

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES

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

NEWS LETTER

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SUMMER PROGRAMS ARE HERE!

Summer is here, and we are excited for another season of camps, activities, leadership opportunities, and programs designed to connect and support Army National Guard youth and families across the country.

From day camps and teen leadership experiences to community events and virtual opportunities, there are many ways for youth to stay engaged, build friendships, learn new skills, and create lasting memories throughout the summer months.

Be sure to explore the many resources available on the [ARNG Child & Youth Services Website](#), including program information, family resources, activities, and updates from across the nation.

Families are also encouraged to connect with their [local Child & Youth Program Coordinator](#) to learn more about summer program opportunities available in their area. We look forward to an exciting summer filled with fun, connection, and adventure!

OUR MILITARY KIDS

Our Military Kids® is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit offering extracurricular activity grants to children and teens of deployed National Guard, deployed Reserve, or post-9/11 combat wounded, ill, or injured Veterans in treatment.

Our Military Kids' Deployed and a Combat Injured Programs serve eligible military children and teens, ages 1-18, in all 50 states and four territories. OMK pays for extracurricular activities that kids are empowered to choose in the communities where their families live and work. The activities range from swimming and tumbling to the arts, camps, tutoring, and driver's education.

See the full eligibility criteria and apply at: ourmilitarykids.org/apply



WWW.ARNGCYS.COM

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REGION 5 CELEBRATES LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND MILITARY YOUTH

Region 5 programs stayed busy this spring celebrating military youth, strengthening leadership skills, and creating meaningful opportunities for connection and recognition across the region.

In **Michigan**, the MI NG Teen Panel helped lead Month of the Military Child celebrations by encouraging schools and sports teams across the state to “Purple Up” on April 10. During their MOMC carnival, teens assembled MRT packets, recognized military youth during a special ceremony, and helped create a day filled with adventure and fun through activities like zip-lining, rock climbing, archery, carnival games, and community resources. The celebration expanded into local schools and social media through “Purple Up” kits, giveaways, and support from Soldiers participating in First Formation activities.



Illinois celebrated a packed April with leadership recognition and hands-on programming opportunities. Teen Panel President Hunter D. received the Region 5 Youth Volunteer Award, while youth participating in a YAC retreat at Camp Wartburg built resiliency and teamwork skills through group activities and challenges. Illinois also hosted Operation KUDOS, where youth explored military-related activities including drills, crafts, and MRE sampling, along with a Purple Up Ball featuring STEAM activities from around the world and a cultural dance experience.



In **Ohio**, military youth leadership and volunteerism were front and center. Katie M. was recognized as the OMK Military Youth Volunteer of the Year and Eli C. was named OMK 4-H Volunteer of the Year. Members of the Ohio Military Teen Panel also gathered at Erie County 4-H Camp on Kelleys Island for a leadership retreat focused on emotional intelligence, communication, and healthy habits. Teens helped plan youth and teen camp experiences, participated in service-learning projects, and even designed the camp meal schedule for the upcoming summer programs.

Wisconsin's State Teen Panel gathered at Camp Anokijig to continue building the future of the program. During the retreat, panel members created mission statements, established goals, and developed a strategic roadmap while working on service projects supporting military and veteran communities across the state. Teens also strengthened leadership and self-advocacy skills through workshops focused on storytelling and personal narratives.

Minnesota hosted its annual Month of the Military Child celebration at the Mall of America, welcoming more than 1,200 attendees. The event celebrated the resilience and sacrifices of military-connected youth while connecting families with resources, activities, and community support. Families enjoyed interactive opportunities and special recognition highlighting the important role military children play within military families.

Indiana highlighted the achievements of military youth through the success of Indiana Military Teen Panel member Katie S., who was awarded multiple scholarships, including the Fisher House Scholarship for Military Children and the Indianapolis Society of Defense Financial Management Scholarship. Katie will attend Purdue University this fall to study data science and shared her appreciation for the programs and supporters who help make opportunities like higher education more accessible for military-connected youth.





