



To: School Administrators and Teachers
Subject: Excused Absence from School Dec.8 – Dec.12, 2018

Dear School Administrators and Teachers,

Gary Sinise Foundation is a national organization. Our newest program Snowball Express serves the children of fallen military heroes.

As Executive Director, I respectfully request your assistance in granting permission for _____ to be excused from school in order to attend Snowball Express 2018 at Disney World, Florida from December 8 through December 12, 2018.

Our Snowball Express program works to provide a life-changing, all-expense paid gathering for children of our 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. We provided this experience for several thousand children over the years. This year, we will host approximately 1,700 attendees from all across the country.

Children who attend Snowball Express join hundreds of other children who have also lost a parent who died while serving our nation. They benefit immensely from sharing, fellowship and the opportunity to create lasting new memories with other children who are just like them. Through this program we are showing these families that America honors their loved ones sacrifices and will never forget their dad or mom who died defending our freedom.

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

Please visit our website at www.GarySiniseFoundation.org to learn more, and please feel free to contact us personally.

Respectfully,

Judith L. Otter

Executive Director