



GARY SINISE FOUNDATION serves the surviving spouse/guardian and children of fallen heroes through our Snowball Express program. We are committed to year-round programming and support for families that honors their fallen hero, encourages them to make new memories, and provides opportunities to connect with others who know what they've been through.

HONORING OUR NATION'S FALLEN

One of the ways we honor and remember our fallen heroes is in a Remembrance Garden filled with hundreds of flags and placards, each representing the brave heroes our families lost. This garden is an important reminder to our families that they are not alone during this time of year, and their hero's selfless sacrifice will never be forgotten.



HEALING & FUN FOR EVERYONE

The holidays can be especially challenging for grieving families. Each December, we host a five-day experience for 1,750+ children of the fallen and the surviving spouse/guardian. With special time to honor their fallen and a blend of fun entertainment and inspiring programs, these families can lean on their peers for support. Which is why we keep bringing Snowball Express back to Walt Disney World® Resort each year!



CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

In addition to the magic of Disney each December, we also host community events for these families all year long. From baseball games and overnight experiences to arts & educational opportunities, our families strengthen their community close to where they live. These events are essential for children and the surviving spouses/guardians to develop bonds with the only people who can truly understand their loss: each other.



MAKING NEW MEMORIES

Our programmatic offerings provide numerous opportunities for families to bond with one another; making new friends and creating cherished memories with festivities throughout the year. We are here for the families of our fallen and embrace them with open arms as they embody the ultimate meaning of service and sacrifice.



EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS

During a three-day retreat, surviving spouses/guardians and young adults come together to bond with each other and learn about self-awareness and effective communication methods to lead empowering lives. These activities help participants look more closely at their lives after loss and tap into their resiliency to move forward.

ELIGIBILITY & DOCUMENTATION

To be eligible for the program, the requirements of the First Responder are:

1. Have been employed by a United States First Responder agency on/after September 11, 2001
2. The loss of the First Responder happened on/after September 11, 2001 while employed as a first responder. Can be:
 - a. Line of Duty loss
 - b. Illness
 - c. Accident
 - d. Suicide
3. Eligibility is open to any surviving spouse/guardian of a child/children, ages birth through 26yo, who lost their father/mother as a First Responder. This means that it can be:
 - a. A spouse of the Fallen First Responder raising his/her dependent children.
 - b. An ex-spouse of the Fallen First Responder raising his/her dependent children.
 - c. A fiancé(e)/never married partner of the Fallen First Responder raising his/her dependent children.
 - d. A legal guardian raising the children of the Fallen First Responder (guardianship designation documentation will be required).

Required Documentation:

1. PSOB (Public Safety Officers' Benefits form) – If you have a PSOB, and it lists spouse/guardian and all children by name, it is the only documentation needed.
2. If no PSOB:
 - a. Proof of employment and proof of loss while employed as a First Responder
 - b. Proof of dependents (of Fallen First Responder)
 - c. Proof that adult applying is parent/guardian of the child(ren) of the Fallen First Responder.
3. If a guardian, guardianship designation documentation.

To learn more and register your family, visit
<https://garysinisefoundation.org/snowball-express> or scan the QR code:





Hello Family,

First and foremost, I send my sincerest condolences to you all on the loss of your hero. My heart goes out to all of you, and I want you to know that while we can never do enough to honor and remember your family's sacrifice, all of us at the Gary Sinise Foundation are here each day to support you. We will never forget your loved one's courage and service to our nation's communities. I wish I could personally be there to wrap my arms around each of you, to let you know that you are loved and appreciated and that your fallen loved one's service means so much to me. Serving and honoring our heroes and their families is the reason I started the foundation all those years ago.



While I know it won't fill the void of your loss, it is my honor to extend an invitation to join the Gary Sinise Foundation Snowball Express family.

An initiative of our Relief and Resiliency Program, Snowball Express is open to the Families of all Fallen First Responders who served on or after September 11, 2001 and lost their life while employed by a First Responder agency. This special program is designed to provide you with unique opportunities to build a community with those who have walked the same path you are now on. With year-round programming, we offer everything from virtual gatherings and intimate community events to our larger national events, each with a focus on bringing hope and happy new memories to our first responder families. It is our way to remind you that you are never alone and that there are so many grateful Americans just like me who do not take your sacrifices for granted.

Below is the link to the Snowball Express page which highlights the program and the many opportunities available to our families throughout the year. Towards the bottom of the page, on the right, is the link to apply to join the Snowball Express community. Click on the picture that says "First Responders" – "New Family Registration" to complete the application.

<https://garysinisefoundation.org/snowball-express>

If you require assistance, or have additional questions, please reach out to Josie Trimnal at (615) 575-3557.

We know the healing power of bringing our Snowball Express families together. Our team is here for you, and we hope you join us.

Forever grateful.

Your pal,

