

Networking for Military Spouses

As a military spouse, you are already a part of a large community that is eager to support its members. Joining groups and making new connections can be a great way to learn about career opportunities, find support and even develop your professional profile. At least 70% of jobs are not even published, which means that the only way to learn about them is through effective networking strategies. Check out the suggestions below to take your networking skills to the next level!

Join LinkedIn Groups

Over the last few years, LinkedIn has become a crucial tool for job seekers and hiring managers. In fact, there is even a [partnership between the DoD and LinkedIn](#) to provide free memberships to military spouses. There are countless groups dedicated to professional development. Here are just some of the groups focusing on supporting military spouses:

- [Military Spouse Employment Partnership \(MSEP\)](#) – With over 5,000 followers, MSEP is one of the larger groups dedicated to supporting military spouses. The group is part of the DoD's Spouse Education and Career Opportunities ([SECO](#)) Initiative, which supports career exploration for military spouses. They are always posting new information on career opportunities!
- [Military Spouse Professionals](#) – This private LinkedIn group is open to any military spouse looking for advice on a variety of professional topics. It is a great place to ask questions about any situations you are facing in your professional life.
- [Military Spouses Connected](#) – Another private group intended to provide support and networking opportunities for professional military spouses. It is a great forum to post your questions.

Find Organizations That Support Military Spouses

There are thousands of veteran service organizations that offer amazing free services to veterans. Many of them provide support to military spouses as well. You should search in your area for local organizations that work with military spouses. Many local and regional organizations do fantastic work to support military spouses. There are also some great national programs that are worth looking into:

- [Blue Star Families](#) – As an organization founded by military spouses, they are committed to combatting the common difficulties facing military families. With over 150,000 members and chapters all over the world, there is a good chance you will find a group in your local area.
- [The Paradigm Switch](#) – An organization that provides resources and networking opportunities for military spouses. They even have a scholarship program for those looking to go back to school!

- [Hire Our Heroes Military Spouse Professional Network](#) – They offer excellent networking opportunities around the US. Hire Our Heroes has over 40 chapters that help military spouses re-build a local network when they move to a new area.
- [Homefront United Network](#) – A great forum and resource list for a range of topics affecting military spouses. Here you can ask questions, find information on deployment support and get information on discounts. It is a great place to get to know the military spouse community.

Try Volunteering!

This can be a wonderful way to get to know your local community and make an impact. Volunteer opportunities exist for almost every cause and can be a great way to discover a new career avenue. Using organizations like [VolunteerMatch](#) can be an easy way to find the right opportunity. Your volunteer experience can also give a [big boost to your job application](#). Learn how to [showcase](#) your volunteer work!

Attend Events

Networking events can be a great way for you to practice your interview skills and elevator pitch. In fact, there are events specifically designed for military spouses. Search your local areas for event opportunities. We recommend taking a look at some of the following groups that regularly host events for military spouses:

- [USO Military Spouse Networking](#) – A great initiative by the USO to host networking event around the country for up to 50 military spouses. Registering for one in your area is really easy!
- [HoH Event List](#) – Hire Our Heroes does a great job compiling events for military spouses. Everything from hiring events to lectures and casual networking sessions is included. These events take place across the country, many of them organized and hosted by HOH.