



Libraries + Military Families

Blue Star Welcome Week was created to recognize the 600,000 military families that move to new communities each year. This special week raises awareness and builds support for military families across the country. During Blue Star Welcome Week, it is our goal to proactively improve military families' sense of belonging to their local communities by forging strong connections between our military family members and their local neighbors.

As a community hub, libraries have an amazing potential to get involved! Libraries act as central locations for community building, engagement, inspiration, and knowledge – welcoming places for newcomers, like military families, who are looking to connect with opportunities and resources.

Join us for Blue Star Welcome Week 2023 to help **military families** feel connected in the communities where they live and serve. Encourage military families to join ongoing programs. Host a storytime featuring topics that resonate with military children and families. Share messaging on social media welcoming military families to the community and invite them to visit the library to learn more about the resources waiting for them. We hope your library will consider welcoming military families to your community this September during our annual Blue Star Welcome Week.

Blue Star Welcome Week FAQ

When is Blue Star Welcome Week 2023?

September 23rd – October 1st, 2023

Why is this week so important?

According to the 2022 Military Family Lifestyle Survey, only 33% of active-duty respondents feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community.

The average military family moves three times as often as their civilian peers. The majority of these permanent change of station (PCS) moves take place during the summer in June, July, and August. More than 70% of families live off of the military installation in their local civilian communities and they do not feel a strong sense of belonging to those communities.

Why are Blue Star Welcome Week partners needed?

Blue Star Welcome Week is how we get upstream of the lack-of-belonging problem and help our military families thrive. We know that if you can create a moment of welcome when people move, everything else improves – financial challenges, mental and physical health, and so much more! Together, we can spread this initiative to more communities across the country, empowering more military families to feel a greater sense of belonging.

Where can I find more information?

bluestarwelcomeweek.org

Get Involved

Examples of Blue Star Welcome Week Library Events and Programs

- Storytime using books with themes of moving, being the new kid, making friends, military families, creating a sense of belonging or home, transitions
- Get a library card/meet the librarian
- Career support services (explore what the library has to offer for support)
- Book clubs for adults/teens/youth/families that focus on newcomers, community, and making friends; a series helps create more lasting friendships and bonds versus one-time drop-in events
- Post a sign at checkout that welcomes military families
- Host a program where library users create messages of welcome to share with military families joining the library community
- Create a recommended bookshelf of resources that helps new families learn about the community (history and sites across the community, famous residents, attractions, military connections, etc.)

Event Registration

Interested in hosting a Blue Star Welcome Week event? Tell us what you have planned on our [partner event registration page!](#)

Have an event already planned at your library during Blue Star Welcome Week? No need to plan something new. Register your existing event at the link above to help welcome military families new to your community.

Online Toolkit

Sample social media posts, graphics, and more can be found at welcomeweek.bluestarfam.org/toolkit.

For general questions or more information about partnering on Blue Star Welcome Week, reach out to Leah Love, Associate Director of Community Impact at llove@bluestarfam.org.