

NATIONAL GUARD KIDS

MISSION POSSIBLE

FY26 ANNUAL REPORT

NATIONAL GUARD KIDS 2025 2026 MISSION POSSIBLE

child & youth program Army National Guard

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES

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WWW.ARNGCYS.COM

OUR MISSION

It's More Than a Program...
It's a Promise.

The mission of Army National Guard Child & Youth Services 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.



As the Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard, I remain deeply committed to supporting our Military Families and Children. The Child and Youth Program plays a vital role in strengthening resilience, readiness, and well-being across our force. By investing in our young people, through education mentorship, and meaningful engagement, we ensure that the next generation is equipped to thrive and carry forward the values of service, leadership and community that define our guard.

MG Ginn, The Adjutant General of Mississippi

PROGRAM 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 program



FY26 AT A GLANCE

MISSION IMPACT

73,525
Military Youth Served



38,788
Army National Guard Ages 6-12

18,652
Army National Guard Ages 13-18

17.55%
Increase in ARNG 6-12 year olds served

9.72%
Increase in overall military youth served

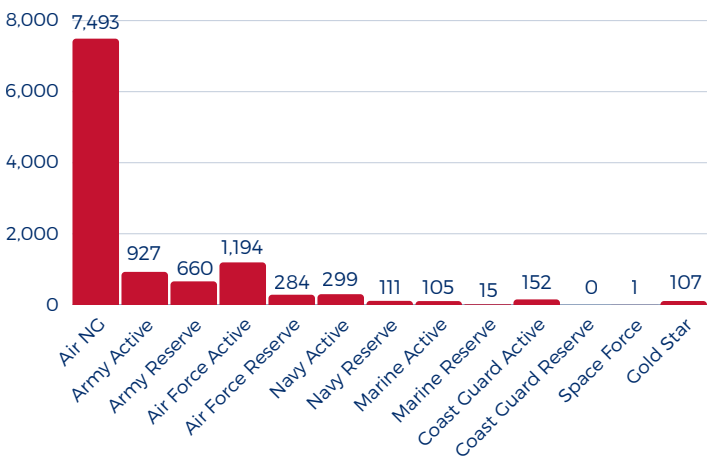
11,343
Hours of program training provided

4,783
Volunteers

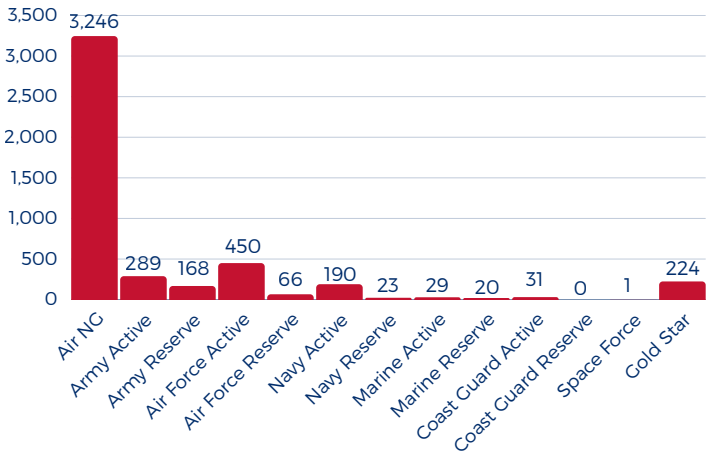
109,135
Volunteer hours

63
Volunteer trainings conducted

Other Military Children: 6-12 Year Olds



Other Military Children: 13-18 Year Olds



MISSION FEEDBACK

FROM FAMILIES

96%
participant satisfaction rating

73%
of families said their youth built new friendships

71%
said CYS helped their family connect with other Guard families

> My kids absolutely love what the Oklahoma National Guard Youth & Child Program does for them. It gives them the opportunity to meet other kids who understand what it's like to have a parent serving in the National Guard, helping them feel connected, supported, and proud of their family's service.
>
> *SSG Scribner, OKARNG*



FROM LEADERSHIP

91%
agreed that awareness and use of CYS resources helps increase Soldier readiness

90%
agreed that CYS plays an important role in helping families become more resilient and cope with military life

84%
agree that CYS resources and services positively impact Soldier retention

STRENGTHENING *THE GUARD COMMUNITY*

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

The Army National Guard (ARNG) Child & Youth Services (CYS) Program plays a critical role in Soldier readiness by connecting members of the ARNG community to vital local and national resources. Through comprehensive resource and referral services, the CYS Program strengthens Soldier and family resilience, supports youth and families throughout all phases of the deployment cycle, and directly contributes to the overall mission readiness of the Army National Guard.

