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For immediate release

### **2016 Great Lakes Adopt-a-Sailor Information**

**GREAT LAKES, Ill. (04 October 2016)** — This year, Sailors assigned to Training Support Center Great Lakes (TSC) onboard Naval Station Great Lakes (NAVSTA) will enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with local families thanks to the Adopt-a-Sailor program.

The program, a Great Lakes tradition since World War I, offers Sailors to be invited into families' homes to share Thanksgiving dinner for an opportunity to enjoy a home-cooked meal and the company of a family.

In 2015, 169 families hosted over 350 Great Lakes "A" School Sailors.

Sailors on board the base who would like to volunteer for this program are encouraged to talk to their chain of command as soon as possible.

"The Adopt-A-Sailor program is an opportunity for the community to reach out to our junior Sailors and provide a home environment while they are away from loved ones," said Capt. John B. Vliet, commanding officer, TSC. "The program gives the host family an opportunity to get to know the Sailors and it's such a welcome relief for our Sailors. Many don't have the leave time yet to go home for Thanksgiving and it can be a very difficult time for them."

Interested families are encouraged to visit the TSC Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/TrainingSupportCenterGreatLakes](http://www.facebook.com/TrainingSupportCenterGreatLakes) or [www.netc.navy.mil/centers/tscgl/](http://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/tscgl/) to download the application form.

The signed form should be e-mailed to: [m\\_grlk\\_tsc.greatlakes@navy.mil](mailto:m_grlk_tsc.greatlakes@navy.mil) or faxed (847) 688-3568. All host forms must be received by Oct. 31 to be considered, and families must live no farther than 50 miles from NAVSTA to be eligible.

On Nov. 10, TSC will conduct a lottery so that everyone will have a fair chance to host a Great Lakes Sailor. Host families will be notified by e-mail or telephone after Nov. 15.

Requests for Sailors of a particular racial, religious background or sex cannot be honored. However, it may be helpful to note if your family will be serving a particular ethnic food or a particular diet, (i.e. vegetarian) and we will try to match those with an individual Sailor's preference.

Requests for Sailors will be limited to groups of two, three or four per family; with four being a maximum. Organizational sponsors are not being requested this year.

Families should arrive at Naval Station Great Lakes Visitor's Center no earlier than 7:30 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day, and Sailors must be picked up no later than 8:30 a.m. The Visitor's Center is located outside Gate 1, 610 Farragut Ave., Great Lakes.

Sailors are required to be back in their quarters at the base no later than 10 p.m. and because they will have to walk from drop-off gates, please have them at the gate no later than 9:30 p.m. Underage drinking is strictly prohibited and it is the host's responsibility to confirm that the Sailor is of drinking age.

"I encourage every young Sailor that doesn't have duty on Thanksgiving Day to experience this program. This program supports Sailors away from home for the holidays by pairing them with local families that wish to honor and support their military service," said TSC Command Master Chief Jeffrey A. Kirby. "These families look forward to the holidays and provide thanks and encouragement to Sailors who make sacrifices for their country. It's a great opportunity for Sailors to spend time with local families who respect Sailors, and a nice gesture of a delicious home-cooked meal on Thanksgiving Day allows them to share the holiday spirit. I guarantee you will enjoy your experience and possibly make new friends that you will have for a lifetime."

For further information or questions, please contact the Public Affairs Office at [m\\_grlk\\_tsc.greatlakes@navy.mil](mailto:m_grlk_tsc.greatlakes@navy.mil) or 847-688-4862, ext. 161.

TSC is the only training command located within the same vicinity as Recruit Training and is the home of five learning sites operated independently. The command supports 85 percent of the Surface Navy School and provides 24 hour supervision, training and mentorship to over 4,500 18 to 25 year old new apprentice- level Sailors.

For further information on TSC Great Lakes and Learning Sites, visit: [www.netc.navy.mil/centers/tscgl/](http://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/tscgl/) or [www.facebook.com/TrainingSupportCenterGreatLakes](https://www.facebook.com/TrainingSupportCenterGreatLakes).

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