

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. At that time the Soldier Ride's Honky Tonk Challenge became the ride for the mid-south starting in Little Rock, going to Memphis and then completing in Nashville, Tennessee.

The ride carried on for a couple of years, but due to little support in Memphis, it was dropped from the schedule and Little Rock and Nashville were turned into separate weekend rides. The Arkansas Challenge 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. 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 wounded warriors. 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. We currently have four program areas of Biking, Golfing, Fishing and Hunting. All are designed to get veterans active while promoting health and rehabilitation.



The **Annual Arkansas Challenge Soldier Ride** is a bike ride where the wounded warriors are joined on their ride by members of the community, followed by lunch on the lawn of the Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock. The **AFF purchases custom cycles** for wounded warriors who are committed to the rehabilitative process. **These cycles are assigned to the warriors** for the duration of their rehab at no cost to the warrior.



The **Freedom Scramble** is an annual golf event hosted by Diamante Country Club in Hot Springs Village. Members of the community support and join the wounded warriors in the game of golf, while enjoying the food and friendship provided by this event. The AFF offers this event cost free to our wounded warriors and is the AFF's sole fundraiser.



The **Freedom Anglers** is a program that offers the veteran a chance to enjoy the great outdoors on the lakes and rivers of Arkansas. Whether fishing for the big one or creating stories about "the one that got away." The AFF provides the equipment and uses volunteer groups to support for this program.



In 2013, we started our **Freedom Hunters Program**. Working with various Hunt Clubs around the state. The AFF has sent 19 warriors out for a fall hunt in a guided and structured environment at the Pine Bluff Arsenal. Alumni stayed comfortably and hunted wisely with their hosts, the Pine Bluff Firefighters Assn. Contact us if you would like to sponsor a hunt.

In 2015, we will be exploring options for programs in **Martial Arts, Hiking, Diving, Kayaking, and Tennis**.

The AFF also **serves the family caregivers** that work daily with the wounded warriors on their mission of rehabilitation and recovery. There are many challenges that face the caregiver in this new role. 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. The AFF also partners with and contributes to other veterans' organizations in the state that benefit our warriors.

The **AFF will not forget** its veterans. The lives of all Arkansas' citizens may have been different if men and women hadn't fought for the liberties we have today. Join us in caring for those heroes by becoming a sponsor. More information is available at www.arkansasfreedomfund.org.