



APPLICATION REVIEW & SELECTION PROCESS FOR WISCONSIN VETERAN CANDIDATES

OVERVIEW:

Hogs For Heroes is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to healing the mental and/or physical wounds suffered during military service by our Wisconsin Veterans through the therapeutic benefits of owning and riding a Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

Once sufficient funds are available to purchase a motorcycle, we will work with and through state and veterans organizations, social media, mailing lists and contacts to announce our ability to accept Veteran's applications for consideration in our gifting process. A specified submission period will be communicated and the application materials will be made available on our website.

It is our hope that individuals of integrity pursue this opportunity and expect that information provided will accurately reflect their current standing, time in service, achievements and personal life history. For purposes of application verification, with your approval, we *may* consult various sources including, but not limited to:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Department of Defense
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Criminal background check
All references and personal contacts provided

Once all applications have been received by the designated date and reviewed by the Hogs For Heroes Advisory Board, a candidate recommendation will be made to the Founding Board for final determination.

GOALS OF APPLICATION PROCESS:

The application process is intended to solicit information that establishes an understanding of a Veteran candidate's life history, achievements and personal need. The information will be reviewed by members of both the Founding Board and Advisory Board for the sole purpose of candidate selection. We understand the sensitivity of the information being shared and will respectfully manage your application and supporting documents.

Information in the following areas will be assessed and reviewed:

Demographic Profile
Wisconsin Residency
Military Service and Credentials
Service-Connected Mental and/or Physical Injury/Disability
Existence of Financial Need
Motorcycle Enthusiasm and Ownership History
Community Contributions
Personal Reflection

CANDIDATES:

Hogs For Heroes was started to assist veterans in their return to civilian life and the therapeutic benefits their motorcycling passion offers them. Additionally, the gift serves to represent and express a collective message of gratitude from supporters for the service contributions of our Veteran Heroes.

“Hero” is a very subjective term, and each candidate will have their own story to share. Every day average citizens become heroes and rise above to do what is right and necessary in the moment. In our case, we believe that if you served in a branch of our U.S. Military and honorably defended our country and freedoms during the course of active or combat duty, you are a hero. In the course of service, and in the time after discharge, some Veterans will have set themselves apart in different ways. And as a direct result of their service, some Veterans may need more support in their return to a healthy, happy and productive civilian life. Our task will be to sort through all of the information shared to find the one most deserving and in need of getting back on the road with our gift.

Individual Criteria for Application:

The Veteran Candidate considering this opportunity must:

- be established as a State of Wisconsin Veteran, fully separated, by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs,
- have actively served, or been deployed during times of war or zone hostility as defined by the Department of Veterans Affairs, in one of the following branches:
 - US Air Force
 - US Army
 - US Coast Guard
 - US Marines
 - US Navy
 - US National Guard: Air or Army
 - US Reserves: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy
 - US Merchant Marines,
- have established Wisconsin residency,

- have medical documentation of a direct, service-connected mental and/or physical injury, disease or disability,
- have been honorably discharged,
- have both a current Wisconsin driver's and motorcycle license,
- demonstrate a history of motorcycle riding passion/experience/ownership.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Once funds reach a point where purchase is possible, notification of the open enrollment period, along with specified start and closing dates, will be communicated throughout the region via electronic and/or social media methods and the support of community partners.

Our website will include the process overview, application and required consents and waivers, accessed through PDF links. This information will only be activated during our enrollment period.

Individuals may either self-nominate or be nominated for consideration. Regardless, all required information must be accurately provided with the Veteran's involvement and the Application, Consent and Waiver/Release forms must all be signed by the named Veteran.

Candidates are required to print off the required components, complete them manually and mail them to us along with the required supporting documentation/verification materials. (Our system does not allow for saved electronic documentation nor do we have capability for online submission at this time. We are still a little old-school.) **You are encouraged to keep a copy for your records and/or to apply again in a future offering.**

For verification purposes, *photocopies* of the below supporting documents are required to be sent in along with the application packet:

- *Current Veteran Identification
- *Every Discharge Document(s) (Form DD 214), #4, as applicable
- *Medical documentation of service-connected injury/disease/disability diagnosis(es)
- *V.A. documentation reflecting disability percentages & allowance, if applicable
- *Wisconsin Drivers license(s)
- *Most recent W2 (or other appropriate Income Tax Form)

Completed application packets must be received within the time period communicated, and as indicated by the postmarked dates on the envelope. Late arriving applications will not be accommodated, considered or reviewed.

