



CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM

Army National Guard

FY23

ANNUAL REPORT

PROGRAM

Mission & Goals

FY23



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.



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 program

TOTAL MILITARY YOUTH SERVED

69,295

Army National Guard
6-12 year-olds

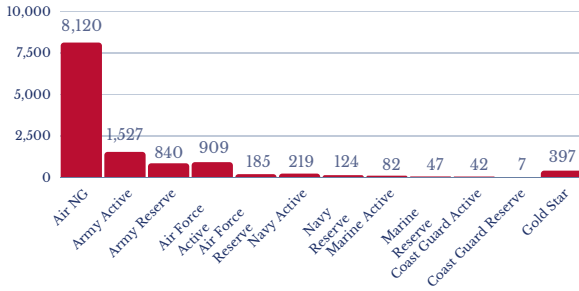


Army National Guard
13-17 year-olds

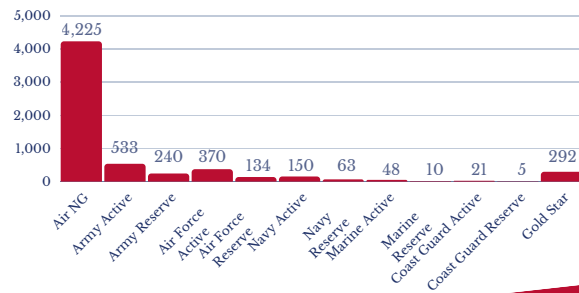
34,099

16,595

Other Military Children - 6-12 year-olds



Other Military Children - 13-17 year-olds



FY23 Highlights



15.22% Increase in Overall Youth Participants



27.71% Increase in Youth Participation at In-Person Events



6.4% Increase in Number of In-Person Events



14.79% Increase in Education Outreach Trainings and Initiatives

Volunteer Impact

During FY23, a total of 5,146 adults and teens volunteered their time for 2,837 different programs. Based on Independent Sector's calculations, the average value of a volunteer hour is \$31.80. The volunteers contributed a total of 142,975 hours of service, which translates to an impressive value of \$4,546,605 added to the community.

To ensure effective and safe volunteer work, ARNG CYs staff conducted 95 training sessions covering areas such as risk management, programming, behavior management, recognizing and reporting suspected abuse and neglect, and confidentiality requirements.

TEEN *Initiatives*

“ I joined the Teen Panel for a couple different reasons. First, was the opportunity to become a leader and to better myself as a person. Secondly, joining the Teen Panel taught me different life skills and resiliency, but it also gave me a way to support the community that had supported me while my father was deployed.

Peyton C., KSARNG Teen Panel Member

”



STATE/TERRITORY TEEN PANEL

At the local level, states and territories operate state teen panels (STP) to promote youth involvement. In FY23, 485 STP members helped organizers plan events, engaged in service-learning opportunities, and represented the needs and concerns of young people. STPs held 326 training sessions and meetings, which included skill-building activities and programs.

RESILIENCE TRAINING

The resilience program taught to ARNG Soldiers and spouses has been translated into a strengths-based curriculum that promotes a shared language for families when discussing resilience and overcoming challenges. This MRT training equips young people with the essential skills needed to confront challenges associated with both military and non-military settings.

The Teen Curriculum comes in two versions: an introductory 2-hour workshop, and a complete curriculum that spans 14 skills, including critical thinking, self-awareness, problem-solving, and communication. Furthermore, the program teaches youth how to identify their own character strengths, as well as those of others, which has been shown to foster meaningful and long-lasting connections among young people from various backgrounds.





GUARD

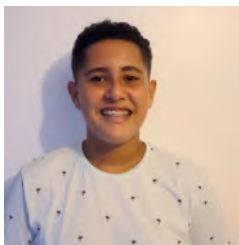
Teen Panel

The National Guard Teen Panel (GTP) is a youth-directed and adult-facilitated joint program, representing the Army and Air National Guard. Collectively, the GTP is composed of ten regional delegates - each representing their respective region, and two at-large delegates who liaison to the Army Teen Panel. The mission of the GTP is to provide a voice for the National Guard youth across the country, as well as provide insights and recommendations to National Guard Leadership from the youth perspective.

