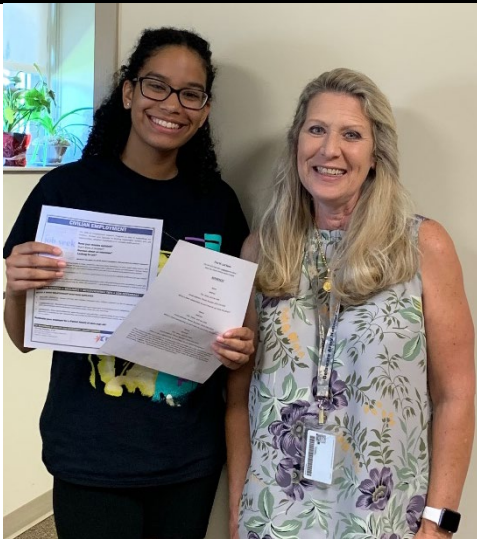


DELAWARE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM



ANNUAL REPORT FY21



"I love attending CYP events! I'm able to connect with peers, experience new things and have fun. Deployment can affect everyone differently but having a support group of teens who have also experienced what I was experiencing is helpful. The CYP feels like a second family." – Ashley, ARNG daughter of MSG Gott

(Photographs provided have written permission and/or signed photo releases on file with the DE LCYPC)

CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAM

MISSION STATEMENT

Building resilience, self-reliance and satisfaction with military life through prevention, education and training.

PROGRAM GOALS

- Create community collaboration networks where service members, family members and their children feel supported and validated by delivering quality recreational, social and educational programs in their communities.
- Create environments where Army National Guard children and youth gain understanding of their parents' service and deepen their respect for their parents' service commitment.
- Collaborate and educate school systems within Delaware to ensure that teachers and staff are equipped with resources for the unique needs of their military students.
- Educate the public on the impact of deployment cycles on service members' families, children and the community.
- Engage in ongoing deployment support programs for children and youth providing for them the age-specific resources they need to thrive.
- Provide education and skill building opportunities to enhance and strengthen our Guard children in resiliency and leadership.

Adult and Youth Participation:

These numbers reflect participants in FY21 Youth Programs, Yellow Ribbon programs and other deployment related events. Up to 10% of the reported totals include duplicate participants.

FY21 CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAM TOTALS REPORTED:

Adult Participants:				Volunteer Information:	
1317	Army NG	837	Other	42	Total Number of Volunteers
20	Air NG	2083		130	Total Number Volunteer Hours
Youth Ages 6-12:				Programming Hours:	
842	Army NG		Other		
	Air NG	784			
Youth Ages 13-18:					173
530	Army NG		Other	Youth Ages 0-5:	
62	Air NG	569			114

FY21 Child and Youth Program Annual Highlights

- **42 volunteers** and **130 volunteer hours** – DNG Senior Leadership, USO Delaware, Operation Homefront, Paws for People, DNG Youth Foundation, Guard Members and independent volunteers were crucial in supporting logistics, supporting the execution of events and trainings, event preparation and execution, providing crafts, teen challenges to aid in Youth and Teen programming.



- **9 Yellow Ribbon and Command/Unit Briefings** – Deploying, Re-Deploying and M-Day Units received briefings and information pertaining to the monthly CYS programs and trainings, Tutor.com, Teen MRT Program, Drill Weekend Childcare, Child Care Fee Assistance program and more.
- **1 Back to School Bash** – Featuring the USO Delaware, Operation Homefront, local Dollar Tree stores and Paws for People. The drive through event provides backpacks and essential school supplies to families in need. The bash also provides community resources and programs to families. This year due to Covid-19 the event was a Drive-Thru format.
- **11 State Teen Council Meetings and trainings** - addressing upcoming programs, preparation for events, trainings and developing the leadership and team-oriented ability of selected teens from around the state.
- **12 Weekend Heroes**– DNG youth attend a monthly high quality, low cost drill weekend child care program centrally located to JFHQ and several other DNG Units. Youth engage in quality programming, healthy lifestyle meals and active engaging lessons with a strong emphasis on military and service.
- **4 Teen Resume and Interview Webinars** – In partnership with ESGR and Military One Source, teens attended a one on one immersive resume writing class as well as personalized instruction on completing professional resumes. The teens learned current incentives for employment in their areas.
- **1 Virtual Regional Symposium** –CYS Region 3, 22 youth attended the virtual MRT training, leadership and team building Symposium. Teens shared their experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic
- **2 Wreaths Across America Service Projects** – The State Teen council aided the 2020/2021 Wreaths Across America program servicing the Bear Veterans Cemetery in Delaware. Teen Council Members placed and cleaned up an estimated 3,000 wreaths on deceased service member gravesites.
- **125 Youth Attended MRT and Teen Council Meetings** – Virtual and In-Person Meetings and Trainings made the MRT and Teen Council program much more accessible to youth. Teens were able to “zoom in” to attend meetings around their busy school schedules and activities.

Teen Council & MRT Program

The Delaware National Guard Teen Council and Leadership Program's purpose is to empower, motivate and inspire teens to be leaders in the Guard Family and within their own communities. We are dedicated to providing enriching activities and opportunities for teens aged 13-17. We accomplish our goal through the integration of leadership training, character building and adventure activities. Our vision is to create a Guard community where the climate contributes to the transformation of teens into adults of good character and strong moral values.

