

FORT McCOY ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER



Army Community Service (ACS) enhances the well-being and quality of life of Fort McCoy military members, Families and civilians by providing real life solutions for successful Army living.

DECEMBER 2024

Upcoming Events & Trainings

CONNECT THE TOTS

Dec 3, 10 & 17 | 10:00 am - 12:00 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. Our playgroup contains toys, books, and other materials to help strengthen each child's cognitive, physical, and creative selves, and to help promote social-emotional skill building. To register, [e-mail here](#) or call 502-898-2412.

NEWCOMER'S ORIENTATION

Dec 11 | 8:00 am - 1:00 pm | McCoy's Community Center (B1571)

Are you new to Fort McCoy? Come and learn what we have to offer. Breakfast is provided. Spouses are highly encouraged to attend. To register, [e-mail here](#) or call 502-898-2359.

DECORATE A PALLET TREE

Dec 12 & 17 | 4:00 - 6:30 pm | Building Bonds Workshop (B1133)

Spending Time Together as a Family Builds Family Resilience! Build Family memories as you make your own yard decoration just in time for the holidays. Single and geographical bachelors welcome! All materials and instruction supplied. One tree per Family. Children must be accompanied by an adult. To register, please call 502-898-3505.

AVOIDING PREDATORY LENDERS

Dec 17 | 9:00 am - 10:00 am | Army Community Service (B2111) or via Teams

Join Janeen Folgers, AFC Certified Financial Readiness Specialist, as she delves into the risk and expense of using alternative lenders, such as payday loans and title loans. To register, [email here](#) or call 502-898-3540.

The ACS Office will be closed on Dec 13 from 11:30 am - 4:00 pm and all day on December 25.

Family Time

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARD WORKSHOP

December 10, 2024 | 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 502-898-7262 or email lorie.l.retzlaff.civ@army.mil.

Register by December 5.

Please call in advance with number of Family Members & age of children.

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.

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

Upcoming Events & Trainings

SOLDIER & FAMILY READINESS GROUP (SFRG) TRAINING

**Dec 17 | 9:00 am – 10:00 am | Army Community Service (B2111)
or via Teams**

All Command Teams, SFRG Liaisons and SFRG volunteers are encouraged to attend. Topics include defining and understanding mission essential activities as outlined in the regulation; understanding SFRG roles and responsibilities; recognizing non-mission essential activities, resources, and professional development opportunities; obtaining mandated certification, IAW Army regulations and policies. To register, [e-mail here](#) or call 502-898-6507.

ALL ABILITIES WINTER CRAFT NIGHT

Dec 19 | 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm | ACS Family Building (B2161)

Art offers individuals with all abilities a way to communicate. Practicing art has been shown to increase fine motors skills, improve focus, gain self-confidence, strengthen cognitive development and improve mood. Art projects include sensory crafts, seasonal-themed crafts, stamping, watercolors, canvas painting, and much more! To register, [e-mail here](#) or call 502-898-7262.

USAJOBS & FEDERAL RESUME WRITING WORKSHOP

Jan 14 | 9:00 am - 11:00 am | Army Community Service (B2111)

Learn how to write a federal resume and navigate the application process on USAJOBS.gov. Bring your laptop along. To register, [e-mail here](#) or call 502-898-7262.

INCREASE YOUR LEARNING POWER!

Army Community Service's Resource Library contains a wide variety of topics including:

- ✓ Deployment
- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Parenting
- ✓ Relocation
- ✓ Resiliency
- ✓ And More!

We also have a selection of childrens books. Books can be checked out for a one month period.



FAMILY CALENDAR WORKSHOP

January 18, 2025 | 9 am* - 12 pm
*Early start time (1 Hour) for EFMP Families

Design and create a personalized 2025 calendar with your Family!

Using rubber stamp art, stickers and many more items, this workshop gives Families an opportunity to increase communication skills while having fun creating memories.

Details

- All supplies are furnished
- Class size will be limited
- If desired, bring your own photos
- Children must be accompanied by an adult

Call Army Community Service to register at 502-898-7262 or email lorie.l.retzlaff.civ@army.mil. Register by January 15.

Class held at ACS Family Building 2161 South J Street.



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://mccoey.armymwr.com> and click on Calendar.

SPOTLIGHT

on

AWAWARENESS

This December, Fort McCoy ACS invites you to help transform our office into a festive hub of connection and celebration.

Central to this celebration is our ACS Awareness Tree, elegantly decorated in Winter Wonderland colors and ready to transform into a vibrant display of community spirit as ornaments representing diverse traditions, cherished memories, and cultural celebrations are added.

Our tree will reflect the warmth, creativity, and unity of Fort McCoy as each ornament tells a story—whether it's a cherished Family ritual, a cultural celebration, or a heartfelt message of welcome for newcomers. Together, we'll create a meaningful symbol of belonging, support, and awareness of the unique traditions that bring us together.

The ACS Awareness Tree celebrates our collective resilience, cultural diversity, and the meaningful ways we connect during the holidays. As the tree grows with contributions, it will become a living story about the spirit of Fort McCoy—a place of belonging and support for everyone, especially those new to our area.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- **Pick Up a Traditions Kit:** Visit ACS to collect a Traditions Kit with everything you need to design an ornament that reflects your favorite tradition, memory, or a welcoming message for others.
- **Share Your Story:** Add a note to accompany your ornament, sharing the story or meaning behind your tradition. These stories will be displayed, celebrating the rich diversity of our community.
- **Spread the Joy:** Bring your ornament back to ACS, where it will be featured in a special display that showcases the many ways we celebrate the holidays.
- **Celebrate Online:** Post photos of your ornament or share a favorite holiday memory on social media using #TraditionsTogether. Tag friends and Family to inspire them to participate in the celebration.

