



To: School Administrators, Teachers and/or Employers

**Subject: Request for Excused Absence from School/Work December 3 – December 7, 2022**

Dear School Administrators, Teachers, and Employers,

We at the Gary Sinise Foundation are asking for your help to support a family of one of our nation's fallen heroes.

As Senior Director of Events, I respectfully request you grant permission for

\_\_\_\_\_ to be excused from school/work to attend the Snowball Express Disney in December National Event in Orlando, FL from December 3rd – December 7th, 2022.

Our Snowball Express program works to provide a life-changing, all-expense paid gathering for surviving parents, guardians and children of our active-duty military who have died in either combat or non-combat related incidents since September 11, 2001, while on active duty. We honor America's fallen military service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice since 9/11 by humbly serving the families they left behind. Snowball Express strives to ensure the children's success by creating opportunities for joy, friendship, education, and communal healing by connecting these families to one another.

Families who attend Snowball Express join hundreds of others who have also lost a parent who died while serving our nation. They benefit immensely from honoring their fallen hero, making new memories, and opportunities to create lasting connections with other families who are just like them. Through this program we are showing these families that America honors their loved ones' sacrifices and that we will never forget their defense of our freedom.

We realize there are a limited number of days that children are permitted to be absent from school and workdays your employees are needed. There are several holidays each year in which our veterans are recognized but none in which the children and surviving spouse/guardian of these fallen heroes experience the special attention they need. We hope you and your staff will consider the unique nature of this opportunity and work with the parent/guardian and child to complete what is needed in advance to comply with state and local regulations to still attend this event.

Please visit our website at [www.GarySiniseFoundation.org](http://www.GarySiniseFoundation.org) to learn more about the programs we offer our Snowball Families. Additionally, feel free to contact Regina Sather, Snowball Express Engagement Manager at [sbefamilies@garysinisefoundation.org](mailto:sbefamilies@garysinisefoundation.org) or 615.575.3546 for any further questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

*Hannah Luppino*

Hannah Luppino  
Senior Director, Events