-6712 or email lorie.l.retzlaff.civ@army.mil

Register by Dec 11

Please call/email in advance with name, number of Family Members attending, age of children & contact information.



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www.mccoy.armymwr.com | 502-898-3505

DECEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON AWARENESS TREE

In December, ACS is celebrating the spirit of giving in a special way. Our team has decorated a festive “Giving Tree” in classic Christmas colors to highlight what ACS provides all year long—support, information, and resources that strengthen our Families and community.

Just as a giving tree offers something meaningful to everyone who visits, our ACS Giving Tree shares materials designed to promote wellness, resilience, and readiness for Soldiers, Families, and the greater military community. Under the tree, you’ll find a variety of resources for children, teens, and adults, including tools for emotional wellness, stress management, parenting, financial readiness, and more.

We invite you to stop by the ACS office throughout the holiday season to pick up the resource that speaks to your needs—or to share one with someone who could use a boost. It’s our simple way of giving back and helping our community stay informed, supported, and connected.

Together, let’s make this season one of encouragement, resilience, and giving. Stop by ACS, M-F, 7:30 am – 4 pm, to find your resources. Supplies vary and are limited.



DECEMBER KINDNESS KORNER

The ACS Giving Tree is more than a festive display—it’s a reminder that kindness often starts with simple acts of giving. Just as our tree offers wellness resources for children, teens and adults, we can also offer encouragement, support, and care to the people around us.

This month, consider small ways to “be someone’s giving tree”:

- Offer a kind word to a coworker who’s had a long day.
- Give your time—listen, check in, or lend a hand.
- Leave a note of appreciation for someone who may not expect it.

Kindness doesn’t have to be big to make a difference. Sometimes the smallest gift becomes the one someone remembers most!

RELOCATION COMPASS

A SEASON LIT FOR YOU

December brings twinkling lights, warm gatherings, and the spirit of the season. But for many Soldiers and Families, relocating during the holidays can add extra weight to an already busy time of year. Even with everything happening at once, you don't have to manage it alone.

ACS is here as your compass offering steady support, clear information, and resources to help you get settled. As you arrive, ACS is here to help you feel welcomed and connected, working alongside your sponsor to make those first days a little easier. With friendly guidance and a community ready to greet you, even a holiday move can offer moments of comfort, calm, and festive cheer.



A LIT PATH IN LA CROSSE

The Rotary Lights in La Crosse turn Riverside Park into a glowing holiday path that feels both calming and magical. Millions of shimmering lights reflect off the river and wind through the trees, creating a peaceful winter scene that invites you to slow down and simply enjoy being in the moment. The gentle glow, sparkling arches, and quiet walkways offer a break from the stress of moving and is an easy reminder that even in seasons of change, there are places that restore your spirit.

Whether you wander the paths with a warm drink or enjoy the magic from the drive-through route, the Rotary Lights give you a bright, welcoming way to experience your new community and find a bit of calm in the holiday season.

Want to discover more hidden gems? Stop by the ACS office at 2111 S 8th Ave to pick up a Discover Wisconsin Scratch-Off Card.

B.R.I.G.H.T. – Your Holiday Steps Forward

A holiday move can feel overwhelming, but taking BRIGHT steps can help you feel grounded and supported as you get settled.

B – Borrow What You Need: Settle in sooner with the Lending Closet. Basic household items can make those first days feel more manageable.

R – Reach Out Early: Connect with ACS, MFLC, and Employment Readiness for guidance, support, and someone to talk to as you adjust.

I – Invest in Yourself: Take advantage of Fort McCoy's Education Center, ACS workshops, Western Technical College's ELL classes to build skills, strengthen routines, and support your next steps.

G – Get Involved: Participate in MWR and ACS activities, community events and activities to unwind, meet new people, and start building new traditions.

H – Have a Plan: Attend Newcomers Orientation and stay informed about upcoming ACS programs to help you feel more prepared and steadier.

T – Take a Breath: A moment of calm goes a long way. Even small pauses help you stay balanced during a busy season.

