



Veteran's Trip

Guidelines

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1) Overview

This guide describes the process by which Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing-Denver (PHWFF-Denver) manages fly fishing trips. Rocky Mountain and National sponsored trips are not managed by the Denver Program and may follow other guidelines. PHWFF-Denver will make every effort to ensure its veterans have a memorable trip experience.

PHWFF-Denver sponsored trips are typically provided by private land-owners and fly fishing-related business. PHWFF-Denver volunteers and veterans must be "good citizens" and leave the property in as good or better condition than when they arrived.

2) Requesting Trips

Once the list of the current year's trips is complete, veterans and volunteers will be notified via email and the list will be posted on the PHWFF-Denver Web site. For those who do not have internet access, a single postal mailing, listing all trips, will be made to those who have submitted a legible mailing address. Veterans and volunteers who do not provide PHWFF-Denver with an email address or postal address, will not receive the information.

The trips listed will include:

Location/Host

Date/Dates of Trip

Length of Trip

Type of Fishing (walk and wade, float, stream, lake)

Physical Difficulty

Disabled Accessible

Number of Veterans Allowed

Upon receiving the list, select the trips for which you would like to participant.

Before applying for a trip, be certain:

- You have no schedule conflicts (medical appointments, family or work commitments, vacations, etc.)
- You can commit for the entire length of the trip. If it's a three day trip, are you available for all three days?
- You are physically capable to complete and participate in the type of fishing involved. It's not the two-mile mile walk downstream to fish that's the challenge; it's the two-mile walk upstream after fishing all day that's the challenge.
- If you are disabled, advise PHWFF-Denver. Trips to lakes and streams, for which disabled veterans can actively participate, will be scheduled.

Just because you apply for a particular trip, does not mean you will be selected. Should we have 10 applicants for a trip with five positions, only five will go. Do not be discouraged! PHWFF-Denver wants to involve as many veterans as possible and will fairly balance trip participation.

Apply for as many trips as you wish, but you must apply for each trip individually.

Remember: PHWFF wants to provide the fishing experience to as many veterans as possible.

Spouses are not permitted on trips unless the veteran has a disability that requires constant attention or, the outing is open to spouses and families.

No pets are allowed on any trips except service dogs (seeing eye dogs, etc.)

To apply, you must complete and sign the following forms for each trip:

Veteran's Information Form, and
Photo Imaging and Hold Harmless Agreement and Consent Form.

This is required because each trip may have a different PHWFF trip lead and we are required to carefully track trip participation.

MULTIPLE REQUESTS ON A SINGLE FORM WILL RESULT IN REJECTION OF ALL REQUESTS!!!

These forms are posted on the PHWFF-Denver Web site, right column sidebar.

Veteran's Information Form

This is probably the most important form regarding trip information. PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!!! list all medical conditions and medications. The trip lead will take this form on the trip; it could be the only information available should there be a medical emergency. Be thorough, be complete, and be honest. This information could save your life!

List ALL food restrictions. This includes, but is not limited to: diabetes, food allergies, GI conditions (Crohn's Disease, Diverticulitis), and religious restrictions.

If you have a food allergy, list the specific food and the severity of the allergy.

If you have a severe allergy that requires the use of an Epi-pen, list the allergy, e.g. nuts, insect sting. At the beginning of the trip, notify the trip leader and all volunteers of the allergy and that you have an Epi-pen, and where you keep it.

As with all forms, make sure it's legible. It won't do any good if we can't read it.

3) Being Selected

Approximately one to two weeks before the trip, veterans and volunteers selected to participate will be notified by the trip lead.

At this time, the veteran notifies the trip lead of any large medical device that is required (walker, cane, wheelchair, portable oxygen, etc.)

On outings open to all, such as some trips to Lake Lehow, all veterans and volunteers will be provided the following:

Location and map

Dates and Times

Whether food is provided or participants must bring a lunch

Disabled Accessibility

There is no selection for these trips. However, veterans need to provide the Veteran's Information, and Photo Imaging and Hold Harmless Agreement and Consent Form (one-time submission).

PHWFF-Denver will need the number in each veterans party (veteran, spouse, children, grandchildren, etc) so adequate food is provided.

On all outings open to veterans and family, PLEASE NOTIFY PHWFF-Denver of your participation one week prior to the event.

All veterans who go on a PHWFF-Denver fishing trip within the State of Colorado are required to obtain a Colorado Fishing License and a Habitat Stamp prior to the trip.

PHWFF will purchase licenses for trips outside of the State of Colorado.

4) Colorado Fishing License Requirements:

Please obtain a current Colorado Fishing Guideline (available wherever fishing licenses are sold) or go online to check fishing regulations at <http://wildlife.state.co.us/Fishing/Pages/Fishing.aspx/>

You may be eligible for a free or discounted license.

