



Birthday Party for Veterans

What is it? This event is a birthday party hosted at a local Veteran's hospital or veterans program for all the birthdays in a particular month. You and your fellow Club members will work together to plan and put on this great event!

How does it help? The American Red Cross is committed to supporting military members, their families, and veterans through its Service to the Armed Forces (SAF) line of service. A birthday party for veterans is a great way to show appreciation to the people that served our country and support the Red Cross mission.

Get started Before beginning, contact your local Red Cross unit for assistance. You can search for your local unit by zip code on redcross.org – when you call, ask to speak to someone who works with volunteers or Service to the Armed Forces. They will be able to guide you to available resources that can make this an impactful and successful event. Once you have established contact with your unit, there are three steps you need to complete:

- 1.** Identify a Veteran's hospital or veterans program in your community and contact their program manager to let them know you're interested in hosting a birthday party. Ask if there is a particular month that they would prefer.
- 2.** Set a date and time for the party and begin planning fun party activities. Activity ideas include trivia, board games, cards, story telling, cookie decorating, and more.
- 3.** Recruit volunteers to attend the birthday party and have fun with the veterans.

Want more information?
Email us!

youthinvolvement@redcross.org

DID YOU KNOW?

There are currently
23 million veterans
residing in communities
across the U.S. and
its territories.

What Next?

- 1.** Contact local grocery stores or warehouse clubs to ask for a sheet cake and ice cream donations. Before finalizing cake details, make sure to ask the Veteran's hospital or veterans program if there are any dietary restrictions.
- 2.** Gather decorations, plates, napkins, and cups. Ask your school's student government or other organizations if they have left over items from past events to donate.
- 3.** If needed, help arrange transportation for the volunteers to the facility. Speak with both your Red Cross Unit Contact and the veterans program contact for their transportation insight and help.
- 4.** Encourage volunteers to be friendly and engaging with the veterans. Also, make name tags for all volunteers.
- 5.** Enjoy the party and have fun!

Conclusion

This is a fun activity, but it also makes a huge impact on the lives of others. As a volunteer, you embody the Red Cross vision and brighten the day of someone who served our country. After the activity, thank all the volunteers and call the Veteran's hospital or veterans program to thank them for giving the group the opportunity to host the party.

If you are interested in completing another activity, download more activity guides on [redcrossyouth.org](https://www.redcrossyouth.org).

Before beginning, contact your local Red Cross chapter for assistance. You can find chapter information at **[redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org)**.

Shake it up!

- » Host a themed party with ideas like a Hawaiian luau, masquerade ball, carnival/ state fair, Hollywood glam, or Roaring 20s. Get creative! Make sure to confirm the theme with the facility before finalizing.
- » Create a music playlist to play during the party. Ask the facility for appropriate song suggestions.
- » Have the volunteers make their own fun name tags that they can reuse for other birthday parties and events.
- » Host a party each month to ensure everyone's birthday is celebrated.

Show and tell

- » Share pictures and videos of your veterans birthday party by sending them to **youthinvolvement@redcross.org**. Ask your Red Cross Unit Contact for media release forms for the veterans to sign if they want their picture taken.