



## APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW:**

Hogs For Heroes has a simple mission: we purchase Harley-Davidsons for Wisconsin Veteran riders, injured during the course of active duty, in an effort to enhance their healing and readjustment by reconnecting them with the benefits of motorcycling. We believe the freedom of the road, the collegiality of riders and the pride and peace found in ownership can support the healing for those who have enjoyed the passion for riding and now find themselves without means or ability to do so any longer.

*At this time, our opportunity is available only to those with a valid motorcycle license as our focus is on restoring a healing passion to current riders.* In conjunction with Wisconsin's riding season, we will work with state and veterans organizations, social media, mailing lists and contacts to announce our ability to accept applications for consideration during specific submission periods. Application materials will be made available on our website during this time only.

We expect that information provided will accurately reflect your current situation, time in service, achievements and personal history. While we encourage supportive nominator perspectives, we require an informed and shared approach with the Veteran involved to assure understanding, factual presentation and completeness.

For purposes of application verification, we *may* consult various sources including, but not limited to:

- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Defense
- Veterans Health Administration
- Wisconsin Department of Justice
- Wisconsin Department of Revenue
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- Criminal background check/Circuit Court Access Program (CCAP)
- Social Media
- All references and personal contacts provided

Once all qualifying and complete applications received by the designated date are reviewed by the Hogs For Heroes Advisory Board, a candidate recommendation will be made to the Founding Board for final determination. All applicants involved will be notified electronically of our decision. Qualified applications not selected at this time will be considered for every gifting we are able to do in the calendar year.

Each recipient will have an allocated dollar amount from which to select their Harley-Davidson from a local, Wisconsin dealership. Communications and planning for the public gifting ceremony will begin. The bike will be publicly presented at a future date and location. Personal ownership transitions to the recipient at this time as do all further responsibilities.

### **GOALS OF APPLICATION PROCESS:**

The application process is intended to solicit information that establishes an understanding of a candidate's life history, challenges and 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 and will respectfully and confidentially manage all materials.

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

Let us be clear: we are not giving an award for meritorious service; rather, we are working to help change the life of someone struggling and in need. Our gift of a motorcycle is a therapeutic tool intended to provide an alternative, healing therapy to an injured Veteran rider that allows someone to either return to, or continue, their passion for riding.

This is an involved process, purposefully designed to gather as much information as possible. We feel we owe it to our supporters to make the best decision we can. Additionally, we believe in the value of sharing one's story and writing down experiences and impacts as a form of therapeutic release. This application process aims to facilitate such for the Veteran as well as support our selection process. Application responses and the information you share with us is the primary way in which we will learn about you, your life, challenges and need.

Every Veteran has a story; and in the course of service, and in the time after discharge, some will have set themselves and their needs apart differently. Our task will be to review the information shared and select the recipient(s) to receive our therapeutic support.

### **CANDIDATES:**

We assist injured Wisconsin Veteran riders— someone with a passion and license for motorcycling—who now finds themselves without the means or ability to have a bike in their life.

The Veteran Candidate considering this opportunity must meet the following criteria:

- Have established **Wisconsin residency**;
- Have served on **active duty** in the U.S. Armed Forces, or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. Armed Forces, for 90 days or more;
- Have been **honorably discharged**, and fully separated, from the U.S. Armed Forces and are not under any current military obligation;
- Have a **service-connected injury/disability** from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (or private medical documentation reflecting such);
- Have a current, valid **WI driver's license with motorcycle endorsement**
- Have an established **history of motorcycle ownership/passion/riding** experience; and
- Demonstrate **established hardships** (i.e. financial, employment, dependents, etc.) that prevent one from buying and owning their own motorcycle.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Once funds reach a point where purchase is possible, and in conjunction with Wisconsin's riding season, notification of the open application period, along with specified start and closing dates, will be communicated throughout the state electronically via different media methods.

Individuals may either self-nominate or be nominated by another using an informed, collaborative approach. Signatures, factual responses and supportive documentation are required from the Veteran, as well as personal answers to essay questions, and are procedurally necessary. We expect all information provided to be honest, accurate and valid regardless of who is contributing.

Application materials will be found on our website only during open application periods, and includes three components: APPLICATION, CONSENT and WAIVER, each accessed through individual PDF attachments.

