

# ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES

# NEWS LETTER

More Than A Program...It's A Promise!

## Month of The Military Child

April marks the Month of the Military Child (MOMC), and the Army National Guard Child & Youth Services Program (ARNG CYS) is thrilled to extend warm invitation to you to join us in honoring our military and military-connected youth throughout the month. ARNG CYS programs will host a range of events and virtual engagements, all centered around this year's MOMC theme is: "National Guard Kids: Are out of this world."

Be sure to save the date for **Purple Up Day on Friday, April 12, 2024**. Show your solidarity by wearing purple attire and sharing your snapshots on social media! Stay informed about local ARNG CYS programming updates by keeping in touch with your local ARNG CYS Team. You can easily find their contact details by visiting the My Local CYS Program page of the ARNG CYS Website at <https://arngcys.com/my-local-cys-program>.

Additionally, get ready to join in the fun with **Spirit Week, happening April 8-12, 2024**, featuring themed dress-up days and exciting activities for all ages. Join the fun-filled festivities of **Spirit Week** and let your **Month of the Military Child Spirit** soar! Get ready to show off your creativity and enthusiasm as we celebrate together. You can participate by dressing up in themed attire each day, attending exciting events, and/or sharing your spirited photos on social media with **#NGMOMC24**.

Plus, don't miss out on our MOMC Photo Contest! Share your favorite moments capturing the spirit of military children and submit your entries by May 3rd. For full contest details and submission guidelines you can also visit the ARNG CYS website, <https://arngcys.com/momc-2024>.

Throughout the month of April, the Army National Guard (ARNG) Child and Youth Services (CYS) Program invites you to be part of our MOMC festivities. ARNG CYS Programs across the country will be hosting a variety of in-person and virtual programs, all designed to honor those who also serve along-side our Service Members.

If you, your business, or organization would like to learn more about MOMC, or connect with your local ARNG CYS Program, visit our website at [www.arngcys.com](http://www.arngcys.com) and click on the "My Local CYS Program" link on the left-hand side of the page. Additional information about MOMC can also be found by visiting these websites:

- Department of Defense Education Activity: [www.militarychild.org/upload/images/2020%20MOMC/2020\\_Month\\_of\\_the\\_Military\\_Child.pdf](http://www.militarychild.org/upload/images/2020%20MOMC/2020_Month_of_the_Military_Child.pdf)
- Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC): [www.militarychild.org/MOMC\\_Toolkit](http://www.militarychild.org/MOMC_Toolkit)

Help us make MOMC 2024 a wonderful experience for military and military-connected youth in all service components. After all, military youth are OUT OF THIS WORLD!!!!

*Disclaimer: The sharing of various resources does not indicate an endorsement of/for these publications, their creators, or originating entities by the Government, contract vendor, or PM Team.*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- GTP Delegates
- Training Ops
- Region 4 Updates
- MOMC Photo Contest

Do you want to stay up-to-date with the latest info? Be sure to **subscribe here on our website**



# PURPLE UP for military kids!

April 12, 2024

#NGMOMC24



April is NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH  
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK is: April 21-27

Thanks to ALL our Volunteers!  
We couldn't do it without you!

# WWW.ARNGCYS.COM

#GUARDFAMILIES

#ARNGCYS



## TRAINING OPS



MCEC Parent workshops are available via webinar to support parents who are remote or not located near a major military installation. Webinars are presented live usually on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Noon EST. <https://www.militarychild.org/webinars>

**\*\* Participants must register in advance for the live webinar presentation \*\***

- TUE 03/02 - Academic Portfolios
- WED 03/03 - Math and Science for Youth Children

>> Looking for other trainings? Check out their **500+ recorded past webinar** training presentations on their You Tube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUzhGmwwwoHKO3pnHjmiWKJZxycWSqHVPB>

*This does not indicate an endorsement of resources, programs and/or services by National Guard Bureau, DysTech, staff or contractors.*

## APRIL WEBINARS

NEW

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check out the latest (32 pages of fun!)

### April Activity Packet

developed by the:

L/CYPCs in CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, & VT!



[Ask your State](#)

[ARNG CYS](#)

[L/CYPC for](#)

[a copy.](#)



