

# IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM



**FY**  
**21**  
ANNUAL REPORT

# MISSION & GOALS

To provide resources to military families and their communities while providing peer to peer experiences for the youth. We strive to educate the community in which these families live while advocating on their behalf.

- I. Build community capacity for youth through community networking in each region of the state.
- II. Provide military youth the opportunity to partake in leadership roles and training.
- III. Maintain regional youth councils to ensure the voices of military youth have an outlet.
- IV. Provide opportunities for military youth to connect, build resiliency and strengthen supportive resources.
- V. Pursue family resiliency and readiness through events, activities, training, resources and connection.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 Overnight Camp
  - 122 total participants
- 6 Month of the Military Child Events & Activities
  - 347 total participants
- 1 Regional Youth Symposium
  - 4 total Idaho participants
- 47 Teen Council Meetings or Trainings
  - 249 total participants
- 16 Community & Partner Meetings or Trainings
  - 354 total participants
- 3 Family Day or Military Appreciation Events
  - 403 total participants
- 55 Family Programs Meetings & IPRs
  - 615 total participants

"I am absolutely honored to have received this award. I have been a part of this program for 15 years and I have really treasured the time I've spent as an adult volunteer. I am so proud to be a part of this community and to see, first hand, the impact we have on Military Youth."

- Chloe Muthiora, Adult Volunteer

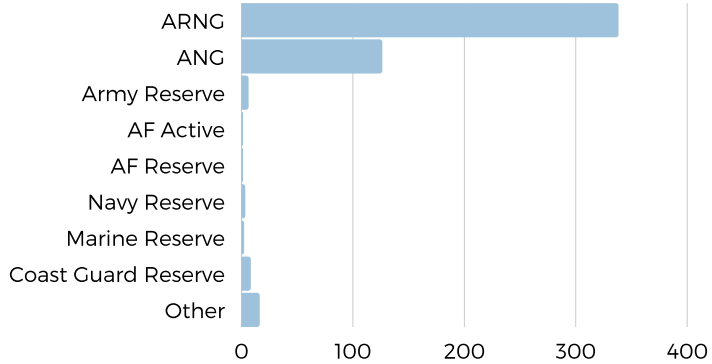


Former Child & Youth Program participant and long time volunteer, Chloe Muthiora, was awarded the 2020 National Guard Bureau Youth Development Volunteer Award at a Month of the Military Child event in April!