Stop by ACS at 2111 South 8th Avenue, open Monday through Friday, 7:30 am – 4:00 pm to pick up your kit and be part of this heartwarming tradition.



Upcoming Activities



FAMILY QUILT

Quilting has been a cherished tradition in Families, offering both creative expression and a way to bring people together. Creating a quilt block together as a Family encourages collaboration, patience and teamwork. ACS is creating a Fort McCoy Family quilt.

Stop by ACS to pick up your quilt block to create with your Family. You can keep it simple by borrowing fabric crayons to use on your block or design it with other materials you may have. We would like to have your Family name on it if possible and use the rest of the space to represent something about your Family.

Quilt squares and fabric crayons can be picked up and dropped off at ACS, 2111 South 8th Avenue, Mon-Fri, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm excluding Federal holidays. The blocks will be assembled and hang on the wall at the ACS Family Building. Blocks will continue to be added as Families drop off their blocks.



FORT McCOY COOKBOOK

The saying “The Family that eats together stays together” emphasizes the importance of shared mealtimes in nurturing Family relationships. It suggests that gathering around the table regularly creates a space for communication, connection and bonding which helps maintain strong Family ties.

This phrase has roots in various cultural and religious traditions that value mealtimes as sacred moments of togetherness. In modern life, it serves as a reminder to prioritize Family time amidst busy schedules, reinforcing the idea that simple rituals like eating together can have a profound impact on emotional well-being and Family unity.

Remember the “Taste of the Military Family” event held in November? Families attending shared the recipe from their favorite dish they brought. Look for more “Taste of the Military Family” events in the future.

ACS is creating a Fort McCoy Family Cookbook. Please share your favorite recipes by emailing them to lorie.l.retzlaff.civ@army.mil. Add your name to the recipe. Those that participate will receive a pdf file of the cookbook.

Both activities are open to Military, Retirees, Civilian workforce, Family Members, Survivors, and registered Fort McCoy volunteers.

KINDNESS KORNER

Kindness and traditions are two words when combined, reflect how compassion and cultural heritage intersect to shape communities and human experiences.

Kindness often forms the foundation of meaningful traditions. Acts of good will-like sharing meals, helping neighbors, or celebrating milestones together-are passed down through generations, reinforcing bonds and a sense of belonging.

Traditions, on the other hand, often create structured opportunities for kindness.

For Example:

HOLIDAY CUSTOMS: Many cultures emphasize generosity during festive times, such as exchanging gifts during Christmas or offering food during Ramadan.

RITUALS OF HOSPITALITY: Traditions in many societies value kindness to guests, such as the tea ceremonies in Japan or welcoming strangers in Middle Eastern culture.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Traditions like holiday volunteerism or village clean-up days celebrate kindness in action.

The interplay of kindness and traditions ensures that the values of empathy, respect, and care remain alive and impactful.

Do you have a specific tradition or act of kindness in mind?

ACS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ACS is looking for avid sewing, quilting and junk journaling volunteers to prepare and teach classes. We are also in search of a typist to organize and put together a cookbook. If interested in either of these volunteer opportunities, please call 502-898-7262 or send an email to lorie.l.retzlaff.civ@army.mil.

Family Time



FAMILY VALENTINE CARD WORKSHOP

February 1, 2025

9 am* - 12 pm

*Early start time (1 hour) for EFMP Families

Spend time as a Family making Valentine's Day Cards!

Details

- All materials supplied
- Class sizes is limited
- Pre-registration required
- Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult

Call Army Community Service to register at 502-898-7262 or email lorie.l.retzlaff.civ@army.mil.

Register by January 29.

Class held at 2161 South J Street.



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.

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ONE WORD for the YEAR

BOOK DISCUSSION

Discover how formulating and living your individualized "one word" for the entire year can provide deeper meaning, clarity, passion and life-change.

Join us in person or via Microsoft Teams to discuss the book "One Word" and the importance of following through with your word. Activities will be available to help you keep your word at the forefront of your everyday life.

Participants can pick up their copy of "One Word" at the ACS office (2111 South 8th Ave.) Mon - Fri from 7:30 am - 4:00 pm through January.

The book "Life Word" is available if you already have the "One Word" book.

February 6, 2025

9:30 am - 11:30 am

ACS Family Building, 2161 South J St.

or via Microsoft Teams

To Register

email: lorie.l.retzlaff.civ@army.mil

or call 502-898-7262

Register by January 31, 2025.

Army Community Service (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 mccoy.armymwr.com and click on Calendar.



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

Undertake only those activities for which he/she has been specifically trained and assigned.
 *National 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): <https://vmis.armyfamilywebportal.com/volunteer/>



SCAN TO SIGN UP TODAY!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

WORSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

The Religious Support Office is looking for volunteers to assist with Sunday Worship Services as a Worship Team Member.

NEEDED **SUNDAYS**

2 HOURS BETWEEN **8 AM - 2 PM**

AT THE **FORT McCOY RELIGIOUS SUPPORT OFFICE**

FOR MORE INFO CALL **502-898-6507**
 OR EMAIL: **michael.d.larsen.civ@army.mil**

For additional Ft. McCoy volunteer opportunities, please visit: <https://vmis.armyfamilywebportal.com/volunteer/opportunities>

@FortMcCoyMWR

