



## Looking for ways to get your friends, family or colleagues involved in volunteerism?

Operation Troop Appreciation (OTA) offers a number of opportunities to provide service projects for your employees, scout troops, church youth groups, and schools! Listed below are the volunteer programs your group or company can participate in to demonstrate support for our troops:

### [Sponsor A Unit](#)

The unit sponsorship program is designed to raise funds needed to provide and ship “wish-list” items to the troops! Units can be sponsored for as little as \$150 and increase based on the number of troops in the unit and the items they’ve requested. Your group plans an activity to raise the money, and OTA coordinates shipping the items overseas. We also encourage you to write letters or cards of thanks to the troops you are supporting so they can correspond directly with you.

### [Collection Drive](#)

Many things our troops request are items that can be collected from the general public. Snacks, personal care and hygiene items, video gaming consoles and games, and DVDs are just a few of the things you can help provide to our troops. Letters, cards, and banners for the troops are also appreciated, as are monetary donations to offset the cost of shipping the items.

### [cents for Soldiers](#)

Need a quick and easy fundraising idea? OTA’s cents for Soldiers program is a great option to raise funds by simply collecting your loose change! Students collect loose change (and sometimes small bills) from friends, family and neighbors and pool donations at a central school location. Schools often hold competitions among classes and use the drive as an opportunity to teach about money, counting, math, and friendly competition.

### [On-Site Volunteerism](#)

OTA’s space in West Mifflin, PA provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to volunteer. As an OTA volunteer, individuals represent the organization to the public. Volunteers collect donations, ask the public to sign thank you cards for the troops, answer phone inquiries, and provide tours of our Military Appreciation space.

### [Yellow Ribbon Campaign](#)

A simple and easy way to raise money for the troops at restaurants and retail establishments. OTA will provide you with a “Support the Troops” yellow ribbon template and you print them and have available at a check out area. In exchange for a donation (levels set by each location, typically \$1 - \$5), donors write their name on the ribbons which are posted in a public area of the store or restaurant. Proceeds are given to OTA for the purchase of needed troop “wish list” items.

### [Public Events](#)

Individuals and small groups are needed to serve as OTA Volunteers at public events. OTA is regularly involved in public outreach events at malls, trade shows, the Pittsburgh marathon, schools, and other outlets. These are great opportunities to introduce the public to OTA, raise funds, and spread the word about our mission. The goal for these events is primarily to collect monetary donations, Thank You cards and holiday greetings to send to the troops. Donations are used to purchase “wish list” items our troops have asked for.

*To sign up for any of the above programs or to obtain more information, please contact OTA Community Projects Coordinator, Lindsay Handshue, [lahandshue@live.com](mailto:lahandshue@live.com) or call 412-653-1317.*