



South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
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Media Release

SD-ESGR program seeks volunteers

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program is seeking volunteers to add to their team to promote and enhance employer support for military service members in the National Guard and Reserve.

Whether working behind the scenes or directly with people, SD-ESGR is in need of volunteers with leadership, public speaking or organizational skills for a variety of committees, which include employer outreach, ombudsman, public affairs, awards and military outreach.

SD-ESGR is currently looking for volunteers for the Pierre, Brookings, Mitchell, Hermosa, Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Yankton and Vermillion areas.

ESGR, a Department of Defense office, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment. ESGR is supported by a network of more than 4,700 volunteers in 54 committees located across all 50 states, three U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

Volunteers, hailing from small business and industry, government, education and prior military service, bring a vast amount of experience to assist in serving employers, service members and their families. Volunteers can choose how much time they would like to be involved and in what capacity. Their efforts can improve the relationships service men and women have with their employers.

The ESGR program offers free education and training to civilian employers of service members, service members and their families.

“For many of our volunteers, it is about giving back, because they received help and assistance from the organization,” said Maj. Lona Christensen, SD-ESGR program director. “Becoming a dedicated volunteer gives them a sense of pride and accomplishment. Some have even said since they had never served in the military, it was their way to support and serve now. No matter why one chooses to volunteer, the time a person dedicates to the organization is appreciated.”

If you are interested in volunteering, check out ESGR at <http://esgr.mil> or contact Maj. Lona Christensen, SD-ESGR program director, at 605-737-6540.