Candidates are required to **print off each of the three components, manually complete them, and mail them to us along with the required supporting verification materials.** We are not set up for electronic completion or submission.

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

- All DD 214s, amended DD 215s, discharge papers and separation documents within your possession,
- V.A. Disability Compensation Award Letter(s), in their entirety, showing proof of all identified service-connected disabilities/diagnoses, their individual ratings and allowances. (In the absence of such, private medical documentation of diagnoses, service connection and impairment is required),
- Current and valid Wisconsin drivers license showing motorcycle endorsement,
- Most recent W2 and/or Personal Income Tax Return filed with the IRS in the previous tax year.

You are encouraged to keep a photocopy of your entire packet for your records and/or to apply again in future years. (And we absolutely encourage applicants to reapply in future years as every year we seem to be able to gift more bikes!)

Completed application packets must be received and/or postmarked within the designated time period. Late arriving applications will not be considered. After our initial review, you will receive an email indicating your application's receipt and standing. Failure to provide all components may exclude you from consideration. Applications will not be returned.

Recognizing the effort involved in submitting an application, *we will hold a qualified application for consideration in every gifting we are able to offer within the calendar year of submission.* A candidate is welcome to resubmit or add to their application on file during a subsequent application period that same year. We will equally consider existing applications along with new applicants. A new submission is required for every calendar year following.

**Important:** We communicate electronically. Add us to your contacts list and be sure your filters are set to receive email communications from [info@hogsforheroeswi.org](mailto:info@hogsforheroeswi.org). Monitor your inboxes (including junk/spam files) so as to efficiently respond to our communications.

## **SELECTION PROCESS:**

Qualifying applications will then be reviewed by the Hogs For Heroes Advisory Board. All information and documentation provided are subject to verification. The Advisory Board will establish a timetable for its determinations. The Advisory Board may also request an in-person or telephone interview for making its final determinations.

Once an applicant decision has been made, the selected candidate will be notified of the decision. We will work with the Veteran to choose a dealership to work with. An allotted amount will be available for the organization's purchase of the Veteran's selection, new or preowned. Plans for communications and the motorcycle's gifting event will follow.

All applicants will be notified electronically of the organization's decision. The application of any Veteran not selected will remain active for the remainder of that calendar year, and will be considered for each gifting alongside new applicants. Those choosing to withdraw from consideration at any point are asked to notify us immediately so as not to take a chance away from another Veteran.

The selected candidate(s) 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 and stage presence will be required, as will crowd interaction. It will be the recipient's responsibility to take full ownership of the bike that day and comply with all applicable state regulations.

All points within both the CONSENT and WAIVER AND RELEASE OF RESPONSIBILITIES apply.

## **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](http://www.dva.state.wi.us) or [www.va.gov](http://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 \$5,000 in value as a direct result of your Veteran status from another support organization, we request that you disclose this information in your application.



## (SAMPLE) CHECKLIST FOR APPLICATION:

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **Required Photocopies** of each of the following:

- All DD 214s, discharge papers and separation documents within your possession,
- V.A. Disability Compensation Award Letter(s), in their entirety, showing proof of:
  - all identified service-connected disabilities/diagnoses,
  - their individual ratings and
  - your monthly allowance.
- (In the absence of V.A. connection, private medical documentation of diagnoses, service connection and impairment is required),
- Valid Wisconsin drivers license showing motorcycle endorsement,
- Most recent W2 and/or Personal Income Tax Return filed with the IRS in the previous tax year.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Consent Form** printed off from website PDF attachment and signed

\_\_\_\_\_ **Waiver/Release of Liability Form** printed off from website PDF attachment and signed

\_\_\_\_\_ We suggest you make a photocopy of your application packet for your records and/or reference in reapplying in future years.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Send all of the above** in an envelope with sufficient postage addressed to:

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

The mailing must be postmarked on/before the last day of the specified application period to be considered.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Add [info@hogsforheroeswi.org](mailto:info@hogsforheroeswi.org) to your email contacts** to help your server recognize and accept our communications. You will receive an email confirming your application's initial review and standing, and an email informing you of our decision.

Reminder: Qualified applications will remain active for any gifting we offer in 2022. Each application period will allow new applicants to be equally considered alongside those previously submitted that calendar year. A new application submission is required for every calendar year.