In FY26, ARNG CYS Leads and Coordinators fielded and responded to nearly **46,000 individual Soldier and family resource and referral requests – a 20% increase from FY25.** These inquiries spanned a wide range of topics—from childcare subsidy assistance to academic support, including access to tutoring services.

In addition to direct support, the ARNG CYS Website served as a critical platform for connecting Soldiers and families with available resources and services. Through the website's live chat feature, the Program Management (PM) Team has responded to over 350 requests for information and support since April of 2025

By providing timely, relevant support, the ARNG CYS Program plays an essential role in promoting the readiness and resilience of Soldiers, youth, and families across the Army National Guard community.





In FY26, ARNG CYS Leads and Coordinators responded to nearly

46,000

Soldier and Family resource requests

In April of 2025, we launched a live chat feature. Since then, we have answered more than 350 inquiries

350 at an average response time of 15 minutes

EDUCATION OUTREACH

96 Education outreach trainings and activities

The ARNG CYS team made a strong impact by delivering outreach trainings, meetings, briefings, and school support groups that **reached 4,097 school administrators, educators, support staff, and students.** Across many states and territories, staff also partnered with local colleges and universities to provide college and career planning courses for teens and parents, along with ACT and SAT preparation opportunities.



PARTNERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

Throughout FY26, CYS staff collaborated with more than **24,800 military and civilian organizations and individuals** to strengthen networks of support for Soldiers and their families. These partnerships help connect military youth and families with resources, opportunities, and services that support well-being, resilience, and connection within their communities. This year, CYS achieved a **5% increase in community partnerships**, further expanding the network of organizations working alongside the program to support Army National Guard families and contribute to the readiness and resilience of the force.

186
Commander, Unit, or FRG Briefings

16,825
Army National Guard-connected individuals reached

30%
increase in briefing reach across the Army National Guard

Coordinators regularly brief Family Readiness Groups, Soldiers at the unit level, and senior military leaders on the needs of military-connected youth, the services and resources available through Child and Youth Services, and opportunities for families to participate. In FY26, CYS staff **reached 16,825 Army National Guard-connected individuals, a 30% increase** from FY25. These briefings strengthen awareness of CYS across the force, help leaders better understand the needs of Guard youth and families, and encourage greater connection to programs and services that support Family resilience and Soldier readiness.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

238
Events & activities

18,220
Youth & teen participants

32%
Increase in engagement

The FY26 Month of the Military Child (MOMC) campaign, themed “National Guard Kids: Mission Possible,” provided Army National Guard youth and families with meaningful opportunities to celebrate the unique experiences, strengths, and contributions of military-connected youth. Building on previous years, the ARNG CYS Program introduced two new national initiatives: the development and delivery of two virtual day camps—one designed specifically for youth and one for teens—and the creation of a national-level MOMC virtual activity packet for youth. These resources expanded access to programming and provided states and territories with additional tools to engage youth and teens throughout the month.

Across the 54 states, territories, and the District of Columbia, ARNG CYS programs conducted **238 MOMC events and activities**, providing more than **1,670 hours of programming** during FY26. Collectively, **13,884 youth and 4,336 teens participated in MOMC activities**, representing a **32% increase in engagement** compared to FY25. This significant growth demonstrates the continued effectiveness of national and local programming in reaching geographically dispersed National Guard families and creating opportunities for youth to connect, build resilience, develop relationships, and celebrate their role within the National Guard community.

TEENS LEADING THE MISSION



553
Meeting & training sessions

41%
Increase in trainings

19%
Increase in participation

STATE TEEN PANEL

State Teen Panels (STPs) give Guard youth opportunities to lead, serve, and help shape programming within their communities. In FY26, members worked alongside CYS staff to plan events, participate in service-learning projects, and advocate for the needs of military-connected youth. Across states and territories, STPs conducted **553 meetings and training sessions** focused on leadership and skill development, representing a **41% increase in meetings and trainings** and a **19% increase in youth participation** compared to FY25.

