



# Alaska Annual Report



# The Alaska National Guard

## Guard

### Child & Youth Program Mission Statement

*"We support National Guard youth to become confident leaders for the future."*

\*developed by AKNG CYP Youth Council  
2012



## Goals

- **Connect** - Engage in consistent and effective communication with Child & Youth Program Coordinators, Airman & Family Readiness Program Managers, and other AKNGYC members via emails, teleconferences, webinars, and social media
- **Support** - Provide input about current youth issues and direction for meeting, marketing, curriculum, and events. Promote and assist with planning youth trainings and events.
- **Inspire** - Cultivate new ideas that motivate youth to participate within their communities and the Child & Youth Program

# Teen Council

The FY21 Alaska National Guard Youth Council helped to plan and implement 1 winter camp and 3 summer camps. Members of the council travelled to Oregon for the Region 10 Symposium, where they represented their state well and learned best practices from other state's councilmembers.

6 Youth  
Events  
& Trainings

10 Youth  
Council  
Meetings

4 Camps  
Planned

Over 550  
Youth  
Served!

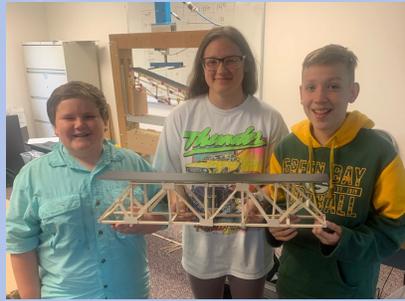
A new method for electing members was put in place, which moved elections from spring to summer. This move allowed more youth to become familiar with the council during our summer programs and run for the positions!



*Graduating members of FY21's Youth Council gathered for a Senior Sendoff, where each was recognized for what they brought to the program!*

# BEST PRACTICES

## PARTNERED DAY CAMPS



*Youth proudly display the structures they built during the UAA Summer Engineering Academies day camp.*

## RESILIENCY IN A BOX

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, many in-person events had to be put on hold. Our program had to explore new ways to deliver resources and programming to our youth and their families.

Resiliency in a Box was developed as contactless solution to this problem! Each month, families would receive a box of activities for them to do together that were geared toward developing resiliency skills. These boxes also had discussion sheets that helped families learn how to talk about resiliency with one another. Four different boxes, each focusing on a different aspect of resiliency, were sent out, ultimately leading to a comprehensive understanding of the skill.

This program proved successful, shown not only by its initial popularity among the families we serve but also by its growth when we had even more families sign up midway through FY21. Resiliency in a Box kept families and their youth connected to our program during a time when losing those connections seemed all too easy. We are excited to continue this practice and expand it into the more rural regions of our state!

In the past, the day camps we have organized have been planned entirely by the staff in our program. This year, we partnered with the local university's summer camp program to host one of their camps for our youth. The camp was well attended and the youth enjoyed it immensely. In short, it was a success!

And if we look beyond just how the camp was received, even more benefits can be found!

Working with other groups, like the UAA Summer Engineering Academies, means that youth are introduced to unique and new experiences our program couldn't organize on its own. It also means we can provide more programming for the youth! The partnered day camp we did this summer occurred between two of our biggest events for the summer. Instead of forgoing programming for that week to focus on other projects, we were able to provide an entire extra camp for our youth without being spread too thin!



Both of my boys have been a part of the Child & Youth Program for years. Now that my oldest has aged out of the program, Justus has really come into his own. He has enjoyed taking on new responsibilities, and he is flourishing knowing that others are counting on him. He is learning better communication skills and is excited to continue growing relationships with other Military Youth in our region.

**Kera Spaulding, Spouse**



# Partnerships

COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

The work we do would not be possible without the help of our communities. In FY21, we partnered with 21 different organizations on a total of 44 different events. Developing and maintaining these connections ensures that the Alaska National Guard Child & Youth Program can provide the best resources and opportunities to more and more youth across our state!



***A professor and his TA lead the youth in a demonstration about tension during the structural engineering day camp that the UAA Summer Engineering Academies put on this past summer! There were many hands on activities like this that were used to engage the students with fun ways of learning.***



## UAA Summer Engineering Academies

The local University's College of Engineering offers summer camps each year to introduce youth to many types of engineering in an engaging and educational manner. This past summer our program teamed up with them to put on their first in-person summer camp since the beginning of the pandemic!

Youth in our program learned the basics of structural engineering and put that knowledge to the test by building their own bridges during the camp!

This camp was a big hit with our youth, and the people with the UAA Summer Engineering Academies want to explore more ways for our programs to work together in the future!

## Delta Community Library

The Delta Community Library came to be an essential aspect of our virtual programming. They hosted and live-streamed story times each week that many youth were able to watch. They put on these virtual events once a week, giving both youth and parents something to look forward to! This was an especially important connection because the Delta Community Library provides their services to Alaska National Guard families in a more rural part of the state!

## USO Alaska



USO Alaska never shies away from an opportunity to support our program! Their members are always willing to go the extra mile for us, which in turn means our youth benefit all the more. Their support truly extends our capabilities in the Child & Youth Program beyond what we could do just on our own. They have been there for us in the past and they continue to be there with an unflinching "how can we help" attitude!

