

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

# Child & Youth Services

A young girl with dark hair and brown eyes is smiling at the camera. She is positioned behind the main title text, with only her face and upper body visible through the white lettering.

ANNUAL REPORT



## Mission

The mission of Army National Guard (ARNG) Child & Youth Services (CYS) is to promote and sustain the quality of life and resilience of Army National Guard dependent children and youth by providing secure, timely, flexible, high-quality support services and enrichment programs.

## Goals

**Education:** Provide developmentally-appropriate life skills education to National Guard youth

**Access:** Provide information on access to Federal and State/Territory benefits that support National Guard children and Families, including: counseling, education, child care, and other resources needed to foster a healthy, stable and secure family environment

**Opportunity:** Create partnerships for opportunities to participate in programs, events, and activities geared toward the behavioral and physical health and welfare of children and youth that are available across the spectrum of Government, community, and private sector

**Communication:** Build a sense of belonging to the Army National Guard Community by creating secure opportunities to network with other youth, parents/legal guardians, and youth program coordinators in one's community, state/territory, and across the nation

**Resilience:** Infuse resiliency and leadership skills and techniques into all Army National Guard child and youth programming

**Outreach:** Build and sustain contact with parents/legal guardians, and children of the National Guard in order to create awareness of available support services and programs



## Fy20 Highlights

**TOTAL MILITARY CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVED:**

# 71,753

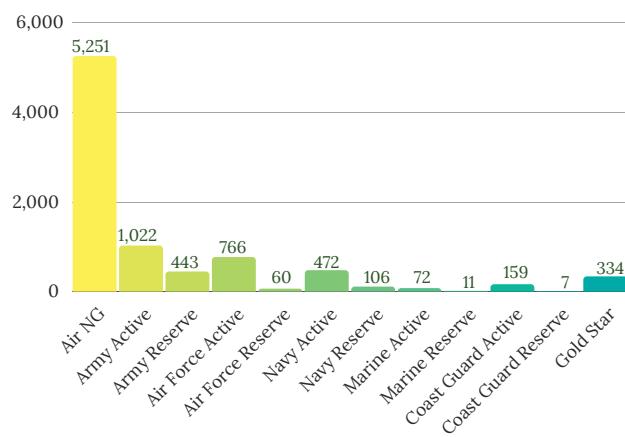
**ARMY NATIONAL GUARD 6 - 12 YEAR OLDS:**

# 37,121

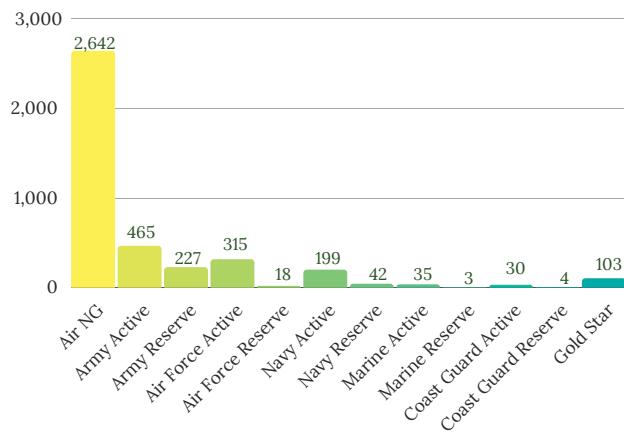
**ARMY NATIONAL GUARD 13 - 18 YEAR OLDS:**

# 21,846

**OTHER MILITARY CHILDREN  
6-12 YEAR OLDS**



**OTHER MILITARY CHILDREN  
13-18 YEAR OLDS**



## Building Connection through Community



Building community capacity through partnerships is key to the engagement of geographically-dispersed Soldiers and families. The efforts of the ARNG CYS program are multiplied through a network of committed organizations. The outcome of engaging local stakeholders is seen in increased opportunities for Soldiers and their families through combined efforts and coordination of events. Additionally, these opportunities allow inclusivity of other geographically-separated Service Members and their families, building support networks and connections among families and youth.

## Virtual Programming Packets



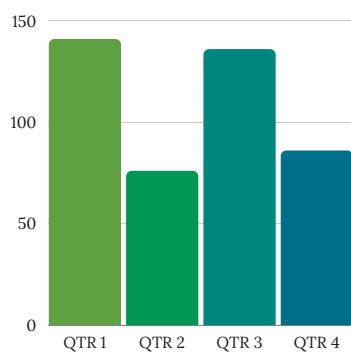
"I particularly liked the Yoda activity and I've been using the Yoda vs Darth Vader references when Theo has a bad attitude and it's actually been helpful, so thank you! I must say, these bags are extremely well thought out and definitely keep Theo engaged, which isn't always easy."

