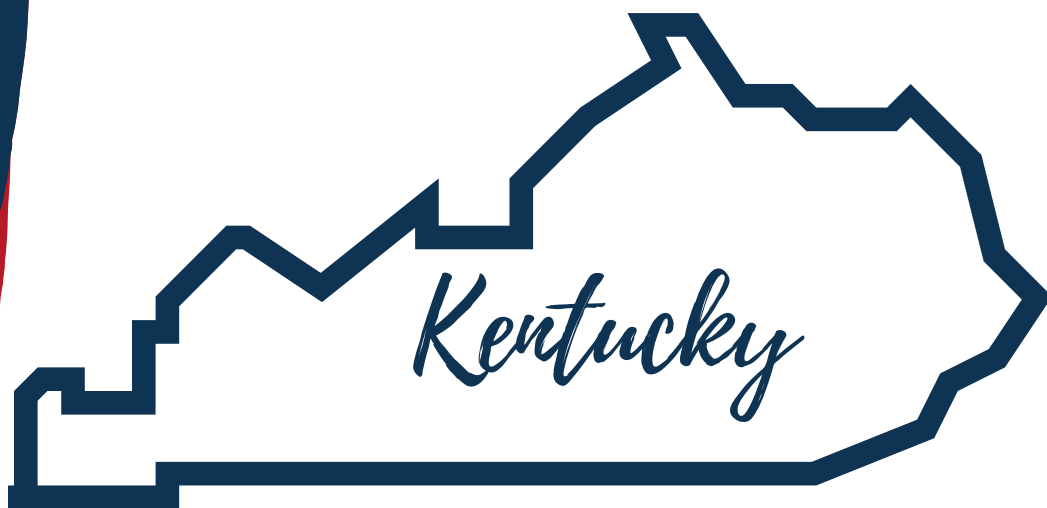




KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD  
CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES



ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2021



***Mission Statement***

The mission of The Kentucky National Guard (KYNG) Child & Youth Services (CYS) is to promote and sustain the social, emotional, physical, and academic well-being of KYNG dependent children and youth by providing resources and programming that build resiliency during peacetime and also throughout the deployment cycle.

# Goals

- Educate: Provide developmentally-appropriate life skills education to KYNG youth
- Outreach: Build and sustain contact with parents/guardians of the KYNG in order to create awareness of CYS current resources and programs.
- Opportunity: Create additional opportunities to network with other youth across the state.



## Program Highlights 146.5 Program Hours

- 2 Yellow Ribbon Events
- 1 National Guard Overnight Camp
- 2 Gold Star family Events
- 1 MRT Event
- 2 Kentucky Teen Council Events
- 1 State Youth Symposium
- 2 Volunteer Trainings
- 1 post card mail out reaching 6500 families
- 200 activity packets mailed to youth
- 3 Month of the Military Child Events
- 4 First Formation Events
- 5 Community Outreach Briefings





# *Volunteer Impact*

We had 74 volunteers that supported 5 events across the state which accumulated to 7083 service hours. These volunteers served as mentors, platoon leaders, logistics, adult supervision for youth, and guest speakers. Having these volunteers allowed us to host additional events which in turn reached more communities and increased our number of youth that we reached.



## *MRT Highlights*

We had 43 Kentucky National Guard youth receive the 2 hour curriculum on Hunt the Good Stuff, ATC, and Goal Setting while attending our KYNG Youth Camp.

The feedback that we received is that MRT has provided skills such as self-awareness, problem solving, self-regulation, character strengths, and healthy communication.



## *Youth, Teens, and Adults Served*

### **Ages 0-5**

124 Youth

### **Ages 6-12**

245 Army National Guard

9 Army Active

147 Gold Star

### **Ages 13-18**

157 Army National Guard

79 Gold Star

### **Adults**

637 Army National Guard

16 Army Active

453 Gold Star



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## *Kentucky Teen Council Highlights*

The KTC mission is to create ways to reach our geographically dispersed youth. This was accomplished by mailing virtual activity packets and post cards to the families.

By doing this we have had new families reach out to us with interest in our program.

Our Kentucky Teen Council (KTC) is made up of 9 members. We had 4 of those teens graduate high school and one of our teens enlisted in the Army. We are truly happy for them and wish them success in their future.

During youth camp we invited several teens to fill out an application to join the KTC. Our goal is to recruit 6-7 additional KTC members for FY22.

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## *Quote*

"One of the great things I witnessed at camp was that every camper was truly being valued by 4-H staff and Guard Soldiers for who they are. Inevitably, you have some campers who are more athletic, more creative, or even more adventurous, but together we are strong. This is true of our families and units across the Guard force as a whole. Regardless of their rank or status, each camper, each service member, each person matters."

CPT Curtis Adams, 1/149th IN BN HHC







# *Community Partners*

4-H is a key partner in our KYARNG Youth Camp not only because they allow us to host our camp at their Lake Cumberland 4-H Site, the County Extension Agents also support our local events. They are available to host our events at their office and provide 4-H staff for structured educational activities.



Operation Homefront supports our program throughout the year by providing school supplies and toys from Dollar Tree. They also serve as a resource to families who are struggling financially.



The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary are huge supporters of our Month of the Military Child events that we host across the state. They assist in coordinating the events, allow us to use their facilities, and provide volunteers to assist with the events. They are a huge help in getting the community involved. They also assist with our Operation Military Cheer program by accepting donations, preparing packages for the families, and providing the facility to operate. With their support we are able to host our Month of the Military Child events and Operation Military Cheer at no cost to our program.



Builders Industry Association is our biggest supporter of Operation Military Cheer by hosting an annual toy drive. They donate clothes, shoes, toys, and gift cards to The American Legion Auxiliary so that they can be used for Operation Military Cheer. They are also a resource for families who need emergency home repairs. This partnership has made a big impact on our military families especially during the holidays.



The VFW provides snacks and drinks for our Yellow Ribbon events and our Month of the Military Child events. They also provide financial assistance to families that are in need.



Centerstone provides meeting space for our KTC Meetings along with providing training to educate our youth in drug and alcohol abuse and suicide.



## *Quote*

"My favorite thing about Child and Youth Services is how it brings people together from all over the state. In the 7 years I've been at camp I've made friends that will last me for a long time. Being on the Kentucky Teen Council I have had the opportunity to meet people from all across Kentucky and that is very special to me."

Braydon Scott, Kentucky Teen Council Member





# *Best Practices*

## **Post Card Mailout**

CYS mailed out postcards that included upcoming events along with our contact information to every member in The Kentucky National Guard. We had several Service Members and family members reach out to us about having youth attend our events and we have had several Service Members volunteer to support our events. This proved to be very instrumental in the growth of our program.

## **Virtual Programming Packets**

In April CYC mailed 200 activity packets as a means of delivering engaging programming and services to youth and families in a safe and supportive virtual format. Mailing these packets played an integral role in helping our youth and families stay involved with our program through the COVID-19 pandemic. We also included some Military Appreciation items for Month of the Military Child.



## *Contact Us*

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