

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES

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

NEWS LETTER

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COURAGE IN EVERY CHAPTER

Army National Guard children and teens show courage in countless ways. They adapt to change, take on new challenges, support their families, and continue growing through every experience. This year, Army National Guard Child and Youth Services is proud to celebrate that strength through our FY27 theme, Courage in Every Chapter.

Throughout the year, families can look forward to engaging programs, hands-on activities, leadership opportunities, and resources designed to help young people build confidence, strengthen connections, and discover what they can accomplish.

Every experience adds something meaningful to their story. We look forward to celebrating the courage Army National Guard youth bring to every chapter and helping them write an exciting year ahead.

Ready to see what is happening in your state? Click [here](#) to connect with your [local Child and Youth Services coordinator](#) and learn about upcoming programs and opportunities.

MILITARY FEE ASSISTANCE

Planning childcare for the year ahead? Childcare Fee Assistance may be available to eligible Army and Air National Guard families. Program requirements vary by service and family circumstances.

Visit: [MilitaryChildCare.com](https://militarychildcare.com) to review current information, create or update your household profile, and explore available options.



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ACROSS THE GUARD: BACK-TO-SCHOOL READINESS IN ACTION

As summer programming came to a close, Child and Youth Programs across the Guard helped more than 1,400 military-connected students and their Families prepare for the 2026–2027 school year. Through strong community partnerships, youth leadership, and hands-on activities, these events provided essential school supplies while helping young people build valuable skills for the year ahead.

Nevada partnered with Operation Homefront, the Veteran Social Club, the Travis Manion Foundation, and other local and national organizations to host events in both Southern and Northern Nevada. Together, the events served more than 600 military-connected youth.

In **Arizona**, members of the Military Teen Panel, Torch Club, and Keystone Club took an active leadership role in a Back-to-School Backpack and School Supply Drop. Working alongside Operation Homefront and USAA, teens and program supporters distributed more than 125 backpacks, supply kits, books, water bottles, and other items. The event gave teens an opportunity to strengthen their teamwork, communication, organization, and community-service skills.



The **Guam** National Guard collaborated with Alee Shelter and the University of Guam to collect new, recycled, and gently used school supplies for Families experiencing financial hardship and those with a deployed Soldier. Backpacks, shoes, uniforms, and school supplies were distributed to Army and Air National Guard Families throughout Guam.

In **Hawaii**, Child and Youth Program staff participated in Yellow Ribbon back-to-school events on Oahu and Hawaii Island. More than 350 backpacks filled with grade-level supplies were distributed to Guard Families.

California encouraged learning through creativity with statewide coloring contests in Northern and Southern California. The activity helped students practice fine motor skills, strengthen concentration, and express their creativity as they prepared to return to school.

These efforts demonstrate what can be accomplished when Child and Youth Programs, community partners, and young leaders work together. Beyond providing school supplies, the events created opportunities for service, leadership, creativity, and connection while strengthening Family readiness across the Guard.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL BOOK MONTH: COURAGE IN EVERY CHAPTER



Books introduce us to characters who face challenges, adapt to change, try something new, and discover strengths they did not know they had. Those stories can feel especially meaningful for ARNG children and teens, who show courage through military separations, changing routines, and everyday challenges.

This October, celebrate National Book Month with the **Courage in Every Chapter Family Reading Challenge**.

Families can complete the challenge by reading:

- A book about a character who shows courage
- A book from a new genre or about an unfamiliar topic
- A favorite story together as a family

Add These Books to Your Reading List

- *Home Moves With Me* by Kathy Feedham Raggio explores how home is built through the people and memories we carry with us.
- *The Koala Who Could* by Rachel Bright encourages young readers to face change and discover what can happen when they try something new.
- *Twenty-One Steps: Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier* by Jeff Gottesfeld, illustrated by Matt Tavares, honors America's fallen service members and the Sentinels who guard the Tomb. This powerful story connects courage with dedication, discipline, and service.

Find Your Next Book

Looking for more ways to read? Explore these resources:

- Local public libraries: Borrow books, eBooks, and audiobooks, and explore family reading programs.
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: Children from birth through age five may receive a free book each month in participating communities.
- United Through Reading: Military families can record and share story time through the free app and access books through select programs.
- DoD MWR Libraries: Eligible service members and family members can access eBooks and audiobooks, including titles through Libby.

However your family chooses to participate, every book offers a new opportunity to learn, connect, and grow. Open a book together this October and discover the courage waiting in every chapter.

WEEKEND DRILL CHILD CARE IS EXPANDING NATIONWIDE

More Army National Guard Families can now access no-cost child care during weekend drill. The Weekend Drill Child Care Program connects eligible Soldiers with licensed, vetted providers near their home or drill location. Care is available for children ages 6 weeks through 12 years for up to 12 hours per day during covered drill periods.

The program is expanding from 20 participating states to all 54 states, territories, and the District of Columbia by December 31, 2026.

- **Added in September:** Alaska, California, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Texas, and the District of Columbia
- **Added in October:** Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, and West Virginia
- **Coming in November:** Alabama, Arizona, Guam, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Utah, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Wyoming

Spaces are limited each month and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so Families are encouraged to plan ahead. Visit [Upwards Weekend Drill Child Care](#) to review eligibility, learn more, and enroll.

Help us spread the word so Army National Guard Families across the nation know this valuable support is available!

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START THE SCHOOL YEAR STRONG WITH TUTOR.COM

As the school year gets underway, new assignments, reading goals, and challenging subjects can quickly fill the calendar. [Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families](https://tutor.com/military) offers eligible Army National Guard families no-cost, online tutoring and homework help 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Students can connect with expert tutors for personalized help in more than 150 subjects, including math, science, reading, writing, social studies, world languages, study skills, and test preparation. Support is available for learners from kindergarten through college and beyond, with bilingual Spanish services offered in select subjects. Students can also receive feedback through drop-off review services for writing and math assignments.

Whether your child needs help understanding a new concept, organizing assignments, strengthening reading skills, or preparing for a test, Tutor.com is ready whenever support is needed.

Visit [Tutor.com/military](https://tutor.com/military) to review eligibility and get started.

Disclaimer: Sharing of resources in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by NGB, any contract vendor or the PM Team.

TEENS ON THE MOVE: AIDEN C. TAKES ON WEST POINT

Alabama National Guard Youth Council member Aiden C. spent part of his summer developing new skills and exploring leadership at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York. Aiden, the son of an Alabama Army National Guard Soldier, was selected to attend West Point's highly competitive Summer Leaders Experience.

The week-long program gives rising high school seniors an inside look at cadet life while introducing them to college academics, military training, teamwork, and character-focused leadership development. Selection is based on a comprehensive review of academic achievement, athletic performance, and extracurricular leadership.

"During the summer, I participated in the West Point Summer Leaders Experience. While there, I learned many things such as soldering and fish identification. During my stay, I participated in rappelling, electrical engineering, environmental science, simulations, inflatable raft racing, obstacle courses, knotting, and a combatives class. This experience taught me how to be a part of a team and successfully complete a given task. This experience has provided me with valuable skills that I can rely upon for the rest of my life," Aiden shared.

The Alabama Child and Youth Services team is proud of Aiden's accomplishments and commitment to personal growth and service. As an active, bright, and humble member of the Youth Council, he continues to demonstrate leadership through his willingness to learn, challenge himself, and work alongside others. Congratulations, Aiden!