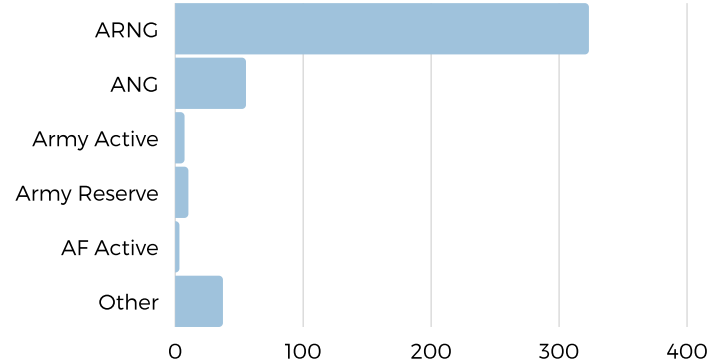
## 193 TOTAL PROGRAMMING HOURS

# PROGRAM IMPACT

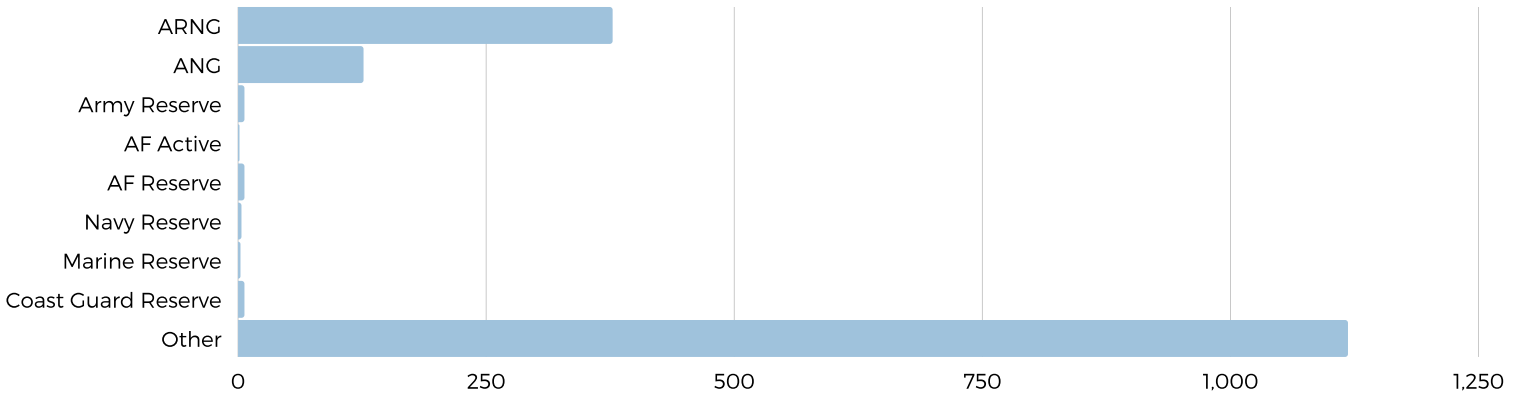
## YOUTH PARTICIPANTS AGES 6-12



## YOUTH PARTICIPANTS AGES 13-18



## ADULT PARTICIPANTS



**2,631** TOTAL PROGRAM & TRAINING PARTICIPANTS



## MRT INSTRUCTION

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: 140

HOURS PER PARTICIPANT: 3

## OUTREACH EFFORTS

INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED: 6,817

RESOURCE REFERRALS: 335

## VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS: 103

NUMBER OF TRAININGS: 3

EVENTS WORKED: 62

TOTAL HOURS: 496



# INITIATIVES & BEST PRACTICES

---

## MILITARY YOUTH: LIVE VIRTUAL LESSONS ON RESILIENCY & LIFE SKILLS

As we continue to navigate a world of virtual meetings and activities, we want to maintain initiatives that provide community and learning to youth that are typically provided during in-person youth group and leadership meetings. With the help of the Idaho Teen Panel, we designed and implemented a monthly, virtual event called Military Youth: Live event for military youth throughout Idaho to learn a practical skill and participate in a fun and engaging craft or project.

Each month had a themed activity and correlating Master Resiliency skill or life lesson that we could teach ourselves or collaborate with a community partner with expertise in the topic. 51 total participants were guided in how to manage stress, navigate personal finances, make healthy choices, express gratitude and write proper thank you cards, as well as Master Resiliency skills like Goal Setting and Real Time Resilience. Registered attendees would be mailed a package that included any forms or documents necessary for the lesson as well as all materials required for the chosen craft or project that correlated with the theme. Projects included paint by numbers kits (Stress Management), personalized felt wallets (Navigating Personal Finances), and flower pot decorating and growing kits (Real Time Resilience).

While in-person programming is not consistently an option, Military Youth: Live has been a fun and effective way to continue offering space for Idaho youth to connect with their friends, learn important skills and life lessons, and maintain interest and engagement in the Child and Youth Program, especially for those who live outside the Boise Metro Area. We plan to continue this initiative even when in-person gatherings resume, as a way to provide youth more opportunities to connect, learn and grow.

## AT HOME BASH & SUMMER SMASH VIRTUAL CAMP-IN-A-BOX & AN OVERNIGHT RESIDENTIAL CAMP

Many Idaho military youth rely on our two annual camps to stay connected with friends and role models from across the state. Due to the pandemic, it was not possible to conduct either Camp as we typically would, but we still felt it extremely important to provide the youth opportunities to experience some semblance of fun, excitement and community they love so much.

In January, we designed and executed an entirely new spin on our winter camp, Snow Bash, by hosting a virtual camp-in-a-box via Microsoft Teams. Prior to the start of #atHomeBash, the 35 registered participants and 3 adult volunteers were mailed kits that included everything they needed to participate in each activity. Throughout the long weekend, campers were guided in a series of sessions that correlated with our theme of Outer Space: Into the Great Unknown. Sessions included lessons on 3 Master Resilience skills - Character Strengths, Effective Praise and Active Constructive Responding, two STEM based projects, an arts and crafts project, and one focused on maintaining military youth connection and collaboration. We wanted to incorporate as much of a typical Snow Bash as possible, so included teen counselors and adult chaperones, who helped lead activities and engage campers, as well as team based competitions and dance parties.

In late spring, State COVID protocols allowed for in-person gatherings to resume for small groups. To accommodate as many of the 150 participants who typically attend Summer Smash, we planned two, four day summer camp sessions in June at a beautiful location in Challis, ID. Although the camps were smaller than normal, campers were provided similar opportunities they're used to and were able to get to know other youth who face similar life experiences and challenges. Between both sessions, 79 campers, 17 teen counselors, and 17 adult volunteer chaperones participated in typical camp activities like arts and crafts, archery and camp fires, in addition to 3 Master Resilience lessons on Goal Setting, Active Constructive Responding, and Assertive Communication, that each incorporated Hunt the Good Stuff. We were also thrilled to partner with 4H Extension who provided programming and activities at each camp. Though not quite a typical experience, we were thrilled to share the magic of camp with the military youth of Idaho.

# TEEN PANEL HIGHLIGHTS



**TOTAL HOURS SERVED: 345**

**TOTAL EVENTS SUPPORTED: 17**

"The Child & Youth Program is such an amazing program to be a part of, and it has truly helped me grow into a better person. This program helps military youth connect with other military youth around Idaho, and I have met many lifelong friends who now feel like family. I have been in the program for as long as I can remember and it truly has helped me through many obstacles, like when my dad was deployed. I'm so glad I get to be a part of it!"