## More Ways to Celebrate This Month:

1. **April Fool's Day** - Play harmless pranks on friends and family.
2. **International Children's Book Day** - Spend the day reading your favorite children's books.
3. **World Party Day** - Have a mini celebration with friends or family.
4. **Vitamin C Day** - Enjoy fruits rich in vitamin C like oranges and strawberries.
5. **National Doodle Day** - Get creative and doodle whatever comes to mind.
6. **National Student Athlete Day** - Play sports with friends or try a new outdoor activity.
7. **World Health Day** - Learn about healthy habits and how to stay fit.
8. **Zoo Lovers Day** - Visit a local zoo or learn about different animals online.
9. **Winston Churchill Day** - Learn about the life of Winston Churchill and his contributions to history.
10. **National Siblings Day** - Spend quality time with your siblings and appreciate each other.
11. **National Pet Day** - Show love and appreciation to your pets or consider volunteering at an animal shelter.
12. **Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day** - Make and enjoy a delicious grilled cheese sandwich. **[PURPLE UP DAY!]**
13. **International Plant Appreciation Day** - Learn about different plants and maybe even plant one yourself.
14. **National Dolphin Day** - Learn about dolphins and their habitats, or watch documentaries about them.
15. **World Art Day** - Get creative and express yourself through art, whether it's drawing, painting, or crafting.
16. **National Orchid Day** - Learn about these beautiful flowers, their varieties and even which ones can be found in tea.
17. **International Haiku Poetry Day** - Write and share haiku poems with friends and family.
18. **World Heritage Day** - Explore different cultures and their heritage through books, videos, or activities.
19. **Bicycle Day** - Go for a bike ride with friends or family and enjoy the outdoors.
20. **National Look-Alike Day** - Dress up as someone you admire or have a look-alike contest with friends.
21. **Kindergarten Day** - Celebrate the importance of early education and reminisce about kindergarten memories.
22. **Earth Day** - Participate in activities that promote environmental conservation, like planting trees or cleaning up litter.
23. **National Picnic Day** - Pack a picnic basket and enjoy a meal outdoors with friends or family.
24. **National Arbor Day** - Plant a tree or learn about the importance of trees in our ecosystem.
25. **World Penguin Day** - Learn about penguins and their habitats, or watch documentaries about them.
26. **National Pretzel Day** - Enjoy some delicious pretzels in different shapes and flavors.
27. **Tell a Story Day** - Share your favorite stories with friends or family, or create your own stories.
28. **Superhero Day** - Dress up as your favorite superhero and engage in superhero-themed activities.
29. **International Dance Day** - Have a dance party at home or learn a new dance style.
30. **National Honesty Day** - Practice honesty and integrity in all your actions and interactions.



REGION 4 is celebrating their fourth year of Book Club! Georgia and Alabama started the club in 2020 and it has become an annual tradition for the region with an increased number of participants. Zoom meetings have allowed the participants to build connections with other youth across the region and participate in team building activities, community service projects, and leadership opportunities while sharing their thoughts about the book of the month. In 2020, Georgia and Alabama read Harry Potter.

In 2021, Mississippi joined to read Percy Jackson and the Olympians. In 2023, the entire region joined to read a variety of books. This year, participants from all over the region are reading Disney Twisted Tales & Villains Series.

Florida MOMC Surf and Water Safety Day Camp at the end of April! Kids learn about rip currents and how to get out of one, plus get to learn how to paddle, stand up and surf! It's amazing to watch! The parents all end up watching on the beach and so they build great connections that way too.

Jackson Griggs, a member of the Alabama National Guard Youth Council, was awarded the Operation Homefront Military Child of the Year for the National Guard. Jackson is a National Guard Kid rising to the Challenge! Check out his bio and the other winners at:

<https://operationhomefront.org/2023-military-child-of-the-year-award-recipients/>



2023

# Spirit Week April 8-12

Fun for all ages!

Don't forget to tag us

Join the fun-filled festivities of Spirit Week, April 8-12, 2024 and let your Month of the Military Child Spirit soar! Get ready to show off your creativity and enthusiasm as we celebrate together. You can participate by dressing up in themed attire each day, attending exciting events, and/or sharing your spirited photos on social media with #NGMOMC24.

## 0-11+ years old

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Motivation Monday</b>          | Share what inspires you to keep pushing forward and reaching for your dreams! ✨ |
| <b>Talent Tuesday</b>             | Show us something you're good at with your skills and talents! 🌟🎨🎵              |
| <b>What's Your Goal WEDNESDAY</b> | Share your dreams and future goals! What do you want to be when you grow up? 🚀🌟 |
| <b>Superhero Thursday</b>         | Unleash your inner superhero and show us your costume! 🦸                        |
| <b>Fave Fit Friday</b>            | Flaunt your favorite outfit and let's see your style! 👗👟                        |

## Teens

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Mentor MONDAY</b>              | Appreciate the guidance and support of your mentors, teachers, or role models who shaped your journey. 🙏 |
| <b>Tell It TUESDAY</b>            | Reflect on your most memorable moment as a Guard Teen! 😊   |
| <b>What's Your Goal WEDNESDAY</b> | Share your goals and aspirations for the future! 🌟🚀  |
| <b>Throwback THURSDAY</b>         | Share with us your favorite era and why it holds a special place in your heart. 🎶                        |
| <b>Foodie FRIDAY</b>              | Share your favorite dish or recipe that always brings a smile to your face. 🍕🍷                           |

We asked our Guard Teen Panel Delegates the help answer one of the following questions:

(1) What is the best part of being a military kid? And (2) What makes you feel Out of this World?

And this is how they replied....