Annual licenses are valid from April 1 of the current year to March 31 of the following year. If you do not have a current fishing license and will not need one until after April 1, do not purchase one until after April 1.

People 16 years and older are required to buy and carry with them a current Colorado fishing license to fish or take fish.

Colorado residents 64 and older can obtain an annual fishing license from a Wildlife Service Center or license agent for \$1.00. The cost covers a 25-cent search and rescue fee and a 75-cent Wildlife Management Education Fund Surcharge.

A habitat stamp is required for all residents and non-residents ages 18 to 64. Add this to the license fee. Cost is \$10.00.

Anyone with a free lifetime fishing license, or a veteran's lifetime small game and fishing license is exempt.

Annual Resident Fishing License cost \$26.00 (Does not include \$10.00 Habitat Stamp).

A one day Resident Fishing License is available for \$9.00 (Does not include \$10.00 Habitat Stamp).

Disability License:

Veterans may obtain applications for disabled licenses on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) website or a Wildlife Service Centers. Send the completed application to:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, Co 80216

Those eligible for free licenses include:

US Armed Forces members, active or retired, who are resident patients of a US Armed Forces hospital or convalescent home in Colorado,

Resident patients of a Veterans Affairs hospital or state mental institution or mental health institution

Colorado residents who are disabled veterans or Purple Heart Recipients can obtain a Lifetime fishing/small game VA combo license.

To qualify, provide proof of a service connected disability of 60% or more as rated by VA. An eligibility letter can be obtained from the VA by calling 1-800-827-1000.

Purple Heart recipients who can provide documented proof are also eligible for a VA combo license.

5) Trip Commitment and Preparation

When you are initially contacted about going on a trip, if for any reason, you cannot go, let the trip lead know immediately. By withdrawing at this time, you will not jeopardize future trips, unless you withdraw several times. This enables PHWFF-Denver to select another veteran who has expressed a desire to go on the trip.

Between receiving notice of going on the trip and leaving on the trip, you should get organized: Make sure all forms have been completed, signed and are on file with the trip lead. There should be no forms remaining to fill out.

Organize your needs, especially medications and/or medical devices. PHWFF-Denver will NOT provide, nor will make arrangements for any medications or equipment. These items include wheelchairs, portable oxygen units, walkers, canes, etc.

Take enough medication to last the entire trip. It might be a good idea to take enough to last the entire trip plus one or two days in case there are travel problems.

Insect repellent, sunscreen.

Hat, jacket, raingear, etc.

Rod/Reel/Line. If you do not have a fly rod, make a note on the equipment list and one will be provided.

Boots/Waders: Same as rod/Reel/Line.

Leaders, tippet and flies will be provided.

For overnight trips, pack personal items, change of clothes, reading material, favorite teddy bear.

PHWFF-Denver discourages consumption of alcoholic beverages on all sponsored trips.

6) Going on the Trip

Day of the Trip:

You are ladies and gentlemen.....Act like it!!

Arrive and be ready to leave at the appointed time.

Except for emergency situations, any last minute dropouts or no shows may result in the veteran's name being removed from future trips with PHWFF-Denver.

The trip lead is in charge, follow his or her instructions.

If you are a diabetic, inform the trip lead and other travelers of your conditions. Also, notify them at the **first signs** of hypoglycemic shock or need of insulin so corrective measures can be taken and you can be monitored.

If you have a severe allergy that may require use of Epi-pen, let everyone know that you have such allergy, that you have an Epi-pen, and where you keep it.

Avoid controversial topics of conversation-No arguing.

Conversations regarding religion and politics are not allowed.

Maintain a positive attitude.

Upon arrival

On PHWFF-Denver sponsored trips, the trip lead will have control. Follow his or her instructions.

Follow the guidance of the trip lead.

Greet the host/guides.

Follow the host/guides instructions.

Be a good guest: remember, the host is providing his property and/or services to you for free. Show your appreciation and respect their property.

Regarding Smoking: Should the host request no smoking - then don't. If smoking is permitted, smoke only in the designated areas.

Be certain that the trip lead or a volunteer knows your location at all times.

Keep track of time. Don't keep the rest of the group waiting. When told the departure time, be there and be ready to leave at that time.

Prior to leaving

Police the area. The only thing left after PHWFF-Denver leaves should be footprints and tire tracks.

Express your gratitude to the host/guides.

Make certain everything you brought is loaded. If PHWFF-Denver provided your equipment, return it to the trip lead or a volunteer.

Regarding tipping:

This can be discussed among the group. It is not required, and often the host/guides will refuse.

Should the group decide to tip, it can be done either on an individual basis or by "passing the hat".

Returning home

Be certain the trip lead or a volunteer has all the borrowed fishing equipment.

Write a paragraph about your experience and send it to the trip lead, program lead or Veteran Outreach Coordinator.

**Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – Denver
thanks you for participating in the veterans trip program!
Enjoy Your Experience.**