The GTP had a very busy and productive FY23. Aside from welcoming many new delegates, the GTP attended, and participated in, a variety of conferences and trainings provided by national partner programs and organizations. In April, three GTP delegates attended the National 4-H Conference held in Washington, D.C., where they worked to identify issues facing today's military youth. Delegates also completed service projects at Kenilworth Aquatic Center. June saw four GTP delegates attend the Youth Leadership Forum event held in Massachusetts. During this event, teens worked together to take identified issues of concern (with direct overall military youth well-being) and elevate them to military leadership. Finally, three GTP delegates attended the Boys and Girls Clubs of America's (BGCA) Keystone Conference in July, which took place in Dallas, TX. At this event, teens participated in sessions focused on mental health, college readiness and expanding the positive impact of the BGCA and National Guard partnership across the country.



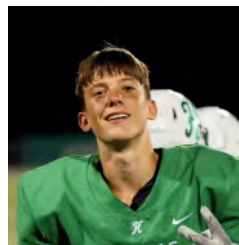
Abigail Cadman
Region 1



Carlos Juan Franco
Region 2



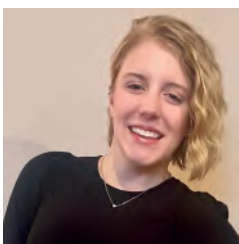
Malaika Wande
Region 3



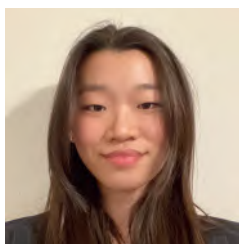
Samuel Spangler
Region 4



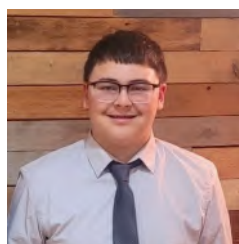
Lily Johnson
Region 5



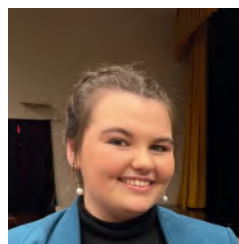
Kamryn Stauffacher
Region 8



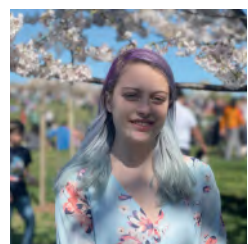
Claudia Shin
Region 9



Justus Spaulding
Region 10



Jordan Henebry
Army's Director's
Teen Panel



Camille Welch
Army's Director's
Teen Panel



PROGRAMMING

Pillars

FY23

The ARNG is unique in that Soldiers and families do not often reside on, or close to, military facilities. Therefore, it is important to work with community leaders, educators and administrators to create networks of support for those geo-dispersed members of the ARNG Community. As a result of these efforts, more families have access to various resources and services – whether they be provided by the military or on the civilian side. These ‘networks of support’ serve as force multipliers, better ensuring families feel safe and connected at all times.

194 - EDUCATION OUTREACH

The ARNG CYS staff made a significant impact by providing outreach trainings, meetings, briefings, and school support groups to 3,655 school administrators, educators, support staff, and students. Additionally, many states and territories have joined forces with local colleges and universities to offer college and career planning courses for teens and parents, as well as ACT/SAT prep courses.

571 - COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Throughout FY23, CYS staff worked with nearly 30,000 military and civilian organizations and individuals to maximize the impact of community resources on our service members and their families. These networks of support are crucial in providing military youth with opportunities and educating our communities about the unique challenges military families face.

201 - 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 FY23, CYS staff briefed to 10,988 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.



162 - MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD (MOMC)

Military families rely on their children's courage and perseverance every day. In recognition of their contributions and sacrifices, April has been designated as the official Month of the Military Child. To celebrate this occasion, a team of Leads, Coordinators, National Guard Bureau and the Program Management Team developed both social media and print marketing materials to be used throughout the month. The Team also created a national MOMC photo contest initiative, encouraging kids and their parents/guardians to get creative and share photos that embrace the theme of "National Guard Kids: Rising to the Challenge".

In total, more than 6,000 ARNG youth participated in MOMC initiatives, which encompassed a total of 546 hours of direct programming. In addition, the ARNG CYS Program celebrated two spirit weeks, one for kids and one for teens, to really help them see just how much they are appreciated within the military community.

