



Bring a Vets Town Hall to your community!

What is a Vets Town Hall?

Vets Town Halls are **nonpolitical community gatherings** where veterans are invited to speak, for up to ten minutes each, about what led them to serve, their experiences during military service, and how it's affected them. Family Vets Town Halls are a variation where family members of veterans are invited to speak.

All community members - veterans and non-veterans alike - are encouraged to attend and listen, with the goal of **increasing understanding and building connections** between veterans and civilians.

Why host a Vets Town Hall?

Humans are resilient when part of a community, and fragile when they are not. Isolation and loneliness are on the rise, and Vets Town Halls are a chance to do something about it:

- **Veterans have an opportunity to speak directly** to, and be heard by, their community.
- Non-veterans **gain understanding** of military service and returning home.
- Attendees hear **perspectives that may surprise them** and broaden their understanding of the world.
- Neighbors come together in a **nonpolitical** gathering.
- Local organizers receive **extensive support** from the nonprofit, and the event format is **simple and low-cost** to run.

Local partners can be individuals or organizations, veterans or non-veterans.

What does the local organizer do?

A local organizer can spearhead an event independently or work with a coalition of other local organizations and community members. (VTH may be able to help connect you with partners.) Responsibilities include:

- **Venue coordination:** Book and coordinate with a suitable venue. Arrange for refreshments (optional but encouraged).
- **Local outreach:** Get the word out to the community at large and to veterans specifically.
- **Logistics:** Print event materials from templates provided by VTH. Handle event set-up, logistics, and breakdown. Return any VTH sign-ups and donations to the nonprofit.
- **Emcee** the event or partner with a local veteran who can introduce the event and handle transitions between speakers. We also ask that the emcee reach out to their network before the event to help bring in speakers and attendees.

Support from Vets Town Hall

You're not in it alone. Kristen and Vets Town Hall:

- Are available to **consult** on each event
- Provide **best practices** and **planning resources**
- Supply **templates and event materials**, including posters
- Create and manage the **registration** page on vtvetstownhall.org
- Coordinate with local organizers regarding attendance and registrations
- Include fall Vermont events in a **coordinated statewide publicity effort**:
 - **Announcements** to the Vermont Vets Town Halls email list
 - **Event listings** on vetstownhall.org and vtvetstownhall.org
 - **Social media** outreach
 - **Statewide press release and media coordination.**

Curious? Please reach out.

Learn more and fill out the interest form at vtvetstownhall.org/hometown, or contact Kristen Eaton, Vets Town Hall's Deputy Director, at vermont@vetstownhall.org.