LEADING WITH COURAGE

Hannah was one of 26 winners selected nationwide in the 6th Annual Courageous Kids Contest hosted by Our Military Kids, recognizing the resilience and leadership of military-connected youth.

During her father's deployment to the Middle East, Hannah balanced additional responsibilities at home while continuing to excel academically, volunteer in her community, and support her family through personal loss. She also serves on the Nevada National Guard Teen Council and represented military youth during the Region 9 Guard Teen Panel Symposium in Guam.

Reflecting on her experiences, Hannah shared, "Being a military kid is more than just having a parent in the military, it's having a whole community of other people who understand what you are going through."



CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATING GUARD TEEN PANEL DELEGATES

As the Guard Teen Panel year comes to a close, we would like to recognize and celebrate our graduating delegates for their leadership, advocacy, and dedication to supporting Army National Guard youth across the nation.

Kamryn S. served as the Region 8 Delegate before being selected as one of the National Guard representatives to the Army's Director's Teen Panel (DTP). Lily J. also continued her leadership journey after serving as the Region 5 Delegate and now serves alongside Kamryn as a National Guard representative to the DTP.

We also want to recognize Lucy T., Region 4 Delegate, and Isaiah M., Region 1 Delegate, for their outstanding service and commitment to elevating the voices and experiences of Guard youth. Isaiah will continue his journey this fall by attending one of the nation's Service Academies.

These delegates represented Guard youth with professionalism, passion, and heart. We are incredibly appreciative of the time, energy, and leadership they shared with the program and wish each of them the very best in their future endeavors.

Interested in becoming part of the Guard Teen Panel? Check back in September for information on applying for upcoming open positions and opportunities to represent Guard youth at the national level.

<https://arngcys.com/teens-on-the-move>



SUMMER SAFETY STARTS WITH SMART HABITS

Summer is a time for adventure, outdoor play, vacations, camps, and making memories with family and friends. While children are enjoying the excitement of summer break, it is also important to keep safety in mind so everyone can have a fun and healthy season.

As temperatures rise, staying hydrated becomes especially important. Encourage children to drink water regularly throughout the day, especially during outdoor activities, sports, or long periods in the sun. Lightweight clothing, sunscreen, hats, and shaded breaks can also help prevent heat-related illnesses and sunburns. Remember to reapply sunscreen often, particularly after swimming or sweating.

Water safety is another important summer reminder. Whether spending time at a pool, lake, beach, or splash pad, children should always be supervised near water. Make sure youth understand basic water safety rules, wear properly fitted life jackets when appropriate, and know to ask permission before entering the water.

Summer also brings more time spent riding bikes, scooters, skateboards, and exploring outdoors. Helmets and protective gear can help prevent injuries and should always be worn during activities involving wheels or sports equipment. Families can also use summer as an opportunity to review safety basics like looking both ways before crossing the street, staying aware of surroundings, and checking in with trusted adults.

For older youth and teens spending more time online during the summer months, digital safety matters too. Encourage safe online habits, privacy awareness, and healthy screen time balance while still making time for outdoor play, hobbies, and connection with friends and family.

Most importantly, summer should be a season filled with fun, learning, and positive memories. By practicing a few simple safety habits, families can help ensure children enjoy a safe and successful summer break.

Summer Safety Resources for Families

- [Safe Kids Worldwide](#)
- [American Red Cross Water Safety for Kids](#)
- [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Bike Safety](#)



**National
Military Family
Association**

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

The National Military Family Association (NMFA) has been supporting military families for more than 50 years through advocacy, resources, and programs designed to strengthen military communities. From scholarships for military spouses to camps and leadership opportunities for military youth and teens, NMFA provides meaningful support for families navigating the unique challenges of military life. Their programs focus on financial well-being, connection, resilience, and creating opportunities for military children and teens to thrive.

Learn more about available resources and programs by visiting:

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

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

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