

**WELCOME TO THE NAVY SEAL FOUNDATION** FALL NEWSLETTER.



**MISSION STATEMENT:** 

The Navy SEAL Foundation provides critical support for the warriors, veterans, and families of Naval Special Warfare.

#### **NSF PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES**



STRENGTH **Building Capabilities &** Reducing Stressors



RESILIENCE Addressing Tragedy & Aiding Recovery



Enhancing Physical & Mental Wellness



**EDUCATION Providing Scholarships & Development Opportunities** 



Preserving Legacy

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#### NAVYSEALFOUNDATION.ORG

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College Success Academy is a one-of-a-kind preparatory program brought to NSW families through NSF's partnership with **Gratitude Initiative (GI)**. GI's mission is to assist students from military families beginning in eighth grade to achieve higher education and career goals. NSF's 2022 registration connected dozens of families with this valuable opportunity.





"We just wanted to thank you for all your assistance, services, and guidance over the past four years. Without your program, we would have been much less effective in guiding our son in his college career path. The regular emails from GI telling us when and what we should be doing/anticipating, SAT prep through Thrive, reviewing his college essays, and the application reviews were invaluable and resulted in less stress for our family and a positive outcome for our son. He was accepted at his first-choice university after our visit last summer. We are so excited about what his future holds, and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Gratitude Initiative! Thank you, GI and the Navy SEAL Foundation, for this gift. Our family was truly blessed by it."

—SEAL Retiree Spouse





# NSF SUMMER WELLNESS WEEKEND

NSF's Summer Wellness Weekend took place at Snow King Resort in Jackson, WY from July 20-25 this year. We welcomed 123 surviving spouses, family members, children, significant others, and caregivers for a fun and transformative experience. The weekend included training wtih Dr. Mia Bartoletti, hiking in Jenny Lake, gondola rides, a rodeo, and catching up with dear friends. Our Gold Star and Surviving teens participated in overnight camping, whitewater rafting, horseback riding, and team-building activities. A clinical social worker accompanied them throughout and provided on-site group discussions and one-on-one counseling. The pre-teens in the group spent their days hiking, visiting the Fish Hatchery Tour in Elk Refuge, checking out the Craig Thomas Discovery Center with a certified Ranger, completing a Teton County Search and Rescue Tour, and having fun on the ropes course and mountain coaster. They also enjoyed the Teton Raptor Center, a covered wagon cookout and show, lots of outdoor games, movies, and plenty of time together. The entire group spent their last day touring Yellowstone National Park.







### **NSF CAMPS**

NSF hosts our annual camps to give NSW children a greater understanding of their parent's profession and equip them with life skills and community values. This year 843 NSW kids attended our summer camps. Campers participated in activities emphasizing team-building, cultivating confidence, teaching resilience, encouraging camaraderie, and increasing leadership skills.

"Our daughter has been attending NSF's camp for the past few years, and it is the highlight of her year, not just summer! She is always so happy and eager to go and makes deep connections with her cabin mates, and the staff there are always fantastic. Their happiness and energy are contagious, and I feel safe leaving my daughter there for a week with them. It is very well run-I've always been impressed. Highly, highly recommended for our NSW families."

-SEAL Spouse



#### **2022 WEST COAST NSW DAY**

NSF was thrilled to welcome over 800 NSW family members on the turf field at the Silver Strand Training Complex for NSW Day. The Group One Commodore, along with the new WARCOM Admiral, spoke about the significance of September 11 and the meaning behind everyone gathering together. NSW families enjoyed the pool, water gun fights, interacting with the static displays, and watching the dog show. The event culminated with Steven Powell singing God Bless America while the Leap Frogs jumped onto the field. We look forward to continuing this event on the West Coast and working closely with the commands to make it happen.



"Such an amazing day for us! Thank you, we felt seen and loved for what we all do! The leapfrog experience was emotional for my husband and me, in a good way! So grateful for this day and look forward to future ones like it!"

-NSW Spouse



#### PRINCESS AND HER FROG

NSF was excited to host Princess and Her Frog events across the country once again this year now that various COVID restrictions have been lifted. Our West Coast event had 450 service members and their daughters in attendance. The NSW Group One Commodore and his wife were on hand to distribute NSF's special challenge coins, a keepsake our attending fathers collect over the years. Our Hawaii event hosted over 125 people. The evening started with Haku and lei greetings and a horse and carriage ride. The festivities continued inside with a candy bar, photo booth, and dinner, and ended with many unforgettable moments on the dance floor. On the East Coast, we welcomed just under 600 attendees at the beautiful Oceanfront Marriott, where this year's theme was "Encanto." The evening's special guest, Maribel, enchanted everyone on and off the dance floor, and a Latin guitarist played for everyone on the outside deck. The event concluded with a Leap Frogs parachute demonstration on the oceanfront.



"My girls repeatedly exclaimed that this was the best night of their lives. They shrieked at seeing the carriage and the candy bar. My wife was hoping for pictures, and we came home with a fun booth picture and a formal one. We are extremely grateful for this night. Thank you all."

—Active Duty NSW member









### **DENVER EVENING OF TRIBUTE**

Our annual Denver Evening of Tribute on August 25 was an enormous success raising over \$1.6M! More than 600 supporters packed the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum to celebrate NSW's warriors and families and honor Peyton Manning with NSF's Fire in the Gut Award. The evening included a video of Manning's first skydive performed with the jump team to help raise awareness for NSF's mission and ended with a musical performance by Lee Greenwood. Thank you to our Dinner Chairs Ernie Blake, Sharon Magness Blake, and the rest of the Host Committee. You did an incredible job!







## MIDWEST EVENING OF TRIBUTE

Chicago's 11th Annual Midwest Evening of Tribute on September 13 was the region's most successful event yet, raising an astounding \$6.4M for our programs! Dinner Chairs Anna and Greg Brown welcomed nearly 1000 supporters in the Aon Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier. NSF presented former U.S. Afghan Interpreters with the Fire in the Gut Award for their selfless and heroic actions overseas in support of our nation and Patrick and Shirley W. Ryan with the Patriot Award for their steadfast commitment to supporting the warriors and families of NSW. The evening included a keynote discussion with Mike Pompeo, 70th U.S. Secretary of State and former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Our success in the Midwest would not have been possible without Greg Brown, Bob Loquercio, Muneer Satter, and Bill Strong. Thank you, teammates!





CLICK HERE FOR A FULL LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS.



#### WWP GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

In July, NSF was grateful to learn our organization had received a \$100,000 grant from the Wounded Warrior Project as part of its ongoing effort to support and build a network of best-in-class military and veterans service organizations. WWP's support of these new and returning partners helps expand the lifechanging resources and programs available to America's wounded veterans and their families.

"Wounded Warrior Project understands the needs of wounded veterans, service members, caregivers,





and military families are growing and that no single organization can meet these challenges alone," said WWP CEO Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Mike Linnington. "By working with others, we can create a truly integrated and collaborative ecosystem of support, ensuring the military and veteran community can thrive long term." Thank you, WWP!



NSF is honored to support the families, teammates, and commands of fallen NSW warriors. Under our Resilience Pillar, programs include travel assistance, immediate casualty assistance funds, and help with remembrance items and memorial services. Surviving families are also added to NSF's Gold Star and Surviving Family program to meet future needs as they arise.

PARTNERS FALL NEWSLETTER