

# CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM

*ANNUAL REPORT FY21*





# MISSION

To promote and sustain the quality of life and resilience of Army National Guard Child and Youth by providing secure, timely, flexible, high quality, support services and enrichment programs.

"Our Youth, Our Lives, Our Future"

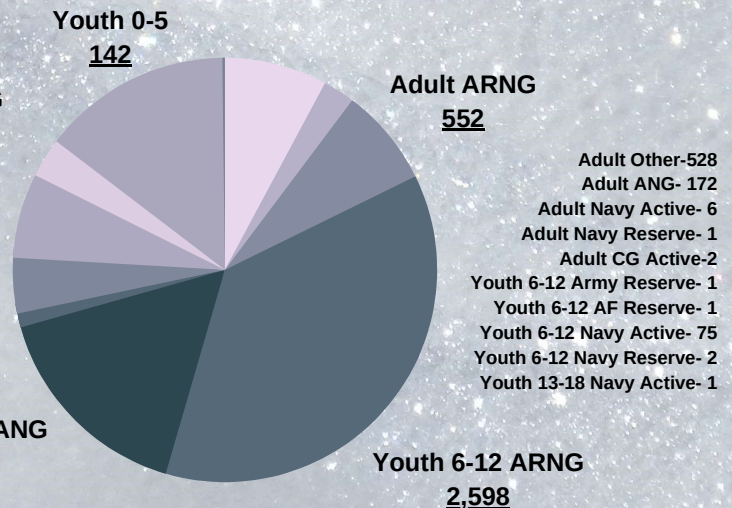


# VOLUNTEERS

The Connecticut Army National Guard Child & Youth Program had 18 gratuitous volunteers that assisted with 3 in-person events this year totaling 53 hours. Additionally, the LCYPC has trained 2 statutory volunteers in FY21. Having these volunteers afforded the Child and Youth Program the ability to host more events for our Families which in turn afforded us an opportunity to provide important resources and make meaningful connections



Youth 13-18 ANG 212  
 Youth 13-18 ARNG 455  
 Youth 6-12 Other 300  
 Youth 6-12 ANG 1,139



# GOALS

- Infuse resilience standards into all programming.
- Provide life-skills education to children and youth of the Army National Guard.
- Provide equal access to federal and state benefits that support children and families such as counseling, education, childcare and other resources.
- Create opportunities for participation in programs and activities.
- Create an opportunity to network.
- Build and sustain contact with military and civilian networks.

## MASTER RESILIENCY TEEN TRAINING

- 31 youth trained in FY21
- 2 skills trained- Hunt the Good Stuff and Goal Setting
- MRT trained at residential camp at the Channel 3 Kids Camp

## ATTENDEES THOUGHTS ON MRT

"I like goal setting. I'm going into high school and this will help me a lot" - AAR Comments

"Hunt the good stuff was fun to learn, I like looking at the bright side of things!" -AAR Comments



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Channel 3 Kids Camp has always been a great partner for us in Connecticut. However, this year they went above and beyond. Not only did we work together for the first residential camp, they also applied for a grant that afforded over 120 National Guard kids the opportunity to attend day camp over a 7 week period!



Southington Community Services is another organization that we have worked with in the past. They wanted to continue to support our community events during COVID times. They offered to host our Month of the Military Child's Celebration and Drive in Movie Event!

Empower Leadership & Adventure Center has been an amazing partner in FY21. They hosted our virtual Teen Leadership Training and played a major part in our new Battle Buddies on the Homefront Deployment Series. They helped our military youth with communication and leadership while their loved one was deployed!



In FY21 the American Red Cross along with the Rhode Island National Guard Child & Youth Program hosted two virtual preparedness programs for both younger and older military kids around Connecticut and Rhode Island. Their resources continue to help our young ones be prepared for anything!



## CTARNG CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM 2021 AT-A-GLANCE

### Virtual Programs and Initiatives

- 20- Virtual Activity Packets
- 14- Collaboration calls with Region 1
- 1- Virtual Teen Life Skills Activity Packet
- 1- Virtual Veteran's Day Presentation and School Outreach
- 1- Month of the Military Family Virtual Game Night
- 2- Virtual Youth Council Meeting
- 3- Child & Youth Program Volunteer Trainings
- 1- Reunion and Reintegration Virtual Event
- 3- Military Superintendent Liaison Committee Meetings
- 2- Virtual Day Camps with camp supplies mailed
- 1- Extra Large Virtual Museum Activity Packet with supplies mailed
- 2- Virtual Red Cross Disaster Preparedness Trainings with Rhode Island
- 1- Virtual Teen Leadership Training with Empower Leadership
- 3- Unit Briefings
- 1- Month of the Military Child Event- National Rhythm of Resilience Dance Party
- 3- Battle Buddies Deployment Series