All qualifying applications received will be reviewed and evaluated by the Hogs For Heroes Advisory Board. All information and documentation provided are subject to verification processes. The Advisory Board will establish a timetable for its determinations. The Advisory Board may also request an in-person interview when making its final determination.

Once an applicant decision has been made, the selected candidate will be notified of the award. Decisions will be made as to the bike model and dealer location for purchase after determining the individual needs and desires of the candidate, along with available funds. Plans for the celebratory event gifting the motorcycle will follow.

All other applicants will be notified of the organization's decision and encouraged to reapply in the future. Applications of those not selected will not be held, or returned, and will be shredded.

The selected candidate will be gifted the motorcycle at a public celebratory event, including the possibility of media presence, that will both honor the candidate and promote the organization. Attendance will be required. It will be the recipient's responsibility to take full ownership of the bike that day and comply with all applicable state regulations.

Selected Candidate Responsibilities:

As part of receiving the motorcycle gift, the Selected Candidate consents to and will:

- 1) attend the gifting ceremony,
- 2) agree to the use of name, photo, and general background information on any future media communications and charity promotions,
- 3) agree to participate in media events, interviews and future fundraising events as reasonably requested,
- 4) agree to purchase and maintain full motorcycle insurance as required by Wisconsin state law,
- 5) agree to maintain active motorcycle drivers licensure and registration,
- 6) agree to pay all future registration fees, gift taxes, service, repair and customization expenses accrued after date of title/gifting provided,
- 7) agree to not sell the motorcycle for personal financial gain within a 5 year period of receiving it, or return it to Hogs For Heroes for future gifting to another Wisconsin Veteran. Returning the motorcycle will be considered a donation by the individual recipient and they will be allowed the tax benefit of such donation.

Any monetary funds received in its potential sale will be allocated back to Hogs For Heroes as a donation.

8) agree that upon taking delivery of the motorcycle and the processing of the vehicle's title and registration, all claims of ownership and issues of liability rest with the selected candidate and owner of said gift.

MISCELLANEOUS:

For consistency and clarity, definitions for the following terms will be used from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. (www.dva.state.wi.us or www.va.gov):

Wisconsin Military Veteran
Wisconsin State Resident
Discharge Document (DD Form 214)
VA Disability
Honorable Discharge
Defined Active War Time

If, within the past 5 years, you have received a gift of more than \$10,000 in value as a direct result of your Veteran status and from another Veteran support organization, we request that you disclose this information in your essay.



CHECKLIST FOR APPLICATION:

_____ Entire **Application** printed off from the website, completed legibly, in full, and in ink, with signatures on the first and last pages

_____ **Photocopies** of each of the following:

- 1) Current WI Veteran Identification
- 2) Every Discharge Document Form DD 214, #4, as applicable
- 3) Medical documentation of specific service-connected injury/disease or disability diagnosis(es)
- 4) V.A. documentation reflecting disability percentages & allowance, if applicable
- 5) Current Wisconsin Drivers and Motorcyclist Licenses
- 6) Most recent W2 (or other appropriate Income Tax Form)

_____ **Consent form** printed off from website and signed

_____ **Waiver/Release of Liability** printed off from website and signed

_____ All of the above in an envelope addressed to:

Hogs For Heroes, Inc.
822 Ondossagon Way
Madison, Wisconsin 53719

(With sufficient postage to make sure it gets to us!)

Thank you.

If your application goes no further than our review process, please know it was our honor to review your life story and accomplishments. We are grateful to you, and to your family, for the service you provided our country and the sacrifices made in doing so for us. We think you are heroic and we wish you the best.

Peace,

Kevin, Audra, Craig and Michelle Thompson

...and a whole slew of others who showed their appreciation for the actions of our Veterans and donated to this cause.