



MINNESOTA

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

YOUTH AND TEENS SERVED

AGE 0-5: 259 AGE 6-12: 1567 AGE 13-18: 882 TOTAL: 2708

252 Volunteers
donated 9,380
Service hours



Army: 63
Army Guard : 1501
Army Reserve: 73
Air Force: 3
Air Guard: 474
Air Reserve: 4
Navy: 5
Navy Reserve: 2
Marine: 5
Marine Reserve: 10



MISSION AND GOALS

Mission

The mission of the Army National Guard Child and Youth Services (CYS) is to positively impact Soldier and family readiness, resilience and retention by providing secure, timely, flexible and high-quality youth development opportunities and resources which promote the overall well-being of ARNG children and youth.

Goals

Opportunity: Provide 13 military teens opportunities to build on life skills such as public speaking, teamwork, leadership, communication and resilience by meeting quarterly, engaging in service learning projects, planning statewide symposiums, and Master Resilience Trainings.

Outreach: Increase soldier and family awareness of services offered by CYS for military connected youth through Camp in a Box, activity packets and additional opportunities.

Resilience: Provide resilience training through family overnight experiences.

Education: Reach youth in person or virtually to provide Master Resilience Training during Teen Leadership Forum and Teen Summit.



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2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- 1150 School outreach contacts have been made to raise awareness for military youth
- 1810 Facebook followers: MN National Guard Child & Youth Programs and MN Military Teen Panel
- 700 At-Home Activity Packets were requested & sent
- 330 Life Skills packets for 13-18 yr olds requested & sent
- 742 Resilience Skills packet for 6-12 yr olds requested & sent
- 400 Big Life Journal Resilience Kits requested & sent
- 400 Spring Break STEM Kits requested & sent to youth
- 160 National Guard Youth and Teen Camp attendees
- 116 Spring Break STEM kits requested & sent to youth
- 90 Teen Leadership Forum Kits requested & sent
- 55 MN School Social Worker Info Kits requested & sent
- 17 New Horizon pen pal connections were made to show Military kids appreciation
- 12 Yellow Ribbon events supported with CYS resources
- 10 Military Kids Club Meetings were held
- 10 Teen Panel conference calls to maintain connection and prepare for the Virtual Teen Summit
- 4 Teen Panel Meetings: Provided community service, teamwork and leadership opportunities
- 4 Teen Panel members attended Region 5 Summit in WI
- 3 Virtual Tours of the USS Constitution with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central MN
- 2 Statewide youth symposiums focused on leadership, resilience and youth development
- 1 Sea Quest Family Overnight
- 1 Youth Pheasant Hunt built competence and confidence by gaining mastery over a new skill
- 1 Youth Ice Fishing event designed to encourage competence while increasing family connection
- 1 Day Camp with Party Crashers RC Racing

"Just had to share as I think it is wonderful seeing these kids doing well. Much of this is tied to the programs they were/are involved in as they were growing up, such as MN Military Teen Panel. These programs along with life experiences have taught these kids how to plan and proceed and how to be resilient throughout the process. We are thankful for all that you do!
Thanks!
CW4 Emily Larson



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- American Legion
- Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Networks
- Boys and Girls Club of Central MN
- Build-A-Bear
- Child Care Aware
- Clam Corporation and Ice Team
- Dave Collar Foundation
- Dive Guys Fish and Fry
- East Metro Waterfowlers
- East Side Elders
- Eskimo
- Geico

- Humane Society
- Large Munsterlander Assoc. of America
- Jeff Moehnke
- Military Child Education Coalition
- Military Family Learning Network
- Military One Source
- Minnesota Department of Education
- Minnesota DNR
- Minnesota National Guard Youth Camp
- Minnesota Twins
- Minnesota Vikings
- Party Crashers

- Pheasants Forever
- Project Youth Extension Service
- Red Cross
- Sea Quest
- The State of Minnesota
- Twin Cities Walleye Unlimited
- United Heroes League
- USAA
- Veteran's Campground - Big Marine Lake
- Wild Wings of Oneka
- United Through Reading
- USO- Midwest Chapter

KEY PARTNERSHIPS



MN Military Youth Pheasant Hunt

The MN Military Youth Pheasant Hunt has become a tradition that youth look forward to each year. This is the 5th year. The youth learn gun safety and how to shoot clays. The Youth Pheasant Hunt is a collaboration between Beyond the Yellow Ribbon network of Hugo, Washington County and Chisago County Chapters of Pheasants Forever, Jeff Hughes, Dave McCollor Memorial Fund, East Metro Waterfowlers, Large Munsterlander Association of America and Wild Wings of Oneka. Youth gain confidence and competence through mastering a new skill.