**Abby Cadman, Region 1 Guard Teen Panel Delegate**

Something that makes me feel out of this world is the love I feel for my family and friends. Spending time with them, supporting them as they support me, laughing and crying with them, that's what makes me feel like everything is how it should be. -

Abby Cadman



**Jordan Henebry, Region 4 Guard Teen Panel Delegate**

My favorite part of being a military child is that I get to connect with an meet people from all over the world! I love the opportunity to connect with other military youth.



**Lily Johnson, Region 5 Guard Teen Panel Delegate**

The best parts about being a military kid, first of all is the resiliency you gain when your parent(s) are at trainings or deployments away from home. Secondly, the relationships you make with kids that have similar experiences as you are unique to military children. Third are the opportunities that the Army National Guard Child & Youth Services has to offer like the Guard Teen Panel!



**Kamryn Stauffacher, Region 8 Guard Teen Panel Delegate**

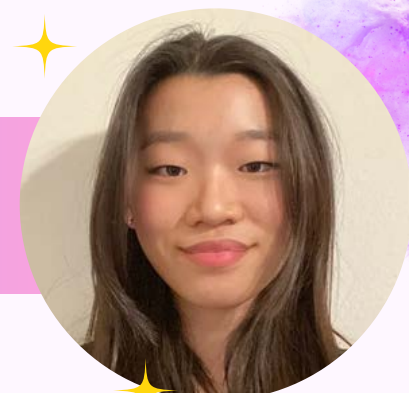
The best part about being a military kid is all of the new experience we get to go through. We learn from an early age to go with the flow and stand out from others, in a good way that is. We also get to learn about so much stuff that a lot of other kids don't. Being a military kid helps us to be independent but ask for help when we need it. It also teaches us how to be helpful and storm all at once. I love being a military kid. - Kamryn S.



**Claudia Shin, Region 9 Guard Teen Panel Delegate**

The best part of being a military kid is being able to meet people around the world. I love the military community and my connection to it.

Best, Claudia Shin





# PHOTO CONTEST



JOIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD  
YOUTH FOR A NATIONAL MONTH OF THE  
MILITARY CHILD PHOTO CONTEST!



THE PHOTO CONTEST IS OPEN TO ALL  
NATIONAL GUARD DEPENDENT YOUTH  
BETWEEN THE AGES OF 0-18.



PHOTO CONTEST THEME:  
NATIONAL GUARD KIDS  
ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD

**SUBMIT**

SUBMIT PHOTOS AT:

[HTTPS://TESTMOZ.COM/Q/NGMOMC24](https://testmoz.com/q/ngmomc24)

DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS IS  
**MAY 3, 2024**





## PHOTO CONTEST RULES

We are ready to celebrate Month of the Military Child in a big way! ARNG Child and Youth Services wants to see photos of how your child is "Out of This World" being a military kid or ways they are giving back and making our world better. This national photo contest is open to National Guard youth ages newborn to high school seniors. One photo submission per child per week. Any type of camera may be used. We encourage you to write a brief statement as to why your photo represents the theme.

We highly encourage parents/guardians to participate. Your youth must be in the photo if they did not take it themselves. One winner will be chosen from each of the following three (3) age categories: 0-5 yrs, 6-12 yrs, and 13-18 yrs each week. **Winners will be announced in the May National Newsletter!**

**WEEK 1 [APR 1-6]:** Take a picture of who or what makes you feel you are out of this world.

**WEEK 2 [APR 7-13]:** Take a large group photo of your community wearing purple - in support of Military Kids.

**WEEK 3 [APR 14-20]:** Take a picture of yourself doing something that says you are **OUT OF THIS WORLD**.

**WEEK 4 [APR 21-27]:** Take a picture of those who most inspire you and support you.

**Questions? Please reach out to Deanna Cole at [deanna.cole@dystech.com](mailto:deanna.cole@dystech.com)!**



## PHOTO CONTEST SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Please utilize the provided link to submit photos online, ensuring to include the following details:

- Child's Name and Age(s):
- State/Territory
- Service Member's Branch, Name, & Unit/Installation
- Parent/Guardian's Name & Email Address
- A short description of the photo submission.

**\*\* Feel free to submit multiple entries using the same link below. \*\***

### PHOTO CRITERIA:

- Photos should be of good quality with higher resolution, in JPG or png files
- Photo description to include how they are interpreting the theme for each week
- Photos should show National Guard Youth demonstrating what it means to be "OUT OF THIS WORLD"

### WINNERS WILL BE SELECTED BY:

National Guard Bureau to determine the top winners in each age group.

### WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED:

Winners will be announced on **June 1, 2024**. The announcement will appear in the ARNG CYJ June Newsletter. Additionally, photo submissions and winners will be listed on the [ARNG CYJ Website](#) in June.

### SUBMISSION:

**Submit photos online by  
May 3, 2024 at:**

<https://testmoz.com/q/NGMOMC24>