# MRT

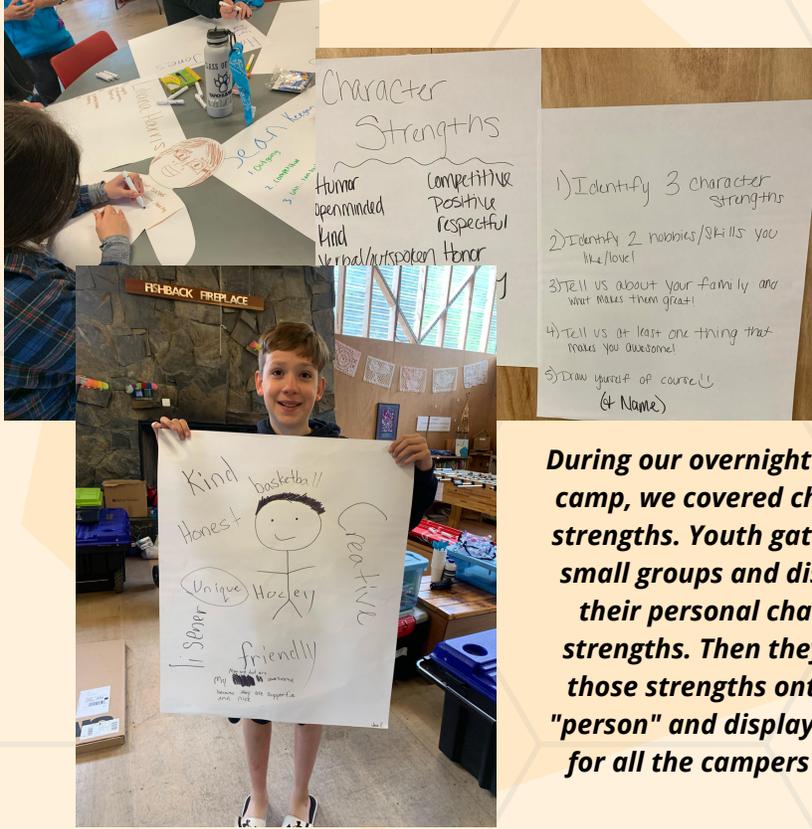
This year we were able to complete two MRT trainings. One was hosted at a community resiliency event in Fort Greely, and the other was completed during our Camp Counselor Training. In addition to this event, we implemented a "Resiliency in a Box" program that sent resiliency resources to families by mail each month. This allowed us to have an impact on a total 70 youth and 46 adults! Resiliency is also a topic that we cover through our different events and camps. This includes all of our residential and day camps, Strong Bonds, R10 Symposium, and each of our monthly Youth Council Meetings, bringing resiliency tactics to over 100 youth for FY21.

The Child & Youth Program has provided countless memories, experiences and opportunities for our daughters. The program has become a second family for them and we look forward to watching them grow with it.

**MAJ Collin Welch, 297th RSG, JBER**



SGTs Bullard and Bell pay a visit to our Camp Counselor Training to teach the youth key resiliency skills



**During our overnight summer camp, we covered character strengths. Youth gathered in small groups and discussed their personal character strengths. Then they wrote those strengths onto their "person" and displayed them for all the campers to see!**

# VOLUNTEERS

This year, AKNG CYP had the help of 229 youth and adult volunteers. This is a good amount considering many of our regular programs and events had to be replaced with virtual ones! Our volunteers gave over 2,000 hours of their time, helping our program thrive during a difficult year. Without them, and their passion and dedication to service, our program would not be successful. We always remind our support team that whether gratuitous or statutory, adult or teen, civilian or military, each and EVERY volunteer is anything but "JUST" a volunteer.



Our volunteers help make our events happen! whether it's family events or camps for the youth, they are committed to making a difference.

## BY THE NUMBERS

	ADULTS	6-12	13-18
ARNG	452	219	136
ANG	39	37	72
ARMY	49	17	14
AIR FORCE	20	1	20
OTHER	457	35	11
TOTAL	1017	309	253
YOUTH 0-5	249		

***Of the 503 people not identified initially as military --i.e "other"-- it is likely a good number are military affiliated in some way! All together, 1,828 people were positively impacted by the AKNG CYP!***



*Youth at our Camp Counselor Training learned important skills, like leadership and safety. This year's training taught them CPR and **MRT skills to set them up for success!***

*General Don and our SFPD Mrs. Thompson supported our Boots On Boots Off day camp for the end of the week "graduation from boot camp."*



***During our adventure day camp in June, the youth took the Alaska Railroad to Spencer Glacier. The staff working the train were so excited to host our group that they invited the youth back to meet the Conductor and Engineer!***

## FY21 AT A GLANCE

During FY21, we provided 329 hours of programming to youth and their families! Here's a look at some of the things we accomplished with that time:

16 Virtual Activities Livestreamed

10 Youth Council Meetings held

6 MRT Events & Activities offered

6 Youth Events & Trainings provided

6 Family Events hosted

4 Youth Camps put on

3 MOMC Events thrown

3 Yellow Ribbons supported

1 Regional Symposium attended

## Alaska National Guard CYP Coordinators

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### Web and Social Media

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/AKNG.YouthProgram/>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/akng.youthprogram/>