

## Country Camo Outdoors Veterans Alliance

Country Camo Outdoors Veterans Alliance is a non-profit (501c3) organization based in Rushville, Ohio. We were founded by husband and wife Larry and Jeana Mitchell. Jeana is a disabled Army. Larry introduced Jeana to the outdoors and since doing so Jeana has found it to be very helpful in dealing with her PTSD and helping her reconnect with both God and nature. It is the mission of CCOVA to use the outdoors as a therapeutic coping skill for veterans, women and children (including those with disabilities) though education and conservation. Country Camo Outdoors Veterans Alliance: helping veterans, one hunt at a time while promoting conservation through education to all.

We are an organization which is staffed 100% by volunteers. Our volunteers come from many walks of life and are committed to helping our community. We want to give all people the chance to discover the outdoors and to enjoy them. It is our sincere to desire to show that the outdoors does not discriminate on the basis on disability. Just because we all learn or are made differently does not mean that we are not able to enjoy the same things in life.

We host several events throughout the year, including our Kids Day Out which we began in 2015. On this day we invite children from the area to join us in a day of fishing, food and learning. Here we teach children proper fishing techniques, how to identify fish species common to our area, how to handle fish, bait their own hooks, how to cast etc., as well as feed them (all free of charge) for the day. Our first year we had 10 children in attendance and this past year we had around 70 parents and children in attendance. Children who participate in the passport to fishing seminars which usually last a couple hours are rewarded with a free fishing pole. Children are also given the chance to win door prizes.

Women are fastly becoming the fastest growing demographic in the outdoors, and because of this we also host a Ladies day out. This is a day where Ladies come (without their husbands, kids, or boyfriends) and learn skills which will help them become more self-sufficient in the outdoors. We host small seminars on topics such as trapping, gun handling and safety, basic archery skills, deer decoy set up, turkey calling and blind set up, basic field first aid and cpr, fishing, and more. All equipment is provided is provided for ladies to use free of charge and a hot lunch is served as well. This event runs from 10-6 and is held rain or shine.

We also do an Honor Hunt for Veterans. This hunt is our way of saying thank you to our veterans. It is also a way that for us to help some of our veterans who are dealing with adjusting to civilian life. It gives veterans a chance to be around other veterans, and to once again feel that bond, that only other veterans can understand. We will do our best to share with them strategies which have worked with some of our veterans in using the outdoors as relaxation techniques and coping skills for when things feel like they are getting a bit out of control, and we will show them that regardless of how the world may feel someone will always have their six!!! Veterans are lodged, fed and provided with hunting tags and license ALL free of charge (regardless of disability rating)!!

## With the media, political correctness and government filling our channels with negativity, we need positive role models, influences and people who are willing to take a stand and make a difference: WE ARE THOSE PEOPLE

For more information or to donate you may visit us on Facebook at Country Camo Outdoors Veterans Alliance or <u>www.ccoveteransalliance.org</u>

Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.

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