SOS: a ride home...

Drive once and you are hooked! You get the rewarding feeling of driving an American Hero!

What is SOS?
SOS is a nonprofit charitable organization providing transportation for active duty military personnel and their families.

THE START: In 2007 Erica Stone, Founder of SOS, watched a wounded Marine hobble through the Palm Springs Airport. The Marine had missed the last bus to the marine base at 29 palms. His options to get to the base were:
- Take a taxi at a cost of $150 or more
- Spend the night at the airport and take a bus the next day.
Erica spoke to him and found he was returning from leave. She saw the exhaustion and frustration in his face. Seeing him in that state she insisted to drive him to the base. That ride germinated the idea of providing rides for service men and their families.

What has it done:
Since its inception in the late 2007, SOS has: Provided free transportation for over 20,000 Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, their families and loved ones. Provided free transportation between Palm Springs Airport, Ontario Airport, Greyhound Station, AMTRAK station and the marine base at 29 Palms- daily or as needed. Over certain holiday periods transported several hundred marines each day.

GIVING RIDES TO MARINES IS A TRULY PATRIOTIC GESTURE!!

THE NAME:
“SOS” Means “Soldiers Organized Services”. The “Soldiers”, Refer to the organized group of volunteers providing transportation for military personnel and their families.

SOS goal is to have a presence at every airport serving a military base so no airman, marine or sailor is ever stranded without a ride.

WWW.SOSRIDE.ORG
Private Michael & Amy Patton

Rewards for SOS volunteers:
SOS volunteers get priceless feelings of having helped American heroes and their families each time they drive a group or individual.
SOS volunteers get to meet some wonderful people.
SOS volunteers have made some friends, eased the worries, and solved the problems of many people.
SOS volunteers get to know and understand the needs of these amazing men and women.
SOS volunteers never forget the special connections they make with some of the service people and the families they meet.
SOS volunteers encourage service personnel by giving them the knowledge that someone cares for them and is willing to help them.

In 2008, I met PFC Michael Patton while helping him check into his new duty station. What a great young man. Two Months Later Michael called to see if I could take his wife to the airport, because she was here to see him off. He was deploying to Iraq in two days. Michael and his wife Amy were high school sweethearts, who just married. Two days later I am watching Amy and Michael embrace, kiss and say farewell. Amy told me, how much it meant to Michael and herself that someone was there to take care of her, after he deployed. What a very emotional ride Amy and I had, while we cried and gave each other strength and encouragement... there is more to the story... Three months later little Amy Patton called me to inform me that Michael had been killed in a roadside bomb attack. All because of one ride, we were a support system for each other throughout the funeral and grievance period. Till this day we are friends... this is just one of thousands of connections we experience each year.

SOS thanks our amazing Volunteers, for without the drivers, SOS would never have been able to transport over 20,000 people. Hats off to dedicated and giving volunteers. Thank you all.

Volunteer or Donate
VOLUNTEER 3 HRS A WK/MONTH OR DONATE $20.00 MONTHLY TO PAY TO TRANSPORT 1-3 MARINES

SOS gives thanks to our extraordinary desert community for the monetary donations that help keep us going. SOS lives and serves because of so many personal donors, foundations, grants, local organizations, business grants, along with the community support for fundraisers.

What SOS needs in order to operate: SOS needs to pay for gas (SOS van & reimburse drivers) Oil, vehicle maintenance, Fees and insurance at the rate of about 5,000 per month. Without funding for gas there is no SOS. A $20.00 Monthly donation pays to transport (1-3) Marines From the airport to the base.

SOS never solicits from service personnel. They merely offer friendly conversation during their rides.

To volunteer... email your contact info to e.stone@sosride.org or call SOS @ 760-799-5488 or visit our website... sosride.org

Soldiers Organized Services is a 501(c)3
All donations are tax deductible
ELN 74-3218655
DNL 60728015

“Never Leave Military Personnel Stranded”