

'Sponsor a Vet' banquet plans announced

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Signups for event volunteers, sponsors of individual veterans begin in connection with upcoming Divide Camp fundraiser.

ENTERPRISE — Divide Camp, the locally based non-profit dedicated to helping post-9/11 veterans heal from their combat experiences, will host a fundraising banquet Saturday, April 25, at 6 p.m. at Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise.

Preparation of the wild game and salmon meal will be led by veterans Tom Swanson, French-trained chef, and Joe McCormack who will be grilling the salmon. They invite area veterans to join their cooking team to help prepare the meal. Accommodations will be made for wheelchair-bound and other disabled veterans. Prep and cooking will be take place April 24 and 25.

"I know many veterans who are good cooks, and we want them to share in the fun our growing team is looking forward to," Swanson says. "It's vets helping vets." Those interested in signing up can phone the Veterans Service Office at 541-426-0539.

The banquet's proceeds will help fund travel expenses, wilderness adventures and accommodations for accepted applicants to Divide Camp. In addition to the 5-Star Cuisine meal, there will be live and silent auctions and door prizes. A dance will follow with the band Last Call providing entertainment.

Businesses and individuals are invited to "Sponsor a Vet." Upon giving a donation, beginning at \$125, sponsors can designate a veteran's service of any era to be honored at a seating position at the table. A banner with the veteran's name, rank, and military branch will be hung on the back of the chair, with the same information displayed next to the plate on the table.

A free ticket with that sponsorship will allow the supporter to give it as a gift to that veteran or use it personally.

Banquet tickets, priced at \$25, are available at the Blonde Strawberry in Wallowa, the Bookloft in Enterprise, and The Sports Corral in Joseph. For more information, contact Johna Marcum at 541-426-4871, or Katherine Stickroth 541-910-5372.