NOVEMBER 2026, ISSUE 3

NORTH COUNTRY SPOUSES' Club

Ft Drum, NY Est. 2012

NORTH COUNTRY CHRONICLES

The North Country Spouses' Club Monthly E-Newsletter

From the President -

November brings a crisp change of pace to our club, and I am thrilled to welcome a month filled with community, connection, and gratitude.

As I reflect on all that I have to be thankful for, I want to especially shine a light on the NCSC board. This team of ladies is truly inspiring. Every member of the board has a strong desire to leave a positive impact on Fort Drum, and they each give selflessly of their time and talents month after month to do so. Between deployments, families, jobs, and other volunteer commitments, this board continues to prioritize supporting the club and each other. I could not ask for a better team, and I am so thankful for their effortsas a board member and for their friendship. **The best part of military life is the people that we do this life with, and our board is some of the best people in the North Country.** Thank you all for making our club such a vibrant, warm, and welcoming community



As the autumn leaves settle, our club is bustling with cozy gatherings and exciting events designed to bring us all together. I truly hope you choose to join us at one!

Warmly,
Alyssa Faughnan

Inspiring a Spirit of Community

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- About Us
- Volunteer
- Recap
- Sub-Clubs
- Fundraisers
- Upcoming Events

ABOUT US

The North Country Spouses' Club fosters positive connections amongst all spouses and the Fort Drum community through various social events and volunteer opportunities.

The organization takes pride in our members, encompassing all ranks and genders, who have dedicated countless hours of service to the Fort Drum community. We are dedicated to the tradition of the Army while moving forward with it's vision for tomorrow.

Our Mission is to inspire a spirit of community at Fort Drum by providing scholarships, community grants, and opportunities for social, cultural, and creative pursuits while fostering service through community projects.

Whether you are new to Fort Drum or have been here awhile, we cannot wait to meet you!

MEET OUR BOARD

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Volunteer Opportunities

NCSC is proud to partner with local organizations and lend a hand when needed. We'll be supporting several community events now through the holidays and hope that you'll join us!

Whether you're able to volunteer once or get involved regularly, we welcome your support and look forward to making a difference together.

Opportunities Available:

- Fort Drum Thrift Shop Coat Give Away (Nov 7)
- Fort Drum Blessing Box Food Pantry (Nov 7/ Dec 5)
- North Country Festival of Trees (Multiple Dates)
- Fort Drum Operation Deploy Your Dress (Multiple Dates)
- Save the Date! Red Cross Blood Drive (Dec 1)

Please email any questions to our Volunteer Coordinator, Jaden, at: ncscvolunteer@gmail.com

Your time and talents make a huge impact — thank you for helping us keep a **spirit of community.** ♥



SIGN UP



SIGN UP



SIGN UP



SIGN UP

OCTOBER RECAP

OCTOBER RECAP










October was filled with fall fun, friendly competition, and meaningful ways to give back! 🎃

We celebrated a **record-breaking** Chipotle fundraising night, put our teamwork to the test during our **Fort Drum Scavenger Hunt**, and enjoyed a variety of seasonal adventures through our sub-clubs. From apple picking and bonfires to pumpkin carving and toddler arts and crafts, there was no shortage of Halloween-themed activities and ways to **embrace the season** together!

We're especially proud that, to date, **we've collected over 300 donation items for local food pantries**! Every donation is a reminder of what we can accomplish when we come together to support our community.

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, donated, and helped make October such a memorable month. We're grateful to be part of a community that knows how to have fun while making a difference! ***Here's to more friendship, service, and fall memories with NCSC!*** 🍁💙

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

We are proud to recognize Jodi Loblack, our Hospitality Chair, as the Volunteer of the Month for November

Jodi is a person who always shows up and shows out. As our Hospitality Chair, she is working working tirelessly behind the scenes organizing fun and exciting opportunity prizes, as well as at the forefront of our events, welcoming you in. At our September social, Jodi was specifically named as the most welcoming! **That positive energy you see at events is at the core of everything Jodi does**. You can find her volunteering at community events such as the Sackets Harbor Marathon, or supporting club members new and old through meal trains and new mom support. She is a cheerleader for everyone and makes sure you feel included in our community. And to really emphasize her superpowers, Jodi manages to do all this for NCSC while also being a mom and business owner.

Jodi truly embodies the NCSC mission, inspiring community through her words and actions. Thank you for being you and sharing your gifts with us!



Jodi Loblack
Hospitality Chair

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER

Celebrating the members who keep us Anchored in Community



Rachel McBride
Publicity Chair

As Publicity Chair, Rachel McBride has gone the extra mile to maintain the North Country Spouses' Club online presence and community impact. Although NCSC holds a summer hiatus, Rachel spent the summer updating our social media platforms and website while planning for the upcoming year. This included coordinating with board members to take updated headshots for the website and designing new marketing material.

