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Civilians to take part in annual aluminum can challenge

Marisa Petrich/Northwest Guardian

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There are loads of benefits to recycling — and one of them could be to your unit fund.

Joint Base Lewis-McChord's annual 90 Day Aluminum Can Challenge starts on Aug. 1.

For the first time ever this year, JBLM directorates will be able to compete along with military units to recycle the most aluminum cans.

"It's to raise awareness for recycling, period," JBLM Public Works solid waste and recycling outreach coordinator Shelia Albrecht-Martin said.

The event, which is part of America Recycles Day on Nov. 15, challenges groups to spend three months collecting cans and delivering them to the Lewis Main Recycling Center and comes with the opportunity to win prizes. Military units can earn up to \$600 to be deposited to their Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation unit funds, and directorates can receive \$300 in vouchers for the Northwest Adventure Center.

"We're trying to find ways to make it exciting for civilians as well," JBLM Sustainability Outreach Coordinator Miriam Villacian said.

Prizes will be awarded based on who recycles the most cans, with an additional award for the most consistent recycler.

The cash is actually a benefit of recycling, too. All the prizes are funded by the proceeds JBLM gets from recycling aluminum cans.

"The more you recycle, the more it comes back to the installation and the more we can give away," Martin-Albrecht said.

Family members, family readiness groups and other individuals can participate by donating cans to a particular unit or to the Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers program.

Cans donated to the BOSS program will be raffled off to a participating unit or directorate.

The winners will receive their rewards at a ceremony on or around Nov. 15.

For more details, contact Miriam Villacian at 966-1734.

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