

## **U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center joins Blue Star Museums**

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The Army Heritage and Education Center is a Blue Star Museum this Summer. AHEC joins more than 1800 museums across America that honor and invite military families with free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Blue Star Museums brings attention to military men and women, and their families, especially Blue Star Families. Equally, it brings attention to the richness of exhibits and displays in museums across America. In all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa, participating museums include fine arts museums, science museums, nature centers, children's museums -- and the Army Heritage and Education Center.

USAHEC is a great destination for any Blue Star Family given its focus of military history and attention to all aspects of Army service, including the sacrifice of Soldiers' families," said USAHEC Director Colonel Matthew Dawson.

"We are delighted to be part of this initiative," he said. ""We expect this promotional campaign will attract many new visitors this summer and beyond."

In Pennsylvania, the list includes the Daniel Boone Homestead in Birdsboro, the Brandwine Battlefield and River Museum in Chadds Ford, the Ephrata Cloister, the Jim Thorpe Old Jail Museum, Bucks County Childresn Museum, Pearl S. Buck House in Perkasic, the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, and Philadelphia's History Museum, Museum of Art and Please Touch Museum, among others. The complete list of participating museums is available at [www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](http://www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums).

"Blue Star Museums is something that service members and their families look forward to every year and we are thrilled with the continued growth of the program," said Blue Star Families CEO Kathy Roth-Douquet about the unparalleled opportunity to visit some of the country's finest museums for free.

### **About Blue Star Museums**

Blue Star Museums is a collaboration between the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and

more than 1,800 museums across America. This is the latest NEA program to bring quality arts programs to the military, veterans, and their families. Other NEA programs for the military have included the NEA/Walter Reed Healing Arts Partnership; Great American Voices Military Base Tour; and Shakespeare in American Communities Military Base Tour.

#### **About Blue Star Families**

Blue Star Families is a national, non-profit network of military families from all ranks and services, including guard and reserve, dedicated to supporting, connecting, and empowering military families. With its partners, Blue Star Families hosts a robust array of morale and empowerment programs, including Books on Bases, Blue Star Museums, Operation Honor Corp, Blue Star Careers, and Operation Appreciation. Blue Star Families also works directly with the Department of Defense and senior members of local, State, and Federal government to bring the most important military family issues to light. Working in concert with fellow non-profits, community advocates, and public officials, Blue Star Families raises awareness of the challenges and strengths of military family life and works to make military life more sustainable. Its worldwide membership includes military spouses, children, parents, and friends, as well as service members, veterans, and civilians. To learn more about Blue Star Families, visit <http://www.bluestarfam.org>.

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