Rachel thrives in group dynamics, utilizing her strong communication and organization skills. She connects with board members to maintain an updated calendar of events, publishes our monthly newsletter, and continues to grow our online reach through community connections. Recognizing the importance of preserving the club's memories, earlier this year Rachel also stepped in to fill the gap left by the absence of a historian by streamlining our club's photo-sharing, making it easy to share memories and stay connected.

In her first few months of service, Rachel's efforts have already been noticed as NCSC grows membership and connections from community members finding us through our online presence. Beyond publicity, Rachel has also supported club and community events through NCSC social events, welcomes and farewells, Operation Deploy Your Dress, and the Sackets Harbor Marathon Water Station. **Rachel is the embodiment of the North Country Spouses' Club mission,** inspiring a spirit of community by telling our story in a way that brings people together and fostering service through her time and volunteer efforts.

A NOTE FROM THE PARLIAMENTARIAN

Help Shape NCSC's Future

Every other year, NCSC forms a Constitution Revision Committee to review our Constitution and make sure it continues to **reflect our club's current needs and culture.** This is an excellent way for members to get involved, learn how the club operates, and help shape it's future!

We are looking for members to join the **Constitution Review Committee**.
You do not have to have any special experience or knowledge of procedures to participate- just a willingness to share your thoughts!

Meeting Details:
When: Friday, November 13 at Noon
Where: Zoom
Time Commitment: One hour maximum!

Additionally, we are currently accepting feedback! Please click HERE to share your thoughts, suggestions, or concerns. These will be compiled and reviewed at the committee meeting.

Our Constitution helps keep NCSC running, and your participation helps ensure the club can continue supporting military spouses for years to come.



Patti Agard
Parliamentarian

SUB-CLUBS





SUB-CLUBS

Something for Everyone

Looking to explore a new hobby or meet others who share your interests? Our Sub Clubs offer something for everyone - from book lovers and crafters to outdoor enthusiasts and more! Sub Clubs meet regularly throughout the month and offer a variety of activities throughout the North Country.

Click **HERE** for more information on how to connect!



NOVEMBER EVENTS

NOV 4: OUTDOOR PURSUITS - WELLESLEY ISLAND HIKE
NOV 6: FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING
NOV 6: CRAFT CLUB - CROCHET NIGHT
NOV 9: TODDLER CLUB - FRIENDSGIVING
NOV 13: NCSC CONSTITUTION REVISION MEETING
NOV 13: CRAFT CLUB - WREATH MAKING POP UP
NOV 18: NCSC SOCIAL - **FRIENDSGIVING TRIVIA**
NOV 20: BOOK CLUB MEETING

*GET YOUR STEPS IN EVERY FRIDAY WITH OUTDOOR PURSUITS

THE SEASON OF GIVING

THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO: HOW WE GIVE BACK

THANKFUL



Celebrating the Season of Giving

November is a season of gratitude, and at the **North Country Spouses' Club**, we're especially thankful for the members, volunteers, and community partners who make our mission possible.



As we celebrate the **Season of Giving**, we're taking a moment to shine a spotlight on the very heart of our organization: **giving back to our community.**

All year long, our members pour their time, creativity, and energy into fundraising and volunteer efforts that make difference. Through fun and meaningful events like our **North Country Gala**, and fundraising efforts such as our **Cans for a Cause** and **Chipotle Night**, we raise money to support our Scholarships and Grants Program.



Each spring, those efforts come full circle at our **Scholarships & Grants Ceremony**, where we have the incredible honor of presenting funds to **military dependents** and **local nonprofit organizations**. Last year alone, thanks to the generosity and involvement of our members and supporters, we proudly gave back $15,000 to our North Country community! 🎉

But our giving doesn't stop there. Throughout the year, we also:

- Support our community by partnering with **local and MilSpo-owned small businesses.**
- Collect donations for our monthly **Community Outreach Partner** at each social event.
- **Volunteer our time and talents** — one act of kindness at a time. From hosting a water station at the **Sackets Harbor Marathon** to supporting the **Blessing Box Food Pantry** and **Fort Drum Thrift Shop**, we're proud to support the organizations that make a difference in our community.



This is what makes the North Country Spouses' Club **so special** — people coming together to celebrate, serve, and support one another.

As we celebrate this season, we're reminded that giving back is one of the most meaningful ways to **show our thanks**. Every dollar raised and every volunteer hour shared helps us **make a difference** in our military and local communities. **Together, we're building a community rooted in generosity, connection, and purpose**.

Thank you for being part of our story of giving — today and all year long.