> The Child and Youth Program has given me the opportunity to give back to my community. Through my time volunteering, I have been able to make connections, meet new people, and build strong friendships with my peers. These experiences have made my time in the program meaningful and have allowed me to become more involved in my community
>
> *Liam I., MTARNG Teen Panel Member*

42,000
youth and teens participated in virtual resilience programs

34%
Increase in participation

RESILIENCE TRAINING

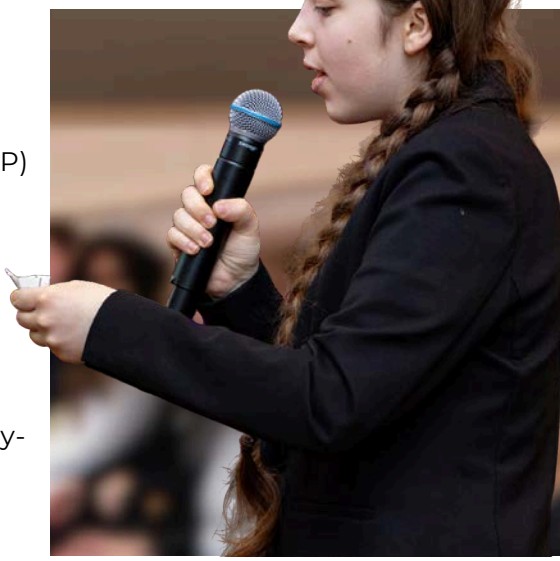
FY26 marked a period of transition for resilience programming across the Army as Master Resilience Training (MRT) was suspended in preparation for Applied Resilience Training (ART). To maintain access to resilience-focused opportunities, ARNG Child & Youth Services expanded virtual programming for military-connected youth and teens. More than **42,000 youth and teens participated in virtual resilience programming** during FY26, a **34% increase** from FY25.

CYS also continued to provide structured resilience skill development, with more than **3,000 teens completing the two-hour MRT course** during the year. These efforts helped youth strengthen adaptability, positive coping, stress management, and other practical skills they can apply in everyday life.

As ART is introduced in FY27, ARNG CYS will adapt its core concepts and skills for a teen audience, building on the momentum of FY26 and continuing to provide age-appropriate resilience programming relevant to the experiences of military-connected youth.



GUARD TEEN PANEL: A NATIONAL YOUTH VOICE



The Army National Guard Child & Youth Services Guard Teen Panel (GTP) provides a national voice for Guard youth across 54 states, territories, and the District of Columbia. Representing geographically dispersed military families, delegates share the perspectives and experiences of military-connected youth while providing Army National Guard leadership with insight into the needs and priorities of young people across the force.

In FY26, the GTP expanded to **12 delegates** representing 125,612 military-dependent youth ages 6–18. Delegates participated in more than **25 hours of development** across **11 professional sessions**, strengthening skills in military protocol, public speaking, leadership, and advocacy.

Throughout the year, delegates contributed more than **279 volunteer hours** and delivered **15 briefings to regional commands, senior leaders, and peers.** They also authored more than **10 national newsletter features**, sharing peer perspectives on topics including deployments, school transitions, resilience, and military family life.

The GTP also **hosted two joint meetings with State Teen Panels,** bringing together more than 70 youth leaders from across the country. These sessions created a direct connection between state-level experiences and the national panel, helping identify shared concerns, priorities, and opportunities for Guard youth nationwide.

DIRECT ADVOCACY AND HIGH-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT

Guard Teen Panel delegates had opportunities in FY26 to bring the perspectives of military-connected youth directly to senior leaders. During the Guard Teen Panel Empowerment Project, broadcast live from the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Virginia, delegates participated in a candid Q&A with senior leaders focused on mental wellness and family support. Youth groups from across the country were able to view the discussion and hear directly from Guard teens.