Laura Tebbe, Spouse of CPT Theodore Tebbe, ILARNG

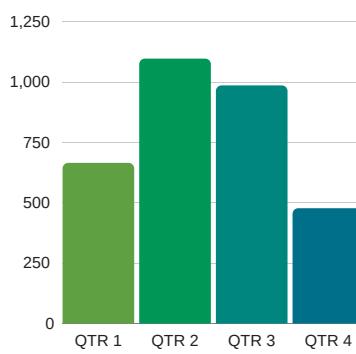
Starting with April's Month of the Military Child observation, ARNG CYS staff began developing monthly activity packets as a means of **delivering engaging programming and services to youth and families in a safe and supportive virtual format**. Activity packets incorporated multiple youth Master Resiliency skills, various academic and STEAM activities, as well as, supported the development of other critical life-skills such as effective communication, leadership and problem-solving. **By the end of FY20, ten activity packets had been developed, all of which played an integral role in helping ARNG CYS staff provide virtual programming and support to over 43,000 youth, during the course of only six months.**

## Marketing Platforms

Throughout FY20, the ARNG CYS Mobile App and Website allowed for the timely dissemination of information and relevant resources to military youth and families, as well as, serving as repositories for staff in the field to access important ARNG CYS information, training, and activity packet information. These innovative platforms, combined with local ARNG CYS Program social media pages, facilitated the continued delivery of both in-person and virtual support to those within the military community. During the initial surge of COVID-19 in March and April, the Mobile App and Website reported record high numbers regarding total number of new users, Mobile App downloads and total individual page views. This data highlighted the important role these two platforms served in supporting ARNG Soldiers and their families, regardless of geographic location.



**MOBILE APP**  
FY20 Downloads



**WEBSITE**  
FY20 Monthly Users

### WEBSITE

**62%**

Of users viewed the Month of the Military Child info page

**44%**

Of users viewed the My Local CYS Program page

**96%**

Overall InSight™ performance rating compared to other youth service organizations

## Program Management Team

From the initial surge of the COVID-19 Pandemic in early spring, through the end of the fiscal year, the ARNG CYS Contract Program Management Team worked to ensure staff in the field had continued access to pertinent information and resources for families. These efforts included, but were not limited to, establishment of a closed Facebook group for staff to collaborate and share ideas and best practices virtually, the development of a COVID-19 Family Resource Guide, addition of a dedicated COVID-19 Resource page to the ARNG CYS Website for Soldiers and families, utilization of push notifications via the ARNG CYS Mobile App, and delivery of staff trainings on topics ranging from supporting the mental health of youth during COVID-19 to strategies for maximizing virtual youth engagement online. These efforts, in addition to their regular duties, contributed to the overall success ARNG CYS experienced throughout FY20.

# Training & Programming



## TRAINING HOURS

In-Person - 5,631.25  
Virtual - 3,343.7



## NUMBER OF EVENTS

In-Person - 1,310  
Virtual - 1,288

Prior to COVID-19, development and delivery of virtual programming for youth were initiatives not being widely used within the ARNG CYS Program; however, that all changed when local governments implemented restrictions on travel and conducting in-person events. In the weeks immediately following restrictions being enforced, **ARNG CYS staff demonstrated a high degree of flexibility and adaptability by quickly transitioning many in-person events into virtual programming opportunities for youth.** Through the utilization of local social media platforms, various online training platforms, activity packets and available resources, **staff succeeded in maintaining high-quality programming and support to Soldiers and their families, throughout the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.** Virtual programming initiatives, like those implemented by ARNG CYS in FY20, ensured ARNG CYS services remained readily and easily accessible to Soldiers and their families. In fact, these **virtual efforts allowed ARNG CYS staff to provide support to over 11,000 more youth in FY20 than in previous fiscal years.**



We will provide **POSITIVE** experiences that build **LEADERSHIP, CONFIDENCE, and TEAMWORK** skills in our military youth, while promoting a **SENSE OF BELONGING and CONNECTION**.

## **340 - PARTNERED EVENTS**

FY20 brought many opportunities to partner with our community contacts in the development and implementation of a variety of programs to serve military families. Specifically, organizations such as 4-H Extension Services, Boys and Girls Clubs, USO, YMCA, Red Cross, QDMA and MANY more helped coordinate and collaborate with Child and Youth Services.

## **492 - RESIDENTIAL & DAY CAMPS**

Experiential education opportunities are offered in many of the state/territories. These programs are designed to build leadership, self-confidence, and teamwork skills in our military youth, while promoting camaraderie and connections with each other and caring adults.

## **16 - REGIONAL & STATE OR TERRITORY YOUTH SYMPOSIA**

These trainings promote leadership, resilience, and personal development. Events like this allow youth leaders to share experiences about coping with deployment issues, provide input on Child & Youth Services and develop actions plans to advocate for military youth across a variety of platforms.

## **236 - YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM**

Child and Youth Coordinators work closely with the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program in each of their states or territories to ensure that Soldiers and their families are being provided strategies to remain resilient throughout a deployment. Each state or territory offers a variety of research and evidence-based curriculum during trainings and briefings to foster overall positive youth and family well-being.