### In-Person Programs and Initiatives

- 1- Fall Resource event and Drive-in Movie
- 1- Month of the Military Child Celebration and Drive-in Movie
- 1- Month of the Military Child Drive-Thru resource and holiday give away event
- 1- Month of the Military Child Certificate of Appreciation Ceremony
- 1- Unit Briefing
- 1- Battle Buddies on the Homefront in Person Teambuilding Event
- 1- Community Briefing with Channel 3 Kids Camp Staff
- 1- Briefing at Joining Community Forces Committee Meeting
- 1- Residential Camp with Channel 3 Kids Camp
- 7 weeks of Day camp in partnership with Channel 3 Kids Camp and State of Connecticut Summer Enrichment Grant
- 1- Back to School Resource Fair
- 2- Youth Council Meeting
- 2- Yellow Ribbon Events



# BATTLE BUDDIES ON THE HOMEFRONT



Battle Buddies on the Homefront is a new initiative in partnership with the Airman and Family Readiness Program manager and Empower Leadership. The program consisted of two in-person events along with 3 virtual events with 48 youth participants. The purpose of the program is to help the military child and stay behind parent work on their communication, teambuilding and resiliency skills while their soldier is deployed in hopes of helping create a smooth transition.

## RESIDENTIAL CAMP



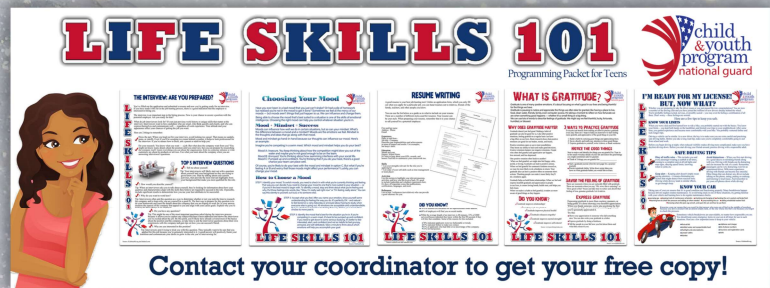
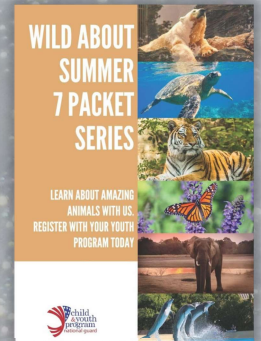
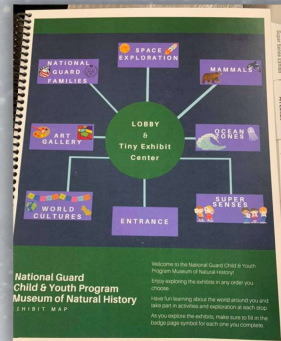
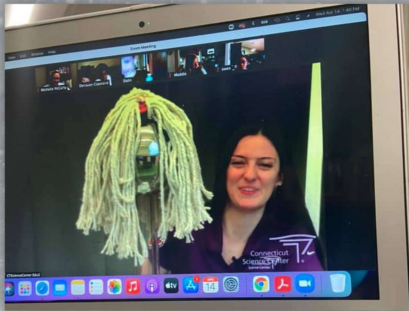
This year was our first year hosting a residential camp for our National Guard kids. In partnership with the Channel 3 Kids Camp, we were able to host 60 kids for a week-long camp. During camp, kids were able to experience traditional camp activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, archery, rock climbing and more. The military brought in vehicles for the kids, did a flag demonstration and our Adjutant General came out to talk to the kids and thank them for their service.





# COVID-19 PROGRAMMING RESPONSE

With the ongoing pandemic we continued to offer programs that could be done in a safe way. Which included virtual camps during holiday and spring break. Virtual activity packets also continued to be emailed out to our subscribers regularly. In addition "extra large" activity packets were sent out with supplies. Youth who participated in these virtual packets were mailed out a kit that included items for several events that would support their learning experience. Virtual programs have been beneficial not only because of the pandemic but it also offered the ability to provide programming to CTARNG youth who would otherwise may not be able to participate in traditional programming due to distance or other obligations.



*The director of the program has put together such quality programs even the virtual programs my children participated in they couldn't stop talking about what they learned and how much fun it was. Also, mailing the supplies to our home was so helpful and really added to the experience.*

- Soldier Parent Satisfaction Survey Response

## CT NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH COUNCIL (CYC)



During the height of the pandemic most of the youth council members graduated High School leaving one member. It was challenging at the beginning of the year to recruit members while only doing virtual meetings and programs. In February youth participated in a virtual leadership training which sparked interest in some new members, but it wasn't until our lone member went to residential camp and was able to build connections to talk about the program to other teens that we were able to get more interested youth. This lead to a meet and greet CYC meeting in August where we had 10 youth join us to learn more about the council and how to get involved. The new youth who joined have already hit the ground running and began planning for the first Youth Leadership Forum along with working on a plan for their 2022 Service Learning Project!



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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*"My children have a close bond with other children due to the day camp program"*

- Soldier Parent Satisfaction Survey Response



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