



Community Covenant Planning

The Secretary of the Army created the Army Community Covenant in 2008 to formalize support from local communities across America. The program is designed to foster and sustain effective state and community partnerships with the Army to improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their Families. The Community Covenant is purely symbolic, but carries a deep moral commitment and provides the platform to strengthen relationships and inspire support.

A Community Covenant signing ceremony is an opportunity to bring community members together for a public commitment, recognize current programs and services, and inspire new local initiatives. It is important to remember that the Community Covenant is more than a signing ceremony; it is an enduring program made possible through the continued commitment of those who sign a covenant and pledge support.

Below are recommended steps for implementing the Community Covenant in your community. The Community Covenant should be tailored to the community, and depending on local resources, can be as comprehensive as you like.

Community Covenant signing ceremony.

- Define your community by its shape, size, and demographics and from that the breadth of the ceremony – local, regional, or state level.
- Identify a leader(s) in the civilian community who has an interest in planning and executing a ceremony, such as:
 - Mayor or County Commissioner(s)
 - Chamber of Commerce President
 - Social, educational, or business community leader(s)
 - Member(s) of the House or Senate or State Legislature(s)
 - Governor and/or Lieutenant Governor
 - Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army and/or Army Reserve Ambassador
 - Veteran and Military Service Organization
 - Private Supporting Organization
- Introduce community leader(s) to the Community Covenant concept and a community-sponsored covenant signing ceremony. Utilize the resources on the Army Community Covenant web page (army.mil/community) to show leaders the diverse and innovative programs available across the country that provide support to Service Members and their Families.

- Recommend reaching out to local Military. You can start with the public affairs officer of the state Adjutant General, local National Guard unit, local Army Reserve Readiness Region Command, Army Reserve Unit, a nearby Army installation or recruiting station, or your local [Army OneSource Community Support Coordinator](#).
- Monitor and participate in the planning process for the ceremony. Resources are available on the web site to include sample invitations, posters, sequence of events, etc. The ACC team is available to assist ceremony planners. Please see POC list below for the ACC team member for your state.
- Share successes and local initiatives/programs highlighted at your ceremony. At the conclusion of your ceremony, please send them to your Community Covenant POC or to ACSIMcommunitycovenant@conus.army.mil so we can feature them on the web site:
 - 1) Event Summary, including
 - a) Ceremony date and location
 - b) Military and elected leaders in attendance
 - c) Local initiatives/programs featured at the ceremony
 - 2) Ceremony photos
 - 3) Articles and/or news links supporting the signing ceremony

(An event summary template is included below)

Implement the Community Covenant commitment. Some ideas include:

- Conduct a community focus group with Service Members and their Families to understand their specific needs then work with local organizations/groups to connect the need to a solution.
- Develop a local on-going Community Covenant committee that meets regularly to collaborate and coordinate community-based programs and services for Service Members and their Families. Ensure Military Families are on the committee.
- Implement a Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program (<http://www.btyr.org>) or similar initiative which creates awareness for the purpose of connecting Service Members and their Families with community support, training, services and resources.

Thanks for your interest in Community Covenant and helping improve the quality of life for Service Members and their Families.

**Army Community Covenant Team
Points of Contact by State**

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Virginia	Maria Lloyd
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Wisconsin	Rob Hansgen
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Community Covenant Event Summary

Congratulations on conducting a Community Covenant signing ceremony and, most importantly, thank you for your support of military members and their families. Please take a few minutes to complete this event summary form.

Community name: [city, county, military installation is applicable, etc]

Event planner or Point of Contact: [name, phone, e-mail, organization]

Event Date:

Event location: [place (ball field, city hall, state fair), city, state]

Approximate number of attendees:

Please list any of the following who signed the Covenant

Mayors:

Members of Congress:

Governor:

Lieutenant Governor:

State Officials (State Legislature/Senate Members):

Names of senior officials in attendance:

DoD/Army/Military leadership:

Local initiatives, services or collaborative groups highlighted or announced at the event:

Additional comments:

Please send us any press releases, media articles or photos from the event so we may share them with others.

Please email completed document to ACSIMCommunityCovenant@conus.army.mil or to the Army Community Covenant team member who may have been working with you on your event.

Feel free to also post articles to the U.S. Army Community Covenant Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Army-Community-Covenant/109004309194?v>