

Kansas



**Army National Guard
Child and Youth
Program
Annual Report 2021**



Mission Statement



CYS and Family Readiness training

Support Kansas National Guard youth and their families during all cycles of deployment through youth development, advocacy, resource referral and community outreach.

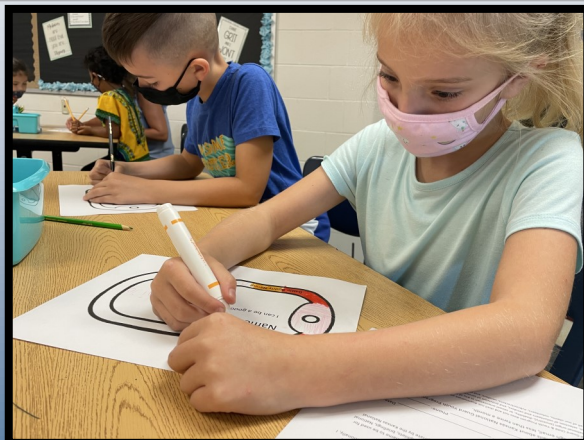
Program Goals

- Focus on providing peer to peer opportunities while building social, cognitive and emotional abilities
- Research resources & scholarships for National Guard youth
- Educate the community about the effects of the emotional cycle of deployment on military youth & their families
- Collaborate with schools to identify military students within their classrooms, and provide character building & resilience to that population

What I like about our Military Support Group...

“It’s comforting knowing I’m not the only military kid in my grade.”

- 6th Grader Wanamaker Elementary



Battle Buddy Activity for Military Support Group

“Getting to interact with my military friends each month and check in on my battle buddy.”

-5th grader at Pauline South Intermediate



Month of the Military Child Activity at Auburn Elementary

Teen Council

Dedicated to developing leadership skills, volunteering and enhancing life for Military Children and Youth in Kansas.

This year’s council was comprised of 10 remarkable youths, 8 Army and 2 Air. Monthly conference calls were conducted and regular emails were exchanged to ensure good communications all around the state. In FY21 our Teen Council had a different type of year due to Covid-19. With our Teen Symposiums cancelled due to Covid-19 we turned our focus to Hunting the Good Stuff and Goal Setting for the virtual school year. We wanted our Teen Council to set goals that they could accomplish this past year during their virtual schooling.



Senior Teen Council Member Delaney Williams

“Being part of the Teen Council the past four years has been wonderful. The friendships I have built and continue to have with other members has truly made me appreciate my time on the council. I will always remember my time as part of the Kansas Teen Council,”

- Delaney Williams, Graduating Class of 2022

“Being part of the Teen Council has allowed me to develop friendships with other military teens that also live an unique lifestyle as myself. The Teen Council has given me multiple ways to serve the community and be a part of something bigger than myself. I am grateful for the lifelong friends I have made.”

- Sarah Vanstory, Graduating Class of 2022

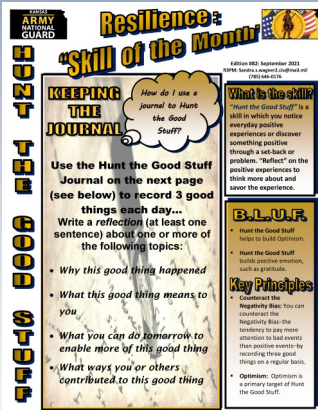


Senior Teen Council Member Sarah Vanstory

MRT Topics	Teen Council Participants
Goal Setting	10 Kansas Teen Council members participated in our Goal Setting training. We had the teens set goals for their virtual school year.
Hunt the Good Stuff	10 Kansas Teen Council members participated in Hunt the Good Stuff. We would have the teens share something good during our Zoom calls that either happened to them or that they saw.

Best Practices!!!

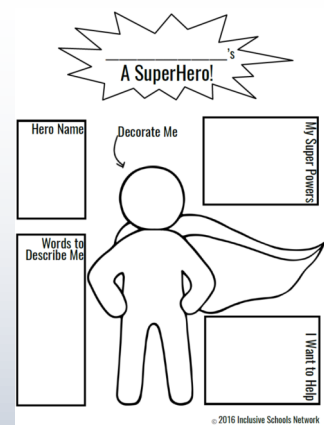
Virtual Schooling Outreach



With all of our local schools doing online schooling we had to think of a different way to reach our military youth. We used monthly activity packets that included a resilience tip of the month, that we would send to our school counselors and the counselors would pass along to the youth. By doing this it allowed us to continue that relationship we have built over the last decade and to show the schools our continued support of our military youth. Our goal is to continue utilizing these packets once schools have resumed to continue to keep youth and families that do not attend our school groups, involved with our program.

Social Media Outreach

During Covid-19 we used our Facebook group to do a lot of at home activities such as, Kids in the kitchen, family game night, family movie nights, and at home STEM activities. With our in person events being either cancelled or postponed due to Covid-19, using our Facebook page has allowed us to still reach those families just in a different way. On top of using our Facebook page we have started to use monthly activity packets. These packets include an activity for the families to participate in together, healthy recipes, and family exercises. We plan to continue to explore new ways to reach our families virtually even once our in person events start back up.



“It means a great deal to me and the students that you all continued to provide support to the military students during the difficult year we just had. Myself and our military students were happy when we got to have our Month of the Military Child support group. I think it is amazing that you can recognize each of their situations which allows them to feel like they are supported and are not alone.”

- Heather Gilliland Auburn Elementary School Counselor

Program Highlights



Month of the Military Child Activity at Auburn Elementary

- 8- In person Military School Groups
- 48- Monthly Activity packets sent to School Groups
- 2- Month of the Military Child events
- 9- Teen Council Zoom Calls
- 1- Overnight camp with the Oklahoma Child & Youth Program

Key Partners



The Auburn Washburn school district have been kind enough to allow us to come in and work with the military youth on a monthly basis for our Military Support Groups.



The Shawnee Heights school district have been kind enough to allow us to come in and work with the military youth on a monthly basis for our Military Support Groups.



The Oklahoma Child and Youth Program invited some of our military youth to their summer camp.

Program Information

Kansas Child & Youth Participants				
	Army NG	Air NG	Other	Total
Ages 6-12	78	2	4	84
Ages 13-18	62	30		92
Adults	34		60	94
Total # of Volunteers: 64				
Total # of Volunteer Hours: 69				
Total # of Program Hours: 56				

Volunteer Highlights



The Kansas National Guard Child and Youth Program has had another successful year thanks to the time and talents donated by our incredible volunteers.

- Our Volunteers include military kids, parents, retired community leaders and Service Members
- Most are repeat volunteers that look forward to attending the same events every year
- 94 people volunteered to support military youth and their families during FY21
- The cost saving provided by volunteer support is invaluable. The Bureau of Labor and Statistics estimates the value of a volunteer hour as \$28.54. In 2021 volunteers provided 56 hours of service, totaling \$1,598.24.

Contact Information

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www.facebook.com/kngyouth

Used to promote events, raise awareness, and interact with military youth and their families. The page has over 850 likes!