

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"The Arkansas Freedom Fund exists to serve and support activities that benefit our military, veterans, wounded warriors, and their families."

HISTORY

In 2005, the Wounded Warrior Project's Soldier Ride came to Little Rock. Many of those who now serve the Arkansas Freedom Fund, began their service as Arkansas Chairpersons for that 2005 ride.

The ride carried on for a couple of years but was dropped in 2009. The Arkansas Challenge bike ride was then created and has made central Arkansas its home ride location, with events in Little Rock, North Little Rock, and Jacksonville.

In September 2010, we saw a need for our own non-profit organization to ensure that the ride would continue and services and equipment would be provided for the riders. That's when the Arkansas Freedom Fund (AFF) was incorporated for the purpose of raising funds and providing support for wounded veterans and their families that reside in the state of Arkansas. We have grown from bike rides to offer a full line of outdoor programs including Cycling, Golfing, Fishing, Hunting, Hiking, Kayaking, Scuba Diving and Martial Arts. Each designed to meet the need of the Veteran getting them active while promoting health and rehabilitation.

All money raised stays in Arkansas for one of our outdoor programs for Arkansas Veterans. We work towards one purpose "No veteran is Alone".

GOALS

Our focus is on rehabilitative sports and outdoor events, all designed to restore the mental and physical wellness of Arkansas Veterans. It is an experience that honors our warriors as they now battle their injuries of war on the civilian battlefield as they recover and reintegrate with the society they courageously fought for.

OUR PROGRAMS

Cycling



The **AFF purchases custom cycles** for wounded warriors who are committed to the rehabilitative process, for the duration of their rehab at no cost to the warrior. We have ride events around the state and support competitive AFF members in their goals.

Golf



The **AFF owns two adaptive carts**, we keep them at courses around the state so they are easily accessible to our members and work with golfers of all levels and abilities to hone their skills and better their discipline. Golf Scrambles are our major fundraisers.

Fishing



The **Freedom Anglers** program offers the veteran a chance to enjoy the rivers and lakes of Arkansas, whether fishing for the big one or creating stories about "the one that got away." The AFF provides the equipment and support for this program.

Hunting



The **Freedom Hunters Program** has its **own lease free for members**. Located in Calhoun County, we have two tracked wheelchairs able to assist members get to any stand at the lease. We work with local hunt groups and provide the opportunity for our warriors to get out for a guided and structured hunting environment.

Our Adventure programs consist of Hiking, Kayaking, Scuba Diving and Martial Arts

To **promote wellness, improve physical fitness**, and contribute to a healthy spirit and mind. Members can sign out a kayak, get diving certification and earn a designated belt. These events free to Veterans allows participation and adapts to their ability level, helping to eliminating stress and cope with PTSD and TBI's, allowing integration back to a full life as they did before their service to our country.

The AFF also **serves the family unit and the caregivers** that work daily with the wounded warriors on their mission of rehabilitation and recovery. The mental and physical demands that fall upon them require new skills and new responsibilities. There are many people who have the same or similar issues and by networking with others, these caregivers can be strengthened so they can face the challenging, hectic, and frustrating feelings they often experience when caring for their loved ones. The service member's transition to civilian life can also be a burden to a family, both financially and mentally. Without the support of the family, the rehabilitation of the soldier and his reentry into the civilian world suffers.