Three delegates also represented the Army National Guard on the Joint Service Teen Council, collaborating with youth representatives from across the military services before participating in a senior-level engagement at the Pentagon with General Steven S. Nordhaus and Senior Enlisted Advisor John T. Raines. Delegates advocated for two priorities affecting Guard families: accessible childcare during drill weekends, particularly when older teens may otherwise assume significant sibling-care responsibilities, and safe, effective digital communication that helps geographically dispersed youth connect with ARNG CYS programs and resources.

PROGRAMS *IN ACTION*

402 RESIDENTIAL, DAY & VIRTUAL CAMPS

Across states and territories, 402 experiential education programs, including 59 residential, 140 day, and 203 virtual camps, provided Guard youth with opportunities to build leadership, confidence, teamwork, and connection. These experiences strengthened resilience, fostered a sense of belonging, and supported the well-being of military-connected youth and families.





241 PARTNERED EVENTS

FY26 strengthened collaboration with community partners including 4-H Extension Services, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the USO, YMCA, Red Cross, and Departments of Natural Resources. These partnerships expanded access to quality programs that support the growth and well-being of National Guard children and families.

222 YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAMS

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program continued to work alongside Child and Youth Coordinators to provide Soldiers and families with research-based tools for sustaining resilience through all phases of deployment. These efforts reinforced readiness by equipping families with practical skills for managing change and maintaining connection.





144 MILITARY APPRECIATION EVENTS

Throughout FY26, Child and Youth Services supported Unit Family Days and Military Appreciation events at venues including sports arenas, zoos, museums, and state parks. These shared experiences strengthened community connections and celebrated Soldiers and their families.

24 YOUTH LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUMS

In FY26, State, Territory, and Regional Youth Symposiums gave teens opportunities to build leadership and resilience while connecting with peers. Youth shared experiences, developed action plans, and strengthened their ability to advocate for military families.





EQUIPPED FOR THE MISSION

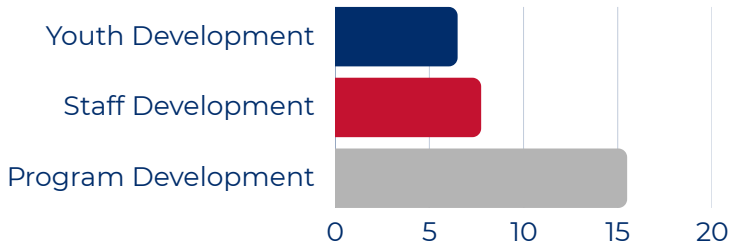
Continuous training and professional development strengthen the ability of ARNG Child & Youth Services staff to provide safe, engaging, developmentally appropriate programming for military-connected youth and families. FY26 training focused on program administration and development, volunteer management, operational effectiveness, positive youth development, and professional growth.

These opportunities equipped staff with current practices, strengthened program coordination, and enhanced their ability to foster resilience, leadership, life skills, and healthy decision-making in youth-centered environments. Ongoing professional development helps ensure staff are prepared to meet the evolving needs of Guard youth and families while maintaining the high standards expected of ARNG CYS programs.

In FY26, ARNG CYS staff completed **29.75 hours of professional training**, exceeding the 24-hour annual training requirement established in DoWI 6060.04.

29.75
Hours of professional training

FY26 Training Hours by Category



EXPANDING OUR REACH

4,238
Website subscribers

14%
Increase in subscribers

51%
Increase in monthly newsletter downloads

Marketing continued to connect Soldiers, families, and communities with Army National Guard Child & Youth Services while providing Coordinators with consistent, ready-to-use resources to support outreach at the state and territory level.

In FY26, the Program Management Team launched the yearlong “National Guard Kids: Mission Possible” theme, developing national branding, campaign materials, social media content, and adaptable resources for use across all 54 states, territories, and the District of Columbia. Marketing support expanded throughout the year with additional Month of the Military Child resources, promotion of national Virtual Day Camps, and coordinated outreach for partner programs including Our Military Kids, Tutor.com, and Boys & Girls Clubs of America opportunities.

Digital communication also continued to grow. The public newsletter reached **4,238 subscribers** and averaged **1,665 downloads each month**, while renewed promotion of the ARNG CYS Mobile App provided families with another way to access program information and resources. Staff communication through the internal newsletter, private Facebook group, and national marketing materials further equipped Coordinators to extend consistent program messaging within their communities.

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