

# District of Columbia Army National Guard Child & Youth Program

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Top Photo: General Daniel Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau  
Bottom Photos: Chloe Cravens (left), Month of the Military Child;  
Angelina Nketia-Akonnor (right), CPR Training



# MISSION

*To promote and sustain the quality of life and resilience of our military youth by providing secure, timely, flexible, support services and enrichment programs.*

# GOALS

**Education:** Help provide life-skills education to the children and youth of the ARNG, their caregivers and community supporters.

**Access:** Help provide equal access to federal and state benefits that support children and families, counseling, education, child care and other resources needed to foster a healthy, stable and secure environment.

**Opportunity:** Create opportunities for participation in programs, events, and activities available across the spectrum of government, community and the private sector.

**Communication:** Build a sense of belonging to the NG community by creating secure opportunities to network with other youth, parents and youth program facilitators in the community, state, and across the nation.

**Resilience:** Infuse resilience standards into all NG children and youth programs.

**Outreach:** Build and sustain contact with parents and children of the NG in order to create awareness of available support services and programs.

# 2021 PARTICIPATION

	ADULT PARTICIPANTS	YOUTH AGES 6-12	YOUTH AGES 13-18
NG Army	2320	235	381
NG Air	387	63	72
Totals	2707	298	453

VOLUNTEERS AND HOURS	# of Volunteers	# of Hours
Number of Volunteers	32	428.0

## DCARNG CHILD AND YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

District of Columbia National Guard volunteers are a group of high energy, self-motivated leaders that provide constant unwavering support to our Child and Youth program throughout the year. Our volunteers lead and provide assistance during all of our activities, whether it's Annual Youth Symposium, Red Cross CPR Training, or day camps. During this pandemic, this year has been extremely challenging, as activities and events have endured low participation numbers and access to many resources. Yet our volunteer pool strives to ensure that we carry on a successful program to the best of our abilities. Many heartfelt thanks to all of our program supporters, and we encourage each and everyone of you to stay strong, stay healthy, and be safe as we look forward to better days ahead.

# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- Annual Youth Symposium
- Region3 Youth Symposium
- Summer Youth Day Camp
- 59th Presidential Inauguration
- 250 Backpacks with school supplies
- 1 Sustainment and 1 Post YRRP Events
- Red Cross CPR Training

## NEW INITIATIVES

This year's new initiatives were quite different and took on a new look because of Covid-19. However, our junior reporters had a very unique opportunity to interview and meet with high-ranking officials in person. During this year's inauguration, we saw a very different protocol because of the insurrection on January 6, 2021 where the District of Columbia National Guard hosted over 25,000 guardsmen from across the nation



as they protected the Capitol. Our junior reporters had the opportunity to interview three distinguished members of the military. First, they had the opportunity to interview General Daniel Hokanson. General Hokanson is the Chief of the National Guard Bureau. The youth were able to ask him hard-hitting and clarifying questions about the current climate around the Capitol and Covid-19 response information. They also had the chance to interview Christopher C. Miller, Former Acting Secretary of Defense where they were also able to ask some very poignant questions. In addition,



they were privileged to have had the chance to meet General Charles Q. Brown who is the Chief of Staff for the Air Force and CMSgt Tony L. Whitehead, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau. The youth were able to sit, listen and ask questions that were curious and puzzling to them.

Above Photos: (left) CMSgt Tony L. Whitehead, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau; and (right) General Charles Q. Brown, Chief of the Staff of the Air Force

## TEEN COUNCIL

The District of Columbia National Guard Teen Council had to be creative in their thinking this year to keep youth actively involved and upbeat because of the pandemic. The ten member council got together to come up with unique innovative ideas such as phone trees that allowed everyone to stay in touch. Their innovation led to virtual meetings and activities such as cooking classes. The youth also worked on the theme and program for their Youth Symposium (YS) this year. The Council reached a consensus for the theme, naming it "Life after the Pandemic". This was motivation to support the youth and their resiliency as we began to re-enter society



## RESILIENCY TRAINING

During the 2021 year the youth tackled a variety of training exercises designed to promote resiliency. The youth participated in the ATC (Activating, Events, Thoughts and Consequences). Where they had the opportunity to actively review how things work together to form an outcome. Furthermore, they completed the "Hunt the Good Stuff" training. In those sessions they were able to focus more on how they viewed things and actively looked at the effect of how their perceptions fueled their thoughts. The youth were excited to analyze their own thoughts and views and begin to put it into practice to grow and develop from circumstances they may face. Seventeen youth participated in the 2-hr training modules for "Hunt The Good Stuff" and "ATC: Activating Event, Thought, Consequence."