By setting your course with small purposeful actions, you can create a sense of ease and confidence during your move. Visit ACS at 2111 S. 8th Ave or call us to connect with support that helps you feel grounded and confident this season.



LEARNER SUPPORT AND TRANSITION PROGRAMMING

Main Campus			
Location	Programs and schedule	Program staff	Contact information
La Crosse SSC 126 400 7 th Street North La Crosse, WI 54601	GED/HSED: M-Th 11AM-4PM, T/Th 5:30PM-7:30PM, and online (variable) <i>Classes run all year except 12/13/25-1/11/26 and 4/25/26-5/3/26</i>	Karen Duncanson Alyssa Pape Emily Mootz Sherry Holt Mary Pintz Megan Burke	LST Front Desk Phone: 608-785-9535
La Crosse SSC 132 400 7 th Street North La Crosse, WI 54601	Alt. High School: M-F 8:30AM-11:30AM and 12:30PM-3:30PM <i>Classes run 9/2/25-4/24/26 except 12/13/25-1/11/26</i>	Donna Konish Jess Henscheid Steve Shimshak Cathy Sobania	Jess Henscheid, Alt. High School Coordinator Phone: 608-785-9537
La Crosse SSC 128 and 130 400 7 th Street North La Crosse, WI 54601	ELL: M 8AM-12PM; T-Th 9AM-12PM and T/Th 5:30PM-7:30PM (with online option) <i>Classes run 9/2/25 - 6/19/26 except 12/13/25 - 1/11/26 and 4/25/26 - 5/3/26</i>	Betsy Breckenridge Oresta Felts Anne Formanek Long Vue Nathaly Rodriguez	Betsy Breckenridge, ELL Instructor and Program Chair Phone: 608-789-6204
La Crosse Learning Commons 400 7 th Street North La Crosse, WI 54601	Pre-PALS English: M-W 9AM-12PM Pre-PALS Math: M-W 9AM-12PM <i>Classes run all year except 12/13/25-1/11/26 and 4/25/26-5/3/26</i>	Nancee Nelson Aaron Murphy-Lopez Pam Arneson Lori Kaminski	LST Front Desk Phone: 608-785-9535
La Crosse S206 or ITC 404 400 7 th Street North La Crosse, WI 54601	Project Proven Job Club: T 1:30PM-3PM Project Proven Leadership Group: T (every other starting 9/2/25) 3:30PM-5PM Project Proven Tech Club: Th 1:30PM-3PM <i>Classes run all year except 12/13/25-1/11/26 and 4/25/26-5/3/26</i>	Colin Walsh Emily Mootz Mac Kiel Jai Mather Jackie Morris Kay Ciechanowski Adam Trunzo Patsy Olson-Brown	Colin Walsh, Project Proven Manager Phone: 608-789-2083
La Crosse SSC 124 400 7 th Street North La Crosse, WI 54601	Community Health Worker IET: M/T 8:30AM-4:30PM 3-D Printing IET: TBD <i>CHW IET runs 9/8/25-10/7/25 and 3-D Printing IET schedule TBD</i>	Sarah Frie Keachen Abing Dan Olson Paul Laxton Jai Mather	LST Front Desk Phone: 608-785-9535
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VIRTUAL CAREER READINESS RESOURCES & SUPPORT



Military Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP) employer Victory Workforce Development Services is hosting a series of monthly virtual training sessions through February 2026. These sessions will focus on various topics that will provide military spouses and veterans with career readiness resources and support. After each training, participants will receive a certificate of completion via email that will include their name, the training title and the completion date to be added to their resume.

To learn more and register, [click here](#).

To register for a new training session, click the Learn More tab next to the training session on the calendar:

DID YOU
know?

IAW AR 600 -8-8, para 2-12a, sponsors are required to complete sponsorship training. Many find eSat to be the easiest and most convenient way to complete this requirement. The training can be accessed at:
<https://millifelearning.militaryonesource.mil/course/esat101>

FAMILY WORKSHOP

Decorate a Snowman Family

Jan 6, 15 or 20 | 4:00 - 6:30 pm
ACS Building Bonds Workshop
Bldg 1130

Spending Time
Together as a
Family Builds
Family Resilience!
Build Family
memories as you
customize your
Snowman Family
yard decoration.



