

Operation Purple Family Retreats Winter 2010 Locations Announced

It is difficult on the entire family when a loved one is deployed, but the time after that father, mother, husband, or wife returns home is often the most challenging of all. Recognizing this, the National Military Family Association is offering two Operation Purple Family Retreats in early 2010... ([Click here for more information](#))

These free, four-day retreats are set in a National Park using nature's classroom, where families will have opportunities to strengthen and renew relationships, explore their natural surroundings, and participate in fun, family-focused activities.

Operation Purple Family Retreat participants will be paired with highly specialized field science educators and staff members who will guide families through various activities such as nature hikes, canoeing, campfires, outdoor exploration, arts and crafts, and challenge activities. Families will have opportunities to communicate, work as a team, and reconnect while exploring and learning about the environment.

The schedule includes structured activities which will highlight areas of strength and resilience in the family and promote family growth. Families will work together to strengthen their relationship through problem solving, goal setting, and communication activities implemented by the FOCUS Project (Families OverComing Under Stress), a resiliency-building program designed for military families and children facing the multiple challenges of combat operational stress during wartime.

These retreats are open to service members and their families who have experienced deployment within the last 15 months. Service members must have been home for at least 3 months prior to the beginning of the retreat. Families who attend will receive a \$200 stipend per family upon arrival to the retreat site to cover cost of travel. The retreats are free thanks to support from the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Foundation.

For information on Operation Purple Family Retreats and to apply, please visit: www.militaryfamily.org/retreats.

Location and Dates:

The Headlands Institute, Sausalito, CA: February 12 - 15, 2010

The Headlands Institute is a private nonprofit organization that offers environmental education opportunities and conference facilities in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area near San Francisco.

The Teton Science School, Jackson, Wyoming: March 19-23, 2010

Teton Science Schools are a private, 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization, operating year-round in Jackson Hole, Wyoming in partnership with Grand Teton National Park and as a permittee of the Bridger-Teton National Forest.