MN Military Ice Fishing Clinic

There were more than 150 youth and adults who were ready to get out on one of Minnesota's frozen 10,000 lakes to enjoy the sport of ice fishing. Twin Cities Walleye, Dive Guys Fish and Fry, Eskimo, and Clam Corporation are committed to teaching military youth to ice fish. They provided the ice houses, fishing guides, tip ups, poles and lures. The Disabled Veteran's Campground has provided the space for this event to happen for the past 6 years. The Ice fishing clinic is an opportunity for parents and youth to connect and foster resilience through learning a new skill and building confidence in youth.

NEW INITIATIVE & BEST PRACTICE

Spring Break Camp in a Box

Adjusting to meet the changing needs of our families and youth in MN during a pandemic and stay at home order, Spring Break Camp in a Box items were sent to families who registered. The kits included a STEM activity, themed book, and more. Kits were designed to be self-paced for youth to do in their own time.

Teen Leadership Forum (TLF) Gone Virtual

Teen Panel members assisted in leading small group breakouts during the TLF. Participants in grades 6th -12th registered and were sent a book to read and materials to work on before the zoom event. Then teens were broken into groups to answer book review questions and show their artwork. TLF focused on supporting future teen leaders with activities to included STEM, teambuilding, resilience and art.



"I just have to tell you how impressed we are with the Spring Break in a Box!! My second grader is now counting down the days until spring break to make her robot and read her book. (She ate the fruit roll up immediately upon opening the box!"
Jennifer Rath- NG Parent



Teen Summit

Teen Summit is an event that is planned by the MN Military Teen Panel members. The panel members design the theme, activities, t-shirt and lead teambuilding activities and a workshop. The theme in 2021 was "Sea Where the Waves Take You". Joe Stone was the keynote speaker. He is a quadriplegic who talked about his journey of learning how to do things he loves, but modified due to his wheelchair and limited capabilities. The attendees participated in a service project and made dog toys for the Humane Society. MAJ Melanie Nelson shared her journey in the military.

Teen Master Resilience Training

4 Teen skills were taught at the Teen Panel and Teen Summit. Hunt the Good Stuff (HTGS) is incorporated at every youth event held. The teens learned the skills of Put It In Perspective, Mental Games and Real-Time resilience, and ATC.

Teen Panel

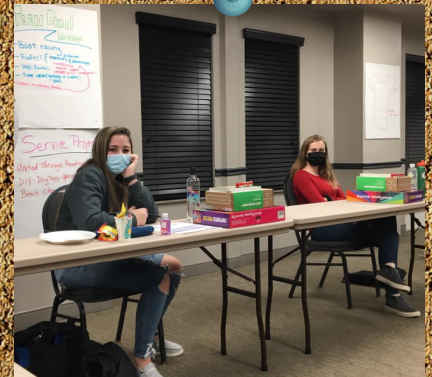
- 600 Community Service Hours
- 34 attended Teen Summit
- 13 Teen Panel Members
- 10 monthly conference calls
- 4 Teen Newsletters
- 3 Service Projects



**MILITARY
TEEN PANEL**



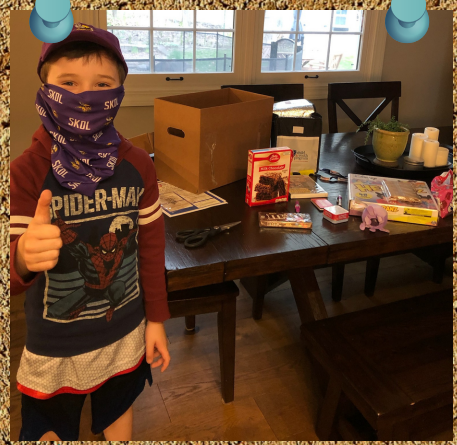
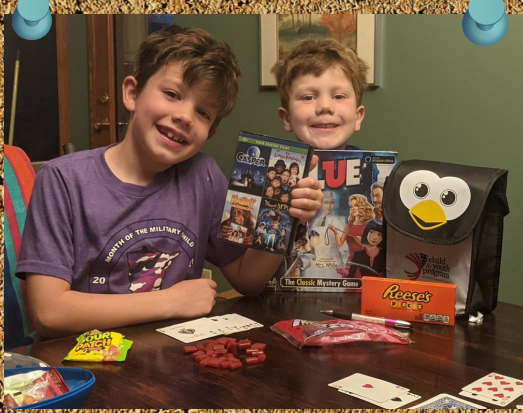
"Being on the