## **178 - FAMILY DAYS & MILITARY APPRECIATION EVENTS**

Military Appreciation events span a variety of arenas and can include programs at: sporting events, zoos, state parks, children's museums, and many other local venues. CYS staff are frequently requested to support annual Family Days programs with educational activities. All of the events allow for networking and connection with other military families.

## **125 - MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD (MOMC)**

MOMC was created to honor the important role children play in the Military community. Coordinators plan numerous events, all to recognize ARNG children and youth for the daily sacrifices they make in supporting their Service Member.

## **10 - SURVIVOR SUPPORT & STRONG BONDS**

Support provided to other military programs by Child and Youth Coordinators serves to further strengthen the overall ARNG force. These collaborative efforts result in opportunities for families to engage with each other and develop greater awareness of resources and services available, all while being in a safe and supportive environment with other military families.

# Developing Networks of Support

112,801

Army National Guard  
Soldiers and Spouses  
Supported

12,250

Other Military Adults  
Supported

29,182

Civilian Adults  
Trained

**Research has proven a direct link between youth resilience and the importance of building and maintaining positive connections and networks for youth, especially military youth, in their local communities (military and civilian). CYS staff regularly provide Service Members and their Families with briefings and information to highlight and connect them with relevant local and national resources and services.** Further, they actively work to train community members, educators and administrators so they are better prepared to provide support to military-connected youth both in and out of the classroom. **These ‘networks of support’ act as force multipliers, better ensuring those connected to the military feel safe and supported at all times.**

## 189 - EDUCATION OUTREACH

ARNG CYS staff provided outreach trainings, meetings and briefings for 3,712 school administrators, educators and support staff, providing information and resources for supporting military families, whether their Soldier is deployed or working stateside with his or her unit. Many states or territories have partnered with local colleges and universities to offer college and career planning courses for teens and parents as well as ACT/SAT prep courses.



## 177 - COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CYS staff worked with 6,857 military and civilian organizations and individuals to maximize the impact of community resources on Military members and their Families. Building these networks of support is vital to ensure opportunities are created for military youth and education is provided to the community on challenges military families face, particularly, our geographically-separated children and youth.

## 177 - COMMANDER, UNIT, OR FRG BRIEFINGS

Coordinators are routinely requested to brief services provided, outreach efforts and outcomes of Child and Youth Services to Family Readiness Groups, Soldiers at the Unit level and Senior Military Personnel. In FY20, CYS staff briefed to 11,403 military-connected individuals to ensure all levels of Command, and associated support groups, are equipped with youth-related information as a means of supporting Soldier and Family military readiness and resilience.



# Teen Leaders in Training

## GUARD TEEN PANEL (GTP)

The National Guard Teen Panel is a youth-directed and adult facilitated joint program representing the Army and Air National Guard. The GTP is composed of ten regional delegates that represent the NG youth in their respective regions and two members-at-large who liaison to the Army Teen Panel. The GTP aims to **provide a voice for the National Guard youth across the 54 states and territories**, as well as provide insight to National Guard leadership from the perspective of the youth.

## STATE OR TERRITORY TEEN PANEL

In FY20, **538 National Guard youth served on their State or Territory Teen Panel**. Each state or territory maintains a program that meets on a monthly or quarterly basis. Throughout FY20 Teen Panels **completed 507 trainings and meetings**. Teen Panel priorities include: participation in Regional Symposiums, leading community service projects, and **advocating for military youth and families** to state legislators, senior military officials and community partners.



## TEEN RESILIENCE TRAINING

CYS Staff used the Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness (CSF2) Teen Resilience curriculum to teach resilience strengths and coping strategies to ARNG dependents. **This strength-based curriculum is a adaptation of the program taught to ARNG Soldiers and spouses, and supports a common language for ARNG Families to discuss resilience and performance at home.** CYS staff **provided 194 trainings** using either the introductory 2-hour workshop or the full curriculum, which mirrors the 14 skills delivered in the MRT-C to Soldiers and spouses and focuses on strength such as optimism, self-awareness, problem solving, self-regulation, character strengths, and healthy communication.

# Volunteers

**5,157 adults and teens volunteered for 2,597 different programs.** Independent Sector estimates the average value of a volunteer hour as \$27.20 per hour. In FY20 **volunteers provided 43,777 hours of service, totaling \$1,190,734.00 in value added.** ARNG CYS staff provided 94 trainings to prepare volunteers in areas of risk management, programming and effective behavior management, identifying and reporting suspected abuse and neglect, and requirements for confidentiality.



## For more information:

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"I have made lifelong connections and friendships with people I have met through the program. The Child and Youth Service's support for military kids has gotten me through my dad's deployments and other struggles of having a parent in the military, and have given me the chance to support and give a voice to other military kids."

Mackenzie, Youth Council Member, WAARNG dependent

**Download "ARNG CYS" Here**



**[www.arngcys.com](http://www.arngcys.com)**



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