DC National Guard youth attend MRT training



DC National Guard youth explore the Army Museum at Fort Belvoir, VA.



DC National Guard youth participates in STEM activities with community partner, the Boys and Girls Club



Former chief of the National Guard Bureau (Ret) LTG Roger Shultz greets our youth during their summer camp visit to the new Army Museum at Fort Belvoir.



DC National Guard youth participates in STEM activities during summer camp.



Ellie Madsen, daughter of LTC William Madsen, enjoys activities at the annual Youth Symposium.



During the annual Award and Decoration Ceremony, Alanna Hart, received the Youth of the Year Award for her commitment to academic success, good character, community service, and strong leadership. Alanna is the daughter of LTC Kevin Hart and a member of the Teen Council.

## ***DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH PROGRAM PARTNERS***

*The District of Columbia National Guard Child and Youth Program is proud to have the support of many partners. Our partners have supported the youth of the District of Columbia National Guard in supporting our mission and our goals.*



*Operation Homefront (OHF) provides emergency assistance for service members and their families. Each year, they donate 250 backpacks filled with school supplies. Plus their local partner, Dollar Tree, Inc., often supplements their efforts by sponsoring school supply drives in the DMV, which are distributed to the local installations. Throughout the Fall/Winter holidays, the OHF program also provides Thanksgiving Baskets as well as toys and clothing during the seasons for our DCNG military families and youth.*

*Our Military Kids provides substantial support in the form of grants to the children of National Guard and Military Reserve personnel who are currently deployed overseas, as well as the children of Wounded Warriors in all branches. The grants from Our Military Kids pay for participation in sports, fine arts, camps, and tutoring programs that nurture and sustain children while a parent is away in service to our country or recovering from injury. They have awarded five scholarships to our youth and provided materials for our camp projects.*



*University of the District of Columbia Center for 4-H & Youth Development has provides a partnership with the DCNG Child and Youth Program in implementing 4-H activities to include STEM education, Healthy Living initiatives, and teambuilding fundamentals.*



*The Center for 4-H & Youth Development also provides support for the youth of military families before, during and after deployment for a portion of the year. They impact our youth by affording much needed creative outlets and furnishing organized arts and crafts along with technological enhancements.*

# TESTIMONIALS

**M**y experience at the MRT and Youth Symposium was greater than what my expectations anticipated. I met so many bright young people and worked with many clever peers. Meeting Mr. Keith Brown was life changing for me. He inspired us and made clear what was important. He put us to work, learning and being the best versions of ourselves. We were also introduced to Mr. Jordan Green, an awarded-winning speaker, motivate and educational consultant. I felt his life relate so much to ours and being able to see what he accomplished, who he was just years ago, is really motivating. The sessions were long, but beneficial in order to understand that “We Can, We Will, We Must, and We Got This”.

*Malaika Wande  
Youth Participant, daughter of SSG Jermaine D.  
Bowens, DC National Guard Army*

The District of Columbia National Guard Youth Program is phenomenal. I received the unique opportunity observed the positive changes since my two teenage sons started participating. The program reinforces my genuine belief that we must give to a community in order to make a difference, which is what the Family Readiness staff personifies and embodies. It's evident how such a small program can make such a tremendous impact in a young person's life.

*LTC Sekou O. Richardson  
Deputy Chief of Staff Logistics (G4)*



Sylvia Lynch, LCYPC, with cards the youth made for Valentine's Day and cupcakes during the pandemic support.



Sylvia Lynch, LCYPC, and former chief of the National Guard Bureau (Ret) LTG Roger Shultz

**Sylvia Lynch**  
Lead Child & Youth Program Coordinator  
Washington, DC  
202-685-8856 (Office), 202-309-6285 (Cell)  
sylvester.l.lynch.ctr@mail.mil