FUNDRAISER SPOTLIGHT



SAVE THE DATE

The biggest fundraiser of the year, the North Country Gala, is Saturday April 3rd, 2027.

We are excited to announce this years Gala theme is



Get ready to relive the magic of prom with a little nostalgia, a lot of fun, and some exciting surprises! The North Country Gala is **open to the public** and will be a fun and exciting evening that will include dinner, libations, opportunity drawings, and both a silent auction and live auction hosted by local personality, Joshua Baughn.

That may seem far away, but plans are already underway and we need your help to make it a night to remember! **This event is executed through 100% volunteer efforts.** The money raised is distributed each spring when we award our scholarships to military dependents and grants to local nonprofit organizations. Last year, the NCSC awarded $15,000 in scholarships and community grants!



Our **Fundraising Committee** is hard at work planning and organizing the Gala. Right now, the committee is focused on gathering donations for auction prize baskets and will meet this month to brainstorm more plans for the Gala.



The next Fundraising Committee meeting is **Friday, November 6th @ 11:30am.**
Want to get involved? Join our WhatsApp Group (here) or email Elena (ncscfirstvp@gmail.com)

If you have your own business or know a local business that would like to donate to our live or silent auction, please contact Savannah, our donations chair directly at: NCSCfundraising@gmail.com

IN THE COMMUNITY

OPERATION:
Deploy Your Dress
FORT DRUM, NEW YORK



ODYD

Operation: Deploy Your Dress

Have a military ball, holiday party, or other formal event coming up? Let Operation Deploy Your Dress (ODYD) help you find the perfect dress!

Located inside the USO, ODYD is a nonprofit organization that provides free formal wear to military ID card holders, helping make those special occasions a little more affordable.

Planning an event for your unit? ODYD also offers private shopping events for units and groups! It's a great opportunity to bring everyone together and find something special for an upcoming occasion.

Interested in getting involved? We're always looking for volunteers to join our ODYD Committee! Sign up to volunteer in November here.

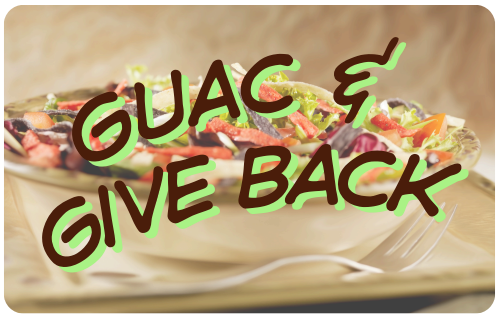
For more information email Emily at odydncscrep@gmail.com

For more information, upcoming events, and hours of operation, visit ODYD's Facebook Page HERE.

FUNDRAISING

Giving back is the heartbeat of our organization.

We are proud to announce that October's Chipotle Night: Guac & Give Back raised a **record breaking** $750 ! 🎉



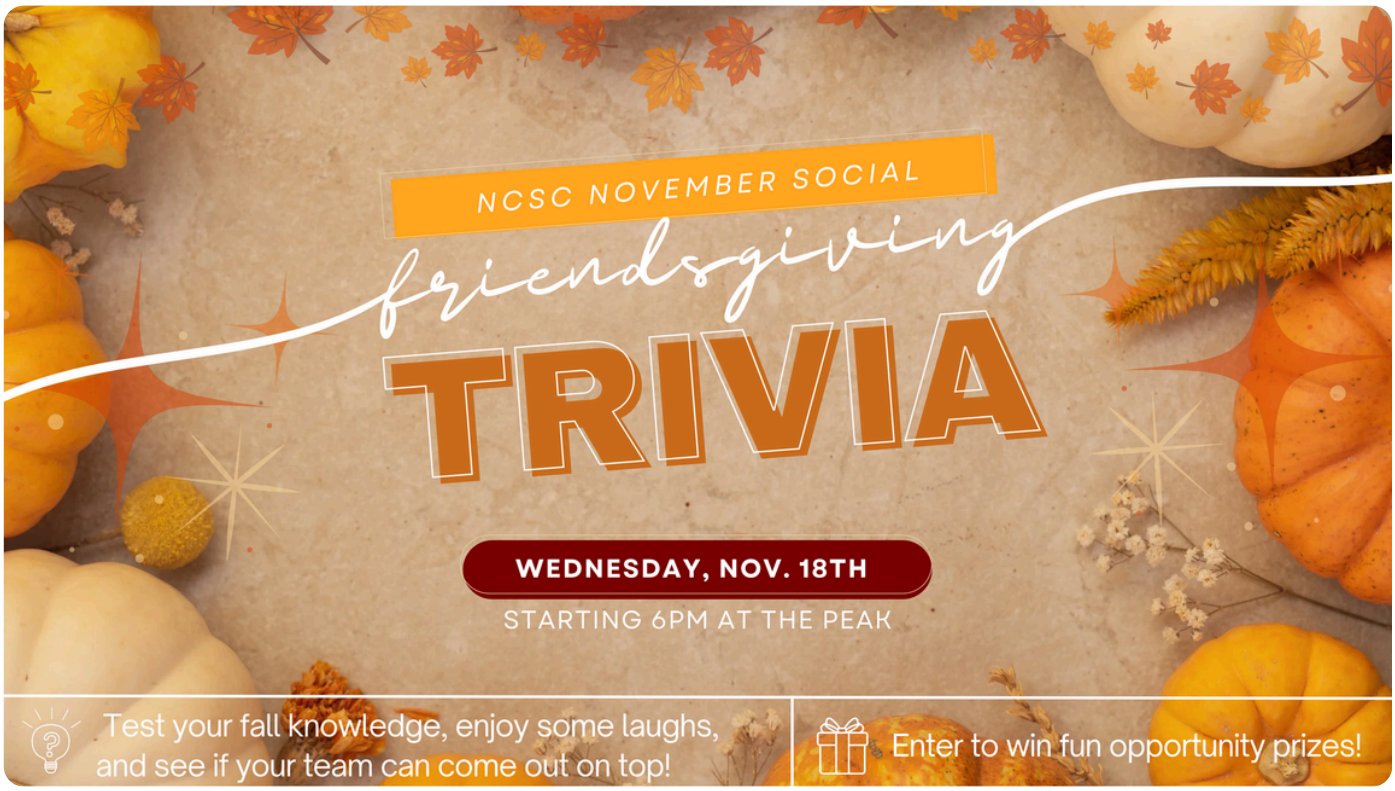
Throughout the year, NCSC will be collecting returnable cans and bottles at our socials throughout the season. Here's how:

