

Tomah, WI 54660 608-372-1727

May 13, 2025

Dear Veteran/Community Organization:

We're excited to share that we're planning to hold our annual Independence Day Celebration on Wednesday, July 9, 2025 starting at 1:30pm. This event is "tentative" as we wait for national approval.

We will be having carnival games and food booths sponsored by individual organizations. Organizations can choose the game from enclosed list or bring their own. Please complete enclosed form with your top choices. If sponsoring food booth – organizations are responsible for bringing all food items needed.

To assist you, we've include a list of ideas for prizes on the bottom of the form (ideas only). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us. Due to federal government purchasing requirements, the **best** way to obtain these items would be each organization to independently purchase them directly from the vendor or through our canteen store here at the medical center. At the event, we will have each organization complete an activity donation form to capture the donation and the volunteers hours so we can give your organization credit.

Please review the enclosed form, complete it, and return it in the enclosed business reply envelope no later than **July 1, 2025.** In the event that you are no longer the chairperson for your particular organization or group, please forward this material to the appropriate person. We greatly appreciate your help and assistance.

Here are some quick facts and notes about the 2025 Independence Day Celebration:

- Volunteers Can be regular volunteers or occasional volunteers
- Location: Center Courtyard: It is easiest to access this area through the patio entrance between Buildings 401 and 402 (please see the enclosed map). In case of inclement weather, location will be moved to Main Dining Room.
- Time: The 2025 Carnival will be July 9, 2025 from 1:30-3:00pm
- Arrival: <u>Please arrive no later than 12:45pm.</u> You all know there will be Veterans rolling in around 1pm 😌
- **Games:** We will provide the games listed on attachment. If an organization chooses a game not listed, they will need to provide the game.
- **Prizes:** Reminder: organizations need to provide their <u>own</u> prizes
- **Food Booths:** Food needs to be prepared on campus or in commercial kitchen. Only bring food listed on the returned form. Do not bring any other food to share not listed on RSVP. Clinical dieticians will have nametags for Veterans and what they CAN eat. This

is why we need to know by July 1st, all items that will be available and nothing more will be made available day of.

- **Chairs:** Some folding chairs will be provided, Please bring folding chairs or lawn chairs from home if you need extras.
- ARE YOU COMING? If you are coming, please complete the enclosed form and return it to us. If you are not coming, please do the same and indicate that you are not attending. Please indicate if this decision to not come is for this year only or permanent. If it is permanent, then we will know not to send this letter in the future. Knowing who is and isn't coming will allow us to know how many games are needed and help us prepare for this busy day.
- **Supplies Needed:** Please be specific and include quantity/size in the "Supplies needed by VA" so we will be prepared for your needs.(i.e. 6' table, power, extension cords, extra table, etc)
- **B.Y.O.V:** That's "**Bring Your Own Volunteers**," please!! If you have extra volunteers who are interested in assisting, please contact voluntary services to help ESCORT inpatients. We need assistance with this too!

We are looking forward to a fantastic Independence Day Celebration July 9, 2025! Thanks for your cooperation in insuring that we provide a safe and enjoyable event our Veterans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Conzemius Voluntary Services Officer

Enclosures

- Response Form/List of available games
- Tomah VA Map

Tomah VA Independence Day Celebration Wednesday, July 9, 2025 1:30-3:00pm Center Courtyard

Please help Tomah VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (Voluntary Services) prepare for the Independence Day Celebration by completing this form and returning it by July 1, 2025. <u>Reminder</u>—**Booth sponsors are asked to obtain your own prizes, food, etc.** <u>and</u> **supply your own volunteers to run the games.** Games available by VA are listed on back of this form.

Sponsoring Organization _____ Unit _____

_____ Yes, we will be there and sponsor a Game booth (please rate top 5 choice games on back)

We will be providing our own game: _____

Prize for participation in game (if applicable) ______

Volunteer(s) Assisting _____

__Yes, we will be there and sponsor a Food booth (please rate top 5 choice games on back)

*Organization must Bring in all food – prepared in commercial kitchen List ALL food items offered (including buns, toppings, condiments, etc) as all foods Veterans CAN eat will be noted on inpatient Veteran nametags:

Volunteer(s) Assisting _____

_____ No, we are unable to attend, but would like to monetarily support special food and music with this enclosed check. Checks to be payable to **Tomah VA Medical Center**

_____ No, we will not be sponsoring a game/supporting this event **this year**.

Person in charge of the booth: _____

Address: _____ Telephone number: _____

_____ Email: _____

Supplies needed from the VA: _____

(Please be specific and include quantity and size (Items available – tent, tables, chairs, water, roasters, grills, etc)

Reminder, each organization needs to provide their own prizes for their games. <u>Some suggestions include:</u> little Debbie snacks, bananas, small bags of chips, flavored water or cans/small bottles of soda, cup holders for wheelchairs, can koozies, sunglasses, hats, chip clip, stress balls, folding fans, back scratchers, or simply canteen books or money

Questions – please contact Tomah VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement at (608) 372-1727 or <u>VHATOMVoluntaryService@va.gov</u>

| Game (old and NEW) | Please rank Top Choices # 1-5 |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Plinko | 10 |
| Horseshoes | |
| Mini-golf/Golf Putt | |
| Shuffleboard | |
| Cola Ring Toss rubber rings | |
| Lawn Darts | |
| Ladder Ball | |
| Bean bag toss | |
| Carnival Dart Board (NEW) | |
| Small Frisbee Golf | |
| Tic Tac Toe | |
| Wooden Disc Drop (NEW) | |
| Popcorn bucket ball Toss (NEW) | |
| Plastic Axe Throwing (NEW) | |
| Ball drop game | |
| Spinning Prize Wheel (write in your own prizes) | |
| Digital Shooting-Foam Darts (NEW) | |
| Card Roulette wheel 1-6 | |
| Basketball (NEW) | |
| Table Skee ball (NEW) | |
| Table Roulette | |
| Pick A Duck(12 ducks & tub) | |
| Penny Drop | |
| Clown Toss | |
| Staff Choice 🏵 we pick! | |

| Food Booth | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Popcorn & Puffcorn | |
| Shaved Ice | |
| Cotton Candy | |
| Ice Cream (lactose free option too) | |
| Brat Patties | |
| BBQs | |
| Other: | |



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