

# Honoring their service



FILE

Led by an escort of police cars, motorcycles and jeeps, the annual "Honoring Their Service" parade will roll through Pickens and Oconee counties on Monday as a group of U.S. Marines from Camp Lejeune will visit Keowee Key for several days of rest and relaxation.

## Marines set to visit Keowee Key for rest, relaxation

BY JASON EVANS  
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Keowee Key will once again host men and women from the U.S. Marine Special Forces at Camp Lejeune for several days of rest and relaxation.

The Marines are set to arrive Monday and will once again be led through the area from Southern Wesleyan University to Duke Energy's World of Energy by an "Honoring Their Service" escort of police cars, motorcycles and jeeps.

This year marks the 10th year Keowee Key has hosted the Marines, according to Cory Chambers, chairman of this year's event.

"On average, we have between 35 and 40 Marines each year," Chambers said.

Over the years, the community has hosted nearly 400 Marines, he said.

This year, the Marines will travel by bus from Camp Lejeune to Southern Wesleyan University, where they will be met by their motorcycle and jeep escort.

"We're working out of Southern Wesleyan University this year, and they have been absolutely phenomenal," Chambers said. "It's going to be like a party over there."

The activities will be centered around the university's athletic facilities.

### Estimated timetable for Monday's "Honoring Their Service" escort

Leave Southern Wesleyan University	1:35 p.m.
Continue along S.C. Highway 93 into Central	1:45 p.m.
Merge onto U.S. Highway 123 near Publix in Clemson	1:55 p.m.
Turn onto S.C. Highway 130 at Ingles in Seneca	2:15 p.m.
Pass by the Waterford Communities on S.C. 130	2:20 p.m.
Pass Wells Fargo Bank at intersection of S.C. 130 and S.C. 183	2:35 p.m.
Enter Keowee Key Community Club	2:42 p.m.
Exit Keowee Key community onto S.C. 183	2:52 p.m.
Enter Duke Energy's World of Energy	3 p.m.

**Organizers ask those who live or work along the route to show their patriotism by wearing red, white and blue, waving the U.S. and Marine flags, holding homemade signs, etc., to show the Marines the appreciation they deserve.**

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# MARINES: 'It's going to be a festive

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Motorcyclists and members of the Upstate Legends Jeep Club usually begin to gather shortly after noon. Escorts are encouraged to deck out their rides with patriotic colors, flags and signs, according to Chambers.

"It's going to be a festive occasion," he said. "We'll have food and games for them."

A police escort will lead the larger escort, with the Marines riding in the jeeps. The escort will leave SWU between 1:45 p.m. and 2 p.m.

The caravan will travel along S.C. Highway 93 to U.S. Highway 123 before turning onto S.C. 130 at the Ingles plaza in Seneca and heading toward Keowee Key.

Chambers said people should be aware that intersections along the route will be closed for 15 to 30 minutes to allow the escort to travel through.

Residents are encouraged to line the route and greet the Marines as they pass by.

"We'd love to have them out there with flags and with patriotic colors on," Chambers said.

The escort will then travel

through Keowee Key before arriving at Duke Energy's World of Energy around 3 p.m.

"That's where the Marines will meet their hosts," Chambers said.

The Lighthouse Restaurant will hold a cookout for members of the escort, as the Marines go on to Keowee Key.

This year, several Marines will be accompanied by their spouses.

"In our view, they're involved," Chambers said. "They keep the home fires burning while the Marines are out."

Once at Keowee Key Monday, the Marines will enjoy a picnic at Spinnaker Cove.

"We'll have all kinds of food and drinks," Chambers said. "It'll be a meet-and-greet type thing."

He said he knows the group will be ready to unwind.

"It's going to be a long day for them," Chambers said. "They'll start out the day at Camp Lejeune around 4:30 in the morning."

Chambers said the next couple of days will be "like summer camp" for the Marines and their spouses.

"There'll be a lot of activity

on the lake, hiking, fishing," Chambers said.

The group will spend all day Tuesday and Wednesday at the lake.

On Thursday after breakfast, they'll get back on the bus and travel to Clemson for a tour of the Scroll of Honor next to Memorial Stadium and the university's athletic facilities.

"They enjoy running down the hill just like the players do," Chambers said. "Clemson puts their names and ranks up on the scoreboard and scrolls through them. Clemson does a great job."

It takes many people and groups to make each year's event a success, including Duke Energy, Clemson University, the Roger C. Peace Rehabilitation Hospital, the escort members and the local municipalities and their police departments.

"I'd like to thank all these folks that cooperate with us," Chambers said. "Whatever we ask, the organizations never say no. They jump in and help out."

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## occasion,' organizer said



An American flag hangs between the extended ladders of two fire trucks over S.C. Highway 130 during last year's "Honoring Their Service" parade.

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