



ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES

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

NEWS LETTER



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HONORING MILITARY FAMILIES DURING MILITARY FAMILY APPRECIATION MONTH

In November, during Military Family Appreciation Month, the Army National Guard Child and Youth Program reaffirms its deep gratitude to military families—the backbone of our Guard communities. These families, often the unsung heroes, provide steadfast support to their service members, standing strong while their loved ones fulfill their duty to the nation.

Since its establishment in 1996, Military Family Appreciation Month has been a time to celebrate the contributions and sacrifices of military families. Each year, the U.S. government honors this month with a proclamation, offering the nation an opportunity to recognize the strength and resilience of those who support our service members.

For military families, November is a time of reflection and togetherness, as they navigate the unique challenges that come with military life—whether it's enduring long separations, managing the unpredictability of deployment, or simply holding down the home front. The Army National Guard Child and Youth Program acknowledges the vital role these families play, not just in the lives of their service members, but in supporting the military mission and the broader defense community.

As the holiday season approaches, we especially honor the families who are apart from their loved ones due to deployment or other service commitments. Their unwavering dedication reminds us that military life is a shared experience, where the sacrifices go beyond the individual service member—families serve, too.

The Army National Guard Child and Youth Program is proud to support military families all year long, offering resources, education, and opportunities for military-connected children to thrive. These children, who show immense resilience and courage, are at the heart of our mission. We are committed to enriching the lives of military families and ensuring that no matter where the military journey takes them, they have the support they deserve.



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MORE INFO



SERVICE LEARNING IN FOCUS: HOW THE CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE ACROSS THE NATION

Mallory Garton - Leading with Heart in Alabama

Mallory Garton, a 15-year-old Alabama National Guard youth, has been an inspiring example of leadership and service since joining her school's band in the 6th grade. Now, as the Trumpet Section Leader, Mallory is also stepping into a new role as a High School Ambassador. This position allows her to make a meaningful impact through volunteering at school events and in her community.

Her parents, SFC and Mrs. Garton, shared their pride, saying, "She is a great role model for her younger brother, Camden. He looks up to her and wants to follow in her footsteps with band and ambassadors. We are very proud of the young lady she is becoming!"

Mallory's leadership extends beyond her school and community—she's also making a difference within her family. By stepping out of her comfort zone and taking on new challenges, she shows that small acts of service can have a great impact.

Alabama National Guard youth like Mallory are making a difference every day, giving back to their communities, positively influencing those around them, and helping to make the world a better place.



Honoring History Through Service: Minnesota Teen Panel Cleans Veterans' Headstones

This year, the Minnesota National Guard Teen Panel came together for a meaningful service project at the Minnesota Veteran's State Cemetery. With the goal of cleaning the headstones, the group focused on removing moss that had grown over time. Armed with buckets, soap, scrapers, and brushes provided by the cemetery, the teens went to work, and their efforts were deeply appreciated.

What made this project particularly powerful was the care and respect the students demonstrated as they learned about the symbols etched on each headstone. It was a moving experience for the entire panel, as they took great pride in honoring those who served.

Acts of service like this remind us of the importance of remembering and respecting those who came before us. The Minnesota Teen Panel's thoughtful work is a shining example of how small actions can have a profound impact, touching lives and preserving history.



We'd love to hear from you! If you have a story about your National Guard teen making a positive impact in their community through acts of service, please share it with us.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShareYourCYSstory



CELEBRATE MILITARY FAMILY APPRECIATION MONTH WITH OUR CLASSROOM PACKET – AVAILABLE NOW FOR EDUCATORS AND FAMILIES!

This November, the Army National Guard (ARNG) Child & Youth Services (CYS) Program invites educators and families to join us in recognizing and celebrating military families, especially our military-connected youth, during Military Family Appreciation Month.

To help kick off this month-long celebration, we've developed a [Military Family Appreciation Month Classroom Packet](#) designed specifically for educators. The packet is filled with activities, information, and initiatives that highlight the unique contributions and sacrifices military families make. These classroom activities provide a meaningful way for students to engage with Military Family Appreciation Month, whether they're part of a military family or simply want to learn more about supporting those who serve on the home front.

For Educators:

We encourage you to incorporate this packet into your lessons throughout November. With fun and informative content, your students can explore the challenges military families face and gain a deeper appreciation for their resilience and strength. It's a great opportunity to foster understanding and community spirit in your classroom!

For Families:

If you're a military family or someone connected to the military community, we encourage you to share this packet with your local schools. This resource will help educators in your area bring awareness to Military Family Appreciation Month and engage students in meaningful ways. You can also share it with coaches, school administrators, or even parent-teacher associations to promote a better understanding of the important role military families play.

Military Family Appreciation Month has been celebrated every November since 1996. It's a time for communities across the country to acknowledge the unique sacrifices of military families and offer gratitude for their unwavering support of our service members.

Educators and families alike, let's work together to ensure these contributions are recognized. [Download your Military Family Appreciation Month Classroom Packet](#) today, and let's make this November a month of appreciation, learning, and community building!

Together, we can honor and support those who serve on the home front!



THANKSGIVING DAY: A TIME FOR GRATITUDE

As Thanksgiving approaches, it's a perfect time to reflect on the things we are grateful for. In military life, "Hunting the Good Stuff" is a practice that reminds us to focus on the positives, even in challenging times. Whether it's the support of family, the dedication of our volunteers, or the resilience of military children, there is always something to appreciate.

This Thanksgiving, let's take a moment to express gratitude for the small acts that create great impact. By recognizing the good in our daily lives, we strengthen our sense of community and inspire others to do the same.

Happy Thanksgiving from the Army National Guard Child and Youth Program!



RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

The National Military Family Association (NMFA), a nonprofit since 1969, is dedicated to addressing the unique challenges faced by military families. NMFA provides critical advocacy and support to government officials and decision-makers on military family issues. In addition to advocacy, NMFA offers programs to enhance financial security, well-being, and quality of life, including scholarships for military spouses, skill development for military teens, and summer camps for children.

For More Information:

<https://www.militaryfamily.org/>

HONORING VETERANS: A GRATEFUL NATION THANKS YOU

On Veterans Day, we pause to honor the brave men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Their courage, sacrifice, and dedication to protecting our freedoms are the foundation of our nation's strength. Whether serving at home or abroad, in times of war or peace, veterans have answered the call to defend our country with unwavering commitment.

Today, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all veterans. Your service has ensured the safety and security of our nation, and we are forever grateful. On this day, and every day, we remember the sacrifices you made and honor the impact you continue to have on our communities.

Thank you for your service.



Embark on this exciting scavenger hunt with your family—get outside and enjoy some quality time together! As you set off on your adventure, be sure to use the pictures provided below to guide your hunt.

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