276 - PARTNERED EVENTS

FY23 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, Department of Natural Resources and MANY more helped coordinate and collaborate with Child and Youth Services.

393 - RESIDENTIAL & DAY CAMPS

Numerous state and territory programs offer experiential education opportunities. In FY23, 98 residential camps, 152 in-person day camps, and 143 virtual day opportunities were provided. These programs are designed to enhance leadership, self-confidence, and teamwork skills in military youth, while encouraging camaraderie and connections with peers and supportive adults.

41 - REGIONAL & STATE OR TERRITORY YOUTH SYMPOSIUMS

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

270 - YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program collaborates with Child and Youth Coordinators to equip soldiers and their loved ones with the tools necessary to maintain resilience throughout deployments. Each state or territory provides various research and evidence-based curriculum's during trainings and briefings, promoting overall positive youth and family well-being.



239 - FAMILY DAYS & MILITARY APPRECIATION EVENTS

There are a variety of Military Appreciation events held at various venues, including sports games, zoos, state parks, and children's museums. CYS staff often participate in annual Unit Family Day programs, offering educational activities for attendees. These events provide opportunities for military families to connect with one another and build relationships.

12 - 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.

BUILDING OUR

Community

FY23



MARKETING

Marketing plays an important role in the success of any program and, as a result of this, significant steps were taken throughout FY23 to increase marketing initiatives, impact, scope and available resources. FY23 saw the development and dissemination of flyers and brochures for the Army Fee Assistance (AFA) Program and Weekend Drill Child Care (WDCC) Pilot Program. Building on the success of FY22 marketing initiatives, actions were taken to ensure the continuation of the 'ARNG CYS Means' Campaign and the weekly 'In the Know' social media posts. Through the actions of a dedicated work-group, and in collaboration with NGB, a marketing theme and subsequent marketing materials were developed for Month of the Military Child 2023. All marketing materials were uploaded to the ARNG CYS Website for ease of access by ARNG Soldiers, Families and staff.



PROGRAM NEWSLETTERS

The ARNG CYS public newsletter is developed by the Program Management Team (PMT) each month and disseminated to nearly 2,400 subscribers, as well as linked to the ARNG CYS Website. Each monthly newsletter features regional program highlights, resources for families and information on various trainings and observances. During FY23, downloads of the newsletter increased by an average of fourteen downloads each month. In addition to a public newsletter, the PMT also develops a monthly staff newsletter, which provides staff with program updates, new resources and ideas for engaging with youth and families in-person and virtually.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FY23 was a busy year of training for those in the ARNG CYS Program. Each month, staff participated in monthly conference calls, where important information on program management, volunteer training and youth development took center stage. In addition to monthly conference calls, staff attended the first in-person ARNG CYS Professional Development since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic. This week-long training was conducted in November 2022. Those attending the event received training on Mental Health First Aid, the Army Family Action Plan process, and exchanged best practices and resources during share fair and team-building sessions. In total, staff were provided with, and completed, thirty-two hours of professional development training in FY23.



LEADERSHIP

Lense

“ The Child & Youth Program plays a vital role in enhancing the resilience, readiness, and retention of military families by providing a supportive and nurturing environment for military children. Through a wide range of educational, recreational, and social activities, this program not only helps children thrive but also contributes to the overall well-being of our service members, ensuring that they can focus on their mission with peace of mind their families are cared for.

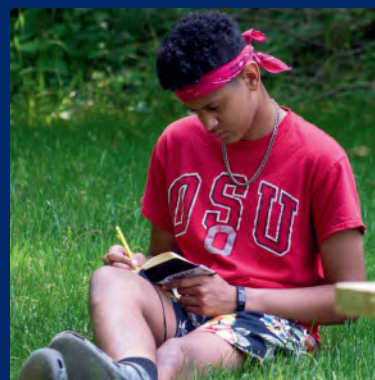
COL Willian K. Madsen, DCARNG



YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

“Being a military kid is hard sometimes. but being with other kids who have gone through the same things and having adults to turn to makes it so so much better. this program is amazing because it gives military kids an outlet to be themselves and see how much they are able to grow as a person within even a week”.

Lily, WAARNG Teen Panel President



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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