- **Collect your returnable cans and bottles** - Look for the NY 5¢ deposit marking on eligible beverage containers.
- **Keep them clean and intact** - There's no need to remove labels, but containers should be empty and not crushed or damaged.
- **Bring your returnables to an NCSC Social** - Drop your items in the designated bin, and we'll take care of the rest.
- **Drop them at Griff's in Watertown** (153 Coleman Ave #A, Watertown)
  - Write "NCSC" clearly on the bag (on a piece of tape works well!)
  - Pull up to their drop off area and tell them your cans are for the "North Country Spouses' Club Account.



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER SOCIAL



PURCHASE TICKETS

Cozy sweats, tasty treats, and friendly competition! Join us for an evening of team trivia, where our emcee asks the questions and your table writes down the answers. Come relaxed, come hungry and bring your best trivia brain!

NOVEMBER OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT

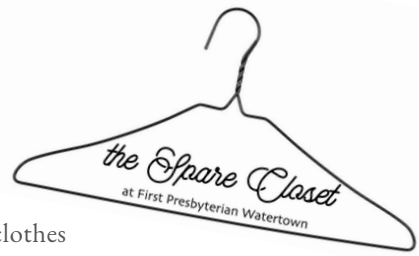
NCSC is proud to give back to our community!

The Spare Closet at First Presbyterian Church, provides clothing, shoes, and other essential items to individuals and families in need at no cost. They accept gently used clothing and shoes, as well as items for kitchens, bathrooms, and bedrooms.

This November, **NCSC will be collecting donations to help fill the closet for winter**! Simply bring your donations to our next social! As an added thanks, you'll receive an extra opportunity ticket.

Current priority needs include:

- Menswear (especially smaller sizes)
- Thermals, jackets, gloves, and hats
- Boys clothing (12 months to size 7)
- Blankets & sheets
- Socks and underwear (new in package)
- Gladly accepting other clothing/sizes with the exception of summer clothes



SAVE THE DATE

Stop in or stay a while

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, **December 9th from 11–1 PM**—it's our Holiday Coffee drop-in event!

Pop by for a cozy afternoon of laughter, coffee, and conversation as we prep for the holidays! ☕🎁





SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

Help us spread the word

The North Country Spouses' Club is proud to support our military and local communities through our Scholarships & Grants Program. **Applications open in February.**

Visit our website to learn more about our program and stay informed about application requirements.

STAY CONNECTED WITH FORT DRUM

Community Information Exchange

Did you know? Each month, Fort Drum hosts the Community Information Exchange (CIE). CIE provides members of our community with an opportunity to come together to share and discover information about upcoming **events, programs, and services** available on post and throughout the surrounding communities.

VIEW OCTOBER'S CIE

Winter is coming!

Check out these resources from Fort Drum's Department of Emergency Management.

RESOURCES

Stay in Touch!