- Elizabeth Danielson, Idaho National Guard Teen Panel Member

The IDNG Teen panel held 18 meetings this year to help plan and support Child & Youth Program events and activities, and were major contributors to the success of both camps. During the virtual #atHomeBash, they led the campers through two different STEM-based sessions where they taught the material and encouraged campers to participate and share their ideas. At Summer Camp, the teen panel led their teams during relay challenges, leadership & Master Resilience trainings and numerous camp other activities. We are so proud of all the teen panel members for dedicating their time and efforts to ensuring the success of camp and the Child & Youth Program.

## PROGRAMMING & EVENTS

With most programs and events, either cancelled or vastly different than usual, Idaho National Guard Teen Panel members were eager and committed to helping provide healthy, educational fun activities and leadership opportunities to military youth in Idaho. The Teen Panel was essential to the successes of events like Trunk or Treat and the Easter Egg Hunt, the new virtual initiative, Military Youth: Live, several Month of the Military Child activities and both camps. Whether individually or as a group, members assisted with event registration and promotion, came up with new and innovative ideas for both virtual and in-person activities and projects, and, as Teen Counselors at both camps, helped lead sessions and provide mentorship to their fellow military youth.

## TEEN LEADERSHIP FORUM

In March, we hosted a two day Leadership Forum for a small group of members who were active and engaged in Teen Panel meetings and events throughout the year. Our focus was to discuss how the Teen Panel can help provide leadership and connection opportunities to other military youth that can in turn grow and improve the Child and Youth Program. Attendees completed the Master Resiliency lesson on Goal Setting and, using what they learned, brainstormed several ideas of goals they would like to accomplish as a Teen Panel. Collectively, they chose to set a goal of meeting with key National Guard leadership in each region to share about the benefits of the Program and help build participation and engagement in the area. The Teen Panel is now working together to formulate a presentation and connect with Service Member & Family Support staff to identify Unit briefings and FRG meetings where they can share their presentation.

## TEEN RETREAT

In September, Idaho teens who were actively engaged as leaders at meetings and events were invited to attend the annual Teen Leadership Retreat to discuss the structure and progression of the Idaho National Guard Teen Panel. With opportunities to meet and conduct events in-person becoming more frequent, the Teens voiced a desire to re-establish official roles and responsibilities within the Teen Panel. With our support, attendees reviewed and updated the official By-Laws to define the purpose and goals of the Teen Panel, establish eligibility and commitment requirements, and determine specific leadership roles and responsibilities, along with the application and election process. The teens made great strides in establishing the groundwork for a successful Teen Panel and were extremely motivated to initiate their decisions in the coming year.

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

---

We greatly appreciate our community partners for their consistent support through resources, knowledge and experience to help military youth throughout Idaho strengthen their resiliency and become healthy, happy and productive individuals. Throughout the year, Community Partners provided generous donations, hosted virtual trainings and webinars, and organizational support to help us fulfill our mission and achieve our goals. Although the year brought many challenges, our partners have lead by example and shown their own resiliency to adapt and continue to support our 'Young Heroes'.

- Boise State University
- Boise Veteran's Home
- Boys & Girls Club of America
- Blue Star Moms
- Caldwell Veteran's Memorial Hall
- Family, Career & Community Leaders of America
- Grand Canyon University
- Idaho Horsemen
- Idaho Office of the Governor
- Meridian Police Department
- Military OneSource
- Team Rubicon
- The Go Team Therapy, Crisis & Airport Dogs
- University of Idaho 4-H Youth Development
- Young Marines
- Youth Pathfinder Academy

## BOISE ELKS LODGE

The Boise Elks Lodge has been a community partner for many years. Their constant support has helped us accomplish many of our goals and objectives through event support and organizational resources. The Boise Elks have generously donated snacks and beverages for campers at each of our Summer and Winter camps, as well as various school items and supplies to the annual Back to School Supplies Drive. They also supported the Boise Youth Group by allowing use of their facility to host our monthly meetings. Numerous Boise Elks members have even participated in and supported events like our annual Trunk or Treat and Easter Egg Hunt. We are so grateful to have them as as friends and supporters and thank them for your generosity in providing healthy and safe resources to the IDNG military youth and their families.



MORE THAN A PROGRAM,  
**IT'S A PROMISE.**

## CONNECT WITH US

---

**NICK WAGNER** | Lead Child and Youth Program Coordinator  
(208) 272 - 8397 | [nicholas.a.wagner10.ctr@army.mil](mailto:nicholas.a.wagner10.ctr@army.mil)

**KELSIE HOPFENSBERGER** | Child and Youth Program Coordinator  
(208) 272 - 4387 | [kelsie.r.hopfensperger.ctr@army.mil](mailto:kelsie.r.hopfensperger.ctr@army.mil)

**GOWEN FIELD**

4250 Cessna St, Bldg 270  
Boise, ID 83705

 @idng cypc

 @idngcyp

