



For Immediate Release

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PORTSMOUTH MUSEUMS TO PARTICIPATE IN BLUE STAR MUSEUMS 2019

The Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center and The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum will offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer

The Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center and The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum join museums nationwide in participating in the tenth summer of Blue Star Museums, a program which provides free admission to our nation's active-duty military personnel and their families this summer. The 2019 program runs now through Monday, September 2, 2019, Labor Day. Military can find the list of participating museums at arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

Blue Star Museums is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in collaboration with Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums nationwide. First Lady of the United States Melania Trump and Second Lady of the United States Karen Pence are honorary co-chairs of Blue Star Museums 2019.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to celebrate the tenth summer of collaborating with Blue Star Families, Department of Defense, and especially the more than 2,000 museums across our nation that make this program possible," said Mary Anne Carter, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. "Organizations such as the Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum are providing wonderful opportunities for military families to share a memorable experience together this summer."

This year's participating organizations include fine art, science, history, and children's museums, as well as zoos, aquariums, gardens, and more. Museums are welcome to sign up for Blue Star Museums throughout the summer at arts.gov.



“We've seen the tremendous impact the Blue Star Museums program brings to our military families, and we're thrilled to be celebrating a decade of support,” said Kathy Roth-Douquet, chief executive officer of Blue Star Families. “Not only are museums fun to explore but are also great for making memories and strengthening military families as a whole.”

“The Defense Department congratulates Blue Star Families and the National Endowment for the Arts on reaching an incredible milestone: ten years of service to the military community through Blue Star Museums,” said A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Military Community and Family Policy. “We offer our sincere gratitude to the more than 2,000 museums across the country who open their doors through this wonderful program. Your patriotism and generosity have enriched the lives and experiences of our military families.”

The free admission program is available for those currently serving in the United States Military—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as members of the Reserves, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. Qualified members must show a [Geneva Convention common access card \(CAC\)](#), [DD Form 1173 ID card \(dependent ID\)](#), or a [DD Form 1173-1 ID](#) card for entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum.

Follow Blue Star Museums on Twitter @NEArts and @BlueStarFamily, #bluestarmuseums.

About the Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center

The Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center, housed in the 1846 Courthouse, is devoted to offering quality educational, cultural and aesthetic experiences in the arts through rotating visual art exhibits, lectures, classes and performances. It is located at 400 High Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704. For more information call 757-393-8543 or visit www.portsmouthartcenter.com

About the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum researches, preserves, and promotes the history of the City of Portsmouth, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, and the armed forces in Hampton Roads. The museum accomplishes its mission by offering exhibitions, publications, lectures, and educational programs. It is located at 2 High Street in Portsmouth, VA. For more information call 757-393-8591 or visit www.portsmouthnavalshipyardmuseum.com

About the National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit arts.gov to learn more.



About Blue Star Families

Blue Star Families builds communities that support military families by connecting research and data to programs and solutions, including career development tools, local community events for families, and caregiver support. Since its inception in 2009, Blue Star Families has engaged tens of thousands of volunteers and serves more than 1.5 million military family members. With Blue Star Families, military families can find answers to their challenges anywhere they are. For more information, visit bluestarfam.org.

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