



# Navy Wounded Warrior – Safe Harbor Anchor Program

Navy Wounded Warrior (NWW) - Safe Harbor coordinates the non-medical care of seriously wounded, ill and injured Sailors and Coast Guardsmen, and provides resources and support to their families. Through proactive leadership, NWW offers individually-tailored assistance to ensure enrollees' successful recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration.

The program allows service members to focus on their recovery goals while its team of experts resolves non-medical hurdles.

## Anchor Program

The Anchor Program helps NWW carry out its promise to provide transition assistance to seriously wounded, ill and injured Sailors and Coast Guardsmen, as well as their families. It links wounded warriors to an invaluable network of support during a critical chapter of their lives – the conclusion of their military careers.

## Why Should Wounded Warriors Enroll in the Anchor Program?

Transitioning out of active-duty service – even in the best circumstances – is rarely easy. Wounded warriors may have special challenges due to illness or injury. The Anchor Program was established to provide enrollee families with added transition and reintegration assistance.

Upon retirement from the military, wounded warriors may be returning to their communities or settling elsewhere. The Anchor Program provides volunteer mentors who will help them feel at home. The mentors identify local services and organizations that will support the transition goals of wounded warriors.

## How Long are Wounded Warriors Enrolled in the Anchor Program?

Wounded warriors may be enrolled in the program as long as they need local community support. We have found that these become lifelong relationships.

## What do Anchor Program Mentors do?

The mentors offer a wide range of support, including serving as social contacts, providing personal referrals – recommending anything from the best nearby restaurant to the most reliable plumber – and establishing connections with local employers. They also help an enrollee maintain contact with NWW by communicating regularly with their non-medical care manager.

But, perhaps most importantly, the mentors are available to lend an ear – and a hand – to an enrollee as they grapple with the challenges associated with returning to civilian life. The mentors' experiences with the military, on active duty and in retirement, make them ideal companions for wounded warriors.

## Who are Anchor Program Mentors?

The Anchor Program matches Sailors and Coast Guardsmen in transition with two mentor volunteers: a peer mentor from a local Reserve component, and a senior mentor selected from a pool of veterans and retirees in the local community.

Volunteer mentors are requested to support a wounded warrior for at least one year, with a minimum of monthly telephone or in-person contact. They are committed to respecting the privacy of the enrollee and their family, and will only share information with NWW.

## How can Wounded Warriors Enroll in the Anchor Program?

Once a wounded warrior decides to leave active-duty service, they are eligible to become involved in the Anchor Program. Their NWW non-medical care manager will assist them with submitting the necessary participation forms. The NWW Program coordinator will contact the Navy Operational Support Command and partner organizations with the enrollee's information, and coordinate initial contact between the enrollee and mentors.



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