

# 2025 Veterans' Expo FAQ's

### What's the purpose of this event? It's twofold:

- 1. It's a celebratory, family friendly, free event to the attendee, that highlights military outreach organizations, services, and resources. It's much like a Veterans parade, in that everyone is welcome and encouraged, but the expo gives a space for people to learn more about the organizations they might see in a parade. Our hope is that those who attend learn more about what services are provided by organizations and learn about our community military outreaches.
- 2. It is for the community, military personnel, their families, and their caregivers to learn about resources available to them. A local clinician had the vision of doing the Expo after she realized many veterans do not know what services and resources are available to them. She wanted everything under one roof, for the veteran to be able to walk around and find services that meet their need which includes: jobs, PTSD, discounts, practitioners, therapy, wellness, hospice, support, applying for benefits, higher education, and much more.

## Why should I Sponsor it?

Sponsoring this event allows us to keep it free for those who attend. Through sponsors we also provide free dinner, prizes, t-shirts, and a meaningful experience for our military community and their families. We often hear from those who attend about how much it meant to them to be able to meet other veterans in the community and talk about shared experiences. This event brings people and their stories together! Simply being able to sit down and enjoy a meal is one example of how they can connect and is only possible through sponsors. It also helps fund our Why It Matters Annual Giving campaign to provide financial assistance for Y programs and services such as summer camp, youth sports, and afterschool for those who could not afford those services otherwise.

### Why is there a fee to be a vendor?

We want to provide an exemplary free experience for our community and the families that attend. With that in mind, we do not charge for any of the food, beverages, free T-shirts, or activities. Your vendor fee goes towards covering expenses, along with your table, chairs, and the Why It Matters Annual Giving Campaign.

When is my fee due?



Returning Exhibitors must confirm their booth selection by paying their invoice by March 1, 2025. Unpaid booths will be released to the public on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, ALL booths must be paid NLT March 31<sup>st</sup> or will be released to another Exhibitor on our waiting list. In 2024, we had over 40 exhibitors waiting for booths and were able to release a few booths for last minute cancellations. If you are on the waiting list and contacted to fill a vacancy, you will have 24 hours to pay your invoice. Please note, you may not be included in our print materials, however we will make every effort for our event materials to be as accurate as possible. Vacancies will be filled based on the needs of the event and not based solely on your "number." You can pay using the credit card function right away or by sending us a check in the mail or bringing a check to our location.

# What does it mean by "financial assistance provided" to cover my vendor fee?

We understand some government entities and some small organizations do not have the funds allocated for events but have beneficial resources for our military community. Through sponsorships, we can help offset the cost of those booth fees after our budget needs are met.

## How do I know if I received financial assistance to cover my booth fee?

Our Expo Committee will confirm we received your application and then, depending on our budget and sponsorships, determine if you will be rewarded the assistance. We try to do this in a timely manner so that you can plan accordingly, however, we might be delayed in responding due to waiting on sponsors and encourage you to check in on the status of your application if you have not heard back by April.

### How do I know if I'm considered a "Community Friend Exhibitor"?

The free service you provide for the 3 hours of the event is equal to or exceeds the cost of the Community Builder exhibitor booth fee of \$300. If you qualify, we then only charge you the cost of providing the booth (table, chairs, pipe and drape) and marketing your services, \$150 booth fee. Last year we had a mobile barber that provided free haircuts, we had a chiropractor that provided free assessments and massages, we also had an organization that provided a free blood circulation screening...those are considered "free service vendors". Sharing your information and resources is not considered a free service, nor is the purchases of company swag available at the booth. Feel free to talk with us about what you want to share, and we can help you determine if it's considered a free service or not. If you are a non-profit organization of 5 employees or less or veteran owned, you are also considered a "Community Friend Exhibitor",

Taña Montaño-Lee Community Impact Support Coordinator SUMMIT FAMILY YMCA 1765 E Hwy 34, Newnan GA 30265 (M) 770 254 5925 (E)TanaM@ymcaatlanta.org (W) sfy.ymcaatlanta.org



examples from year's past are Coweta Veterans Club, Disabled American Veterans, Marine Corps, and Shane's Pest Solutions.

#### Where is the event?

The Veterans' Expo on May 8th, 2025, is at The Summit Family YMCA of Newnan. 4:00pm to 7:00 pm. We host the Expo indoors in our gym and hallways, with some outdoor seating for dinner. Our address is: 1765 E HWY 34, Newnan, GA 30265



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