In FY21 the council comprised of 8 dedicated youth met eleven times.



The meetings center on leadership, service, training, team building, and the Teen MRT program. Teens met virtually and in person to conduct Teen Council meetings and MRT trainings due to Covid-19. Completing MRT modules was a priority as teaching and training youth on the positive mindset of the MRT program helps cope with school and challenges related to Covid-19. Parents and Youth praise the MRT skills covered as they help Teens fight negativity bias and look for the "good stuff" in challenges. MRT teaches participants about resilience through six core competencies: Self-awareness, Self-regulation, Optimism, Mental Agility, Strengths of Character, and Connection.



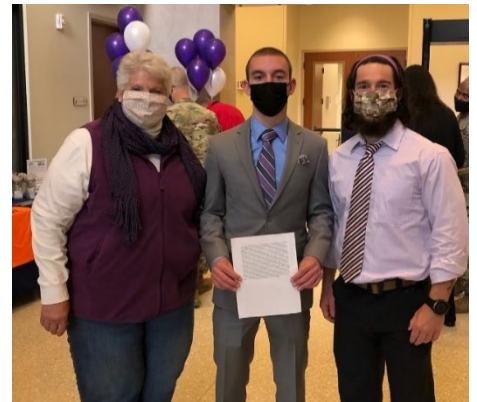
New Initiatives & Best Practices

Small Groups and Individual Programming

With the continued COVID-19 pandemic, FY21 permitted us to begin in-person programming while maintaining CDC guidance on group sizing and social distancing. In-person programming was completed safely in well ventilated areas and whenever possible, outdoors. During June "Get Hired" initiative, we piloted a successful One on One approach to the resume and job skills workshop. This year also marked our first "General for a Day." Six teens met with the TAG and Generals from the Air and Army Guard to discuss issues facing National Guard youth as well as receiving a State of the Guard briefing from Maj. General Berry. Teens were given a tour of JFHQ Drill operations, the Vaccine/Medical clinic and the Operations center.

Month of the Military Child and Teen Council Recognition

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the annual Legislative Hall Event to honor the Month of the Military Child was once again completed virtually. The DNG Leadership, DNG Youth Foundation and Youth Program recognized military youth at Joint Force Head Quarters. Joseph Huber, a dedicated Teen Council Member and High School Senior, was awarded the Major General Carrol Timmons Memorial Scholarship at the event. The DNG Youth Foundation MG Carrol Timmons Memorial Scholarship is awarded to one Senior each year based on an essay written about being a leader and effective leadership.



NATIONAL & STATE PARTNERS

BUILDING MORE OPPORTUNITIES, PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES FOR DELAWARE GUARD YOUTH



Operation Homefront has partnered with Dollar Tree stores to coordinate a collection of school supplies during the summer. Delaware National Guard Youth benefited from this program during school year. In 2021, the Back2School drive delivered over 300 backpacks and much needed school supplies to military families in need.



The partnership with Delaware 4H promotes connecting children and families to the outdoors, agriculture and Stem Programming. During Covid-19, our partnership helped provide a variety of programming to youth that included STEM, cooking, crafts, math and science. The partnership works to increase opportunities for children to participate in outdoor experiences, promote healthy lifestyles and encourage environmental literacy.



The USO strengthens America's military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country, throughout their service to the nation. The USO Delaware provides no cost services to Service members and Families. This year in Delaware the USO has partnered with the Youth Program to provide volunteer support, event support, supplies and food to Youth Program events and activities.



The Delaware National Guard Youth Foundation has partnered with the Child and Youth Program to provide volunteers and monetary support of events and activities. The keystone event is typically the annual weeklong summer camp, Camp Cowell. This year the camp was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. The DNGYF provided monetary support for day camps and teen council meetings providing supplies for youth.



PAWS for People™ (Pet-Assisted Visitation Volunteer Services, or PAWS) is a nonprofit organization committed to providing therapeutic visits to any person in the community who would benefit from interaction with a well-trained, loving pet. PAWS attends youth events with service animals promoting comfort, communication and therapy to youth and families.



Delaware Department of Education, through the Head Start Collaboration Office, has contracted with a high quality learning center to provide Drill Weekend Care and Youth Programs. The project is in its seventh year. The response from DNG Families is very positive because of the high need for quality care on drill weekends. This partnership provides 35 children and youth with quality care and youth programs while their parent is serving during drill weekend.

“Youth Events are fun and interactive, we are always doing something new. When I was new and didn’t know anyone, we did icebreakers and games that made me open up and feel comfortable. Being in the Teen Council helped me with leadership skills, working in a group and built confidence in my leadership abilities. The discussions we have at Teen Council meetings didn’t always apply at the time but they have all had an impact on my life.” – Joe Huber, Son of CSM Jerry Huber ARNG

CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT FY21



WAYS TO CONNECT:

PHONE, TEXT, EMAIL, WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA!

PATRICK.M.DEVLIN.CTR@MAIL.MIL

“FOLLOW” US ON INSTAGRAM

SEARCH: [DECHILDANDYOUTHPROGRAM](#)

DELAWARE NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH PROGRAM
WEBSITE:

GO TO: DELAWARENATIONALGUARD.COM/FAMILY/

PATRICK DEVLIN – LEAD CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR
DELAWARE NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY PROGRAMS

Stern Armory
New Castle, Delaware 19720

OFFICE: (302) 326-7518

CELL: (302)-943-0752

