



Idaho State Veterans Home – Boise, 320 Collins Road (Just East of the VA Medical Center)

If you are interested in volunteering at the Idaho State Veterans Home in Boise, [Click here to sign up!](#)

Upcoming Events: [Activity Calendar](#)



Volunteers: Volunteers are a crucial part of the Idaho State Veterans Home- Boise. They function in many different capacities in the home, ranging from dog visits, scheduling games and activities, and they even run the canteen. The impact that they make on our residents is enormous. There is an opportunity that will meet the needs of any perspective volunteer.

Some opportunities include the following, though this is not an exhaustive list, and you should meet with us in person to discuss other possibilities, as well. IF YOU ARE AN ALREADY VETTED VOLUNTEER at our facility and have seen something that interests you on the posted calendar for this month, please call (208) 780-1702 or email BVHVolunteer@veterans.idaho.gov

One-on-one Visits: This is one of our most valuable opportunities and involves spending one-on-one time with an individual resident. You provide personalized attention to that person and discuss his or her day, current events, sports or any other areas of interest. You may play card games, read a book from our library or engage in other recreational activities within the facility that the person enjoys. Weather permitting, and with the approval of staff, you may be able to bring a resident outside to sit in the fresh air or take a short walk. This opportunity requires nothing more than active listening skills and a smile.

Canteen - One of our best ways for volunteers to connect with residents is in the Canteen! Volunteers operate a mini store offering residents snacks, coffee or great conversation. Volunteers can choose from two shifts per day: 8:45 - 12:30 or 12:15 - 4:15. The canteen is open seven days a week.

Dining Room - Help set up the tables before meals, help pass trays, and help clear the tables afterward.

Library - Help residents choose new library materials, deliver new items and pick up return items.

Reading Aloud - Reading the newspaper or library book to visually impaired residents bring joy to both participants.

Craft Room - Supervise residents as they work on craft items or build requested items with residents.

Bingo is very popular among our residents. We have Saturday afternoon games and usually another one or two during the week and always appreciate extra help.

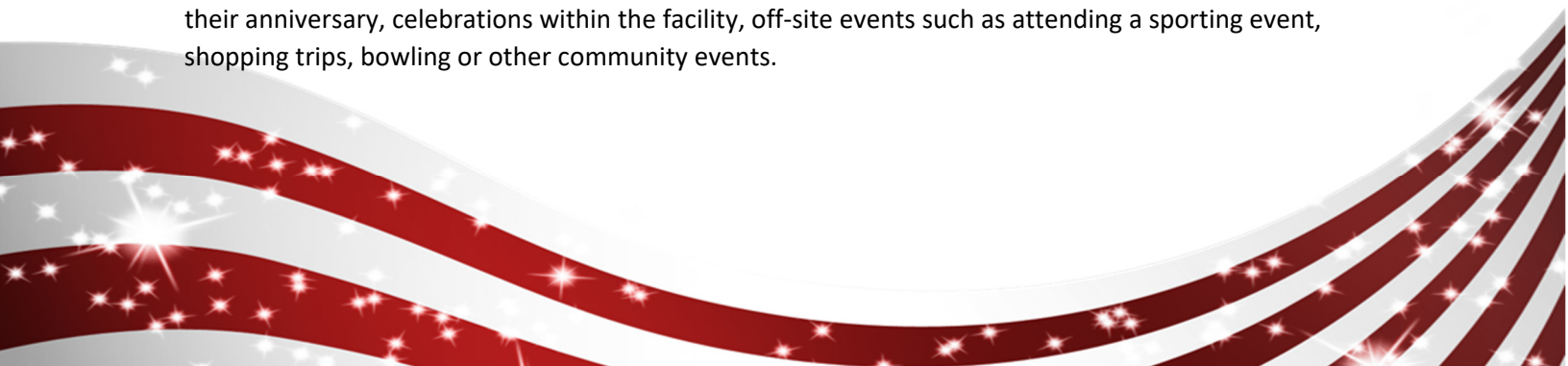
Music and Memory Program - Volunteers help residents tap into their love of music by setting up personalized playlists on iPods and encourage conversations based on memories triggered by the music.

Cards: Card games are very popular here at the Idaho State Veterans Home- Boise. For that reason, they are offered often as possible. Every other Friday a card party is held allowing residents to play games of their choosing. The bi-weekly card party alternates with Cribbage and Poker tournaments. Cribbage tournament are held Wednesday mornings. After a short break and lunch, the Poker game begins. Poker was recently added to the Idaho State Veterans Home game library by popular request. Thus far the poker tournaments have drawn large crowds. In addition to the avid card players spectators usually gather around the various card games. The games can be found in the activity room, which is transformed by volunteers and staff. It is always exciting to watch as the games unfold!

Crafts Room: Did you know that the Idaho state veterans home has a room dedicated to crafts? The room is in a central location and accessible to all residence. Inside, activities are hosted such as model building, painting, and various craft projects. Residents have access to a plethora of building material. Models range from classic cars to military aircraft of all types. Some of the projects that have been created in recent years include model re-creations of battle scenes as well as landscape paintings. The most requested projects off and stem from residents' personal interest. Recently, with spring and summer around the corner, leather work has become very popular. Small pouches and purses have been appearing all over the home. Other exciting projects include model planes which can be flown. Most crafts take three to four days of hard work to complete. The walls of the craft room are stacked with completed models and projects which are proudly displayed. It is a wonderful museum of antique cars and airplanes. The crafts room is typically available on weekdays and is staffed by volunteers. It is one of the fixtures that makes the Idaho State Veterans Home in Boise so unique!

Dog Visits: Dog visits are an important part of the morale at the Idaho State Veterans Home- Boise. We have a team of volunteers that bring dogs of all shapes and sizes to visit our residents. They cannot make it down the halls without stopping to say "Hello" to many of our resident who look forward to their visits. One of these very special volunteers is Mr.Ebbs. Mr.Ebbs is a black lab who is almost 13 years old. Mr.Ebbs can often be found greeting residents in the crafts room. He is certainly a popular character. Volunteers with dogs even go room to room to spend time with our residents. They are always spoiled with treats and pets. Dog visits are a surefire way to brighten someone's day!

Events - We arrange many varied activities for residents to enjoy. These include **Forever Yours Anniversary** celebrations that help create a private celebration for a resident and his or her spouse on their anniversary, celebrations within the facility, off-site events such as attending a sporting event, shopping trips, bowling or other community events.



Special Events and Seasonal Activities - We celebrate all the major holidays and a few more! Volunteers help decorate, participate during the event and partner with residents to enjoy the event.

If you are interested in more information about volunteering, please email: bvhvolunteer@veterans.idaho.gov or call the Volunteer Office (208) 780-1702

REMEMBER: Volunteering gives your life meaning, helps our residents greatly, looks good on your resume, and offers a wonderful opportunity to give something back to those who have proudly served our country. You can volunteer even if your time is limited. Your time and attention are the greatest gift you can give.



Jo Ann Daron

Volunteer Services Coordinator

Idaho State Veterans Home

320 Collins Road ♦ Boise, ID 83702
(208) 780-1700