- * All materials and instruction supplied
- * Class size is limited
- * Children must be accompanied by an adult
- * Single and geographical bachelors are welcome

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CALL ACS AT 502-898-6507

Must register 1 week prior to workshop. Space is limited.
Children must be accompanied by an adult.

ACS events are open to Military, Retirees, Civilian workforce, Family Members and registered Fort McCoy Volunteers, unless otherwise stated. For information on upcoming training opportunities through ACS please go to <http://mccoy.armymwr.com/acs/programs/> or armycommunityservice.com and click on ACS Calendar.



www.mccoy.armymwr.com | 502-898-3505

★★ ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE'S QUARTERLY ★★

BENEFITS BRIEFING

Do you have questions or concerns regarding post Military benefits & submitting VA disability claims? Do you have Tricare questions or concerns? Do you have questions about your dental coverage through United Concordia?
If so, these briefings are for you!

JAN 27, 2026

10 AM - 12 PM

ARMY COMMUNITY
SERVICE (B2111)

Monroe County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) Briefing: 10 am - 11 am
Tricare / United Concordia Briefing: 11 am - 12 pm



TO REGISTER, CALL 502-898-2359 OR EMAIL: jesse.k.ogundu.civ@army.mil

SOLDIERS, SPOUSES, RETIREES, AND FAMILY MEMBERS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

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ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE'S RELOCATION READINESS PROGRAM

NEWCOMER'S ORIENTATION

Learn about all of the programs and services the Fort McCoy community has to offer!

2025 DATES

Oct 8 Nov 12 Dec 10*

2026 DATES

Jan 14 Feb 11 Mar 11
Apr 8 May 13 Jun 10
Jul 8 Aug 12 Sep 9

All sessions held from
8:00 am - 1:00 pm
McCoy's Community Center
Open to all new Military and Civilian personnel.
Spouses are highly encouraged to attend.



Breakfast provided by RIA
Federal Credit Union
No endorsement implied



ACS events are open to Military, Retirees, Civilian workforce, Family Members, Survivors, and registered Fort McCoy Volunteers unless otherwise stated. Employees must contact their supervisors regarding dismissal from work centers. For information on upcoming training opportunities through ACS please go to <http://mccoy.armymwr.com/acs/programs/> or armycommunityservice.com and click on ACS Calendar.

*Dec 10 session will be held in Bldg. 905

Return completed registration form to Army Community Service (B2111) or email to: jesse.k.ogundu.civ@army.mil

Name: _____ Number Attending: _____
Unit/Directorate: _____ Rank: _____
Day Phone: _____ Email Address: _____ Date Attending: _____

Call ACS at 502-898-2359 for more information

WHITETAIL RIDGE SKI AREA



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

SKI & SNOWBOARD INSTRUCTORS

- Fun working environment
- Receive a free guest hill pass with every 10 hours of volunteer time
- Breaks with FREE hot chocolate and/or coffee
- Equipment storage

SKI PATROL

- Fun working environment
- Receive a free guest hill pass with every 10 hours of volunteer time
- Breaks with FREE hot chocolate and/or coffee
- Equipment storage

QUALIFICATIONS

- Outdoor Emergency Care Technician
- Outdoor Emergency Care Continuing Education/Refresher requirements
- CPR Certification/Refresher requirements
- Toboggan Handling/Refresher requirements

DUTIES

Underbake only those activities for which he/she has been specifically trained and assigned.

*Notice of Ski Patrol (NSP) members are required to follow state laws (including any applicable portion of the State Skier Safety Act), the written policies of area management, the NSP program guidelines, and Your Responsibility Code (a behavior standard promulgated by NSAA and endorsed by the NSP) unless explicitly trained and assigned to such tasks by area management.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT ALEX KARIS at 502.898.3517 | alex.d.karis.naf@army.mil

If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, apply online on the Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS) <http://vmis.armycommunityservice.com/volunteer/>

SCAN TO SIGN UP TODAY!

