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Volunteers to make paracord ‘survival’ bracelets for Troops during West Jordan Veterans Day Event

(West Jordan, UT) — What started out as a small project with a goal to make 300 paracord “survival” bracelets to give deployed troops, has captured the interest of volunteers of all ages. In honor of Veterans Day, volunteers have signed up to make 1,800 survival bracelets Friday, Nov. 11 at City Hall and other locations.

The city is partnering with Operation Gratitude and making bracelets, collecting Beanie Babies and writing ‘Thank You’ cards for our troops.

“It started out small, but the response has been overwhelming,” Kevin Schmidt, West Jordan events manager, said. “I’ve had interest from youth groups, individuals, teachers and even an elderly shut-in who wondered if her crocheting skills qualified her to make the bracelets. Students from Sunset Ridge Middle School are also participating.”

The bracelets are made up of 7.5’ of paracord, which is exceptionally strong and can be used in an emergency. Just as important, the bracelet sends the message to service men and women that someone cares about them. The nylon cords that make up the paracord can also be used as sewing thread, emergency sutures, fishing line and more.

In addition to the Friday bracelet making event, volunteers have been assembling the bracelets for the past couple of weeks with materials provided by the West Jordan events team.

“We wanted to serve the military on Veterans Day, and Operation Gratitude was a perfect fit,” Schmidt said.

Who: West Jordan officials, Congresswoman Mia Love, Sunset Ridge Middle School students, scouts and community volunteers.

What: “Serve Those Who Serve” paracord survival bracelet making event.

When/Where: Friday, Nov. 11 from 9 a.m.-noon at City Hall, 8000 S. Redwood Road.
And from 9:50 a.m.-2:50 p.m. at Sunset Ridge Middle School, 8292 S. Skyline Arch Drive.

NOTE: City Hall will be closed for business on Veterans Day, but the service project will take place in the Community Room on the first floor of City Hall.

For more information, contact Kim Wells at (801) 618-9114 or via e-mail kimw@wjordan.com.

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Thank you for being part of West Jordan City's "Serve Those Who Serve" Veterans Day event

We are making Paracord "Survival" Bracelets, collecting Beanie Babies and writing thank you cards. We couldn't do it without you! Thank you for making a difference.

If you would like to donate Beanie Babies, please bring them to the West Jordan City Hall and give them to the Events department.



Operation Gratitude needs over **200,000** [Paracord "Survival" Bracelets](#) to include in each of their care packages going to deployed troops overseas; to new recruits graduating from Boot Camp; to veterans here at home, and to first responders aiding in emergency situations!

Why a Paracord Bracelet?

Not only are the bracelets really cool-looking, they can actually be used to save a life in an emergency situation. Virtually all branches of the U.S. military use paracord (which gets its name from parachute cord and can hold up to 550 lbs. weight). The bracelet gives the person wearing it 7.5 feet to use in an emergency. But really and most importantly, a paracord bracelet lets our heroic service men and women know you care, you remember and you appreciate them.

How can a Paracord "Survival" Bracelet be used?

Paracord "Survival" Bracelets have gained a lot of popularity over the years. You may see them on the wrists of your local Lifeguard, an EMT or your local coffee barista! Here are some of the many ways paracord can be used.



- 1) Securing camouflage nets to trees or vehicles
- 2) Building a makeshift shelter
- 3) Extending a security strap or rope to reach and haul heavy objects
- 4) Creating a harness to extract an injured person from a bad location
- 5) Making a sling or splint

And those are just a few of the ways to use the paracord when it's all together! Take out the nylon cords inside the paracord (the "guts") and now you have finer strong string to use in a variety of ways:

- 1) As sewing thread to repair gear
- 2) As emergency sutures to close a wound
- 3) As fishing line
- 4) As trip line to secure an area

Paracord has even been used to repair the Hubble Telescope...IN SPACE!

At West Jordan Events, our hope for Veterans Day is to assist Operation Gratitude in their efforts. We want to help make as many

Paracord "Survival" Bracelets as we can that can be included in each of Operation Gratitude's care packages...but that can only be accomplished with the help of our volunteers.

We learned how to make our own bracelets and we are asking volunteers to start making them, too.

To make a bracelet, you will need:

1. 7.5 feet of prepared paracord (get this from the West Jordan Events department).
2. A printable jig or you can get wooden ones from #WJevents (the printable one works just fine. Print it off here: <https://www.operationgratitude.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Paracord-Jig.pdf>)
3. Learn to make the Paracord Bracelets here:
 - a. Right handed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uy3TjineDjw>
 - b. Left handed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4GVMzQnvYo&feature=youtu.be>
4. Optional: Write a quick thank you note on a card that will be included with each paracord bracelet (we will give you the supplies). Write something simple like: Thank you for your service. We are thinking of you. Etc... Feel free to include your name and an email address if you want (some of the troops want to say thank you to you for the bracelet). Make sure and only give an email address for someone older than 18.



A Simple Piece of Rope



Many people don't understand how important a paracord bracelet is, and it's not just about how they are used in an emergency.

Most commanders allow our troops to wear our bracelets with their uniforms, and that's a rare exception to the uniform code. Troops tell us that every time they look at their bracelets they have a feeling of home. They smile a bit longer, breathe a bit easier, and they know in that moment, that they are not forgotten.

It's hard to imagine that a simple piece of rope can be that important, but it truly can. It isn't just a simple piece of rope. It's a piece of the person who made it, the group that decided to send them in, and a reminder that we are here for them. It seems so simple, and yet, it means so much.

As you make your bracelets, picture a Marine, a Soldier, a Sailor, or an Airman standing in front of you. Think of the smile you just created, and the pride with which it will be worn.

Believe that the time you spend making each bracelet is far beyond what you had intended, and for that, know that you have their thanks as well as mine.

Beanie Babies for Troops

Yes, it's true! Operation Gratitude puts Beanie Babies and other varieties of small, plush toys in ALL the care packages we send to deployed Troops!

Why? One Service Member told us, "...it may sound silly but the Beanie Baby brings an odd feeling of comfort to a grown man." Another wrote, "Every work center in my division has a Beanie donated by Operation Gratitude; they've become something like mascots to my Sailors."

For some, the toys provide cheery comfort, a reminder of childhood... To others, they're tokens of friendship to be shared with children in the villages where our troops patrol... and a great number of these toys make it all the way home at the end of deployments to be given as gifts for loved ones.

We are collecting Beanie Babies and other small stuffed animals (6" or smaller) through Veterans Day at West Jordan City Hall Events department.



For questions, please contact Kevin with West Jordan Events at kevins@wjordan.com or 801-569-5119