

IOWA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM

FY21

# ANNUAL REPORT



# MISSION

We advocate and support military youth throughout Iowa by coordinating program events, teaching life skills, and promoting resources.

## GOALS

- Develop a sustainable impact through local partnerships
- Include aspects of positive youth development/training into all programming.
- Provide access to resources that support National Guard families way of living.

13-17

ARNG **211**  
ANG **12**

6-12

ARNG **697**  
ANG **45**

Adults

ARNG **2505**  
ANG **78**  
Other **75**

**3,427**  
TOTAL SERVED

## EVENTS HELD

State Teen Panel **4**

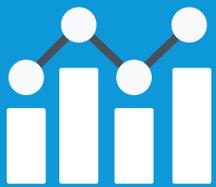
Yellow Ribbon **18**

Family Day **5**

Summer Camp **7**

**EACH  
NUMBER  
IS A  
STORY**





# STATS CONTINUED

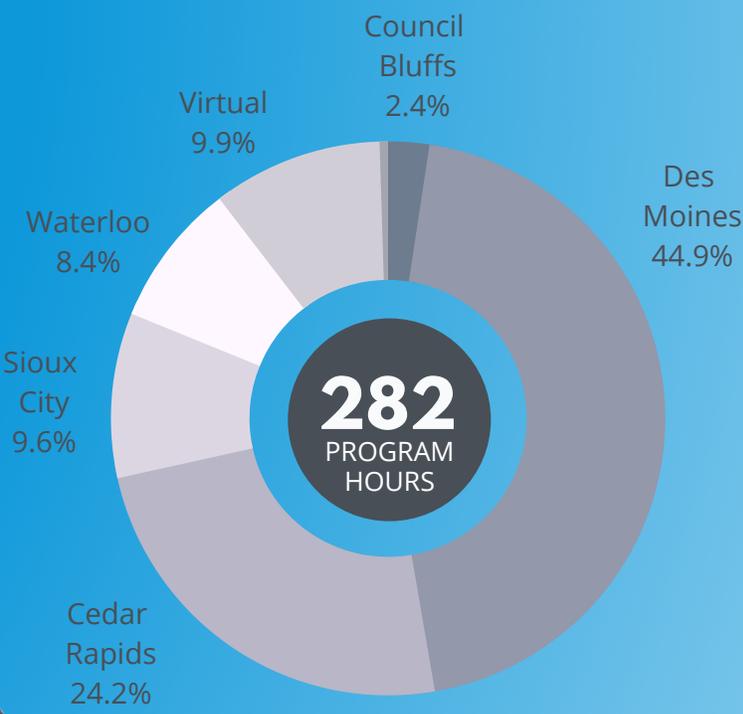
**136**  
NEW FACEBOOK  
FOLLOWERS

## RESILIENCY TRAININGS

Every year the Iowa CYP works to contextualize the MRT curriculum to make it more applicable in the lives of teens.

### SKILLS TRAINED

- HUNT THE GOOD STUFF
- IDENTIFY CHARACTER STRENGTHS
- PROBLEM SOLVING



## REGIONAL OUTREACH

*"This staff were able to put a light back into my daughters eyes, as well as some self-confidence after a very trying year of mental health issues and suicide attempts. I have not seen my daughter smile as big as she did at the end of the week when we picked her up.*

-Maggie Passer, Parent 2021

**50**  
YOUTH MRT  
TRAINED

# VOLUNTEER **IMPACT**

**7** VOLUNTEER TRAININGS

**262** VOLUNTEERS

**2671** TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

## TASKS PERFORMED

YELLOW RIBBON SUPPORT

CAMP-IN-A-BOX DISTRIBUTION

ASSEMBLE RESILIENCY KITS

## STATE TEEN PANEL

In February 2021, the State Teen Panel (STP) came together to practice leadership by planning an event during their first summit of the year. This was a valuable experience for both the teen delegates and the 94 youth participants across the state of Iowa.

During the event, each STP member was able to lead a breakout room on how to make a friendship bracelet. The teen delegates used this moment to teach problem solving, determination, and the value of connection. It also allowed the youth in Iowa to witness the STP work as a team and be role models.

This event was so successful that the STP continues to participate in this capacity within the rest of the Iowa CYP. We look forward to seeing the continual impact this provides in the near future.



**25**  
HOURS

**8**  
EVENTS

**4**  
MEETINGS

*"The week my daughter spent with the CYP was transformative for her in so many ways, and I can't even begin to thank them enough for the beginning of the beautiful journey that they have encouraged her to find and walk along."*

*-Maggie Passer, Parent 2021*

# OUR PARTNERSHIPS



Iowa Select Farms, an organization eager to support military families in Iowa, they donated the take home activities and meals.



Christopher's Rare Coins provided programming during the time when in person events weren't possible. Coins for 100 kits to be distributed to Iowa Army National Guard Youth.



Amanda the Panda provided amazing resources during our annual Iowa Remembers Retreat for military youth who have lost a loved one.



The Iowa National Guard Officers Auxiliary offered scholarships for our youth as well as supported the Iowa CYP with various donations for youth programming.



Support Siouxland Soldiers provided programming with a similar mission for military families and collaborated with the Iowa CYP and Iowa STP in their efforts to make these events possible.



Efforts have begun to work with the 4-H Partnership to provide programming through their conferences and other day camps. Events are being planned for FY21.

# PRACTICES WORTH SHARING

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW VIDEOS

The Iowa Child and Youth Program (CYP) ramped up their image when it filmed a program overview in a professional manner. Families were able to vividly experience what it's like to attend these events through the use of videos and pictures from summer camp, family events, and Yellow Ribbons. This vivid experience also included an embedded interview that guaranteed consistent information to families that accurately explained key events throughout the year. It was praised for the production level and the ability to connect with the audience in a fresh new way.

## ENHANCEMENT OF COVID-19 PROGRAMS

This year the program continued to implement unique strategies, due to COVID-19, in order to keep offering quality programs to the families they serve. The strategies that were implemented contained two facets: a focus on enhancing the quality of virtual programming, and being relevant among youth. This was accomplished by empowering the State Teen Panel members to teach the youth and be a positive role model in their lives. One of the highlight virtual events was a friendship bracelet making camp led by the State Teen Panel. There were 94 participants in this camp, from across Iowa, connecting with their peers. Youth were able to learn the importance of perseverance, problem solving, and community. These events continue to be a great opportunity for military youth to gain the support of other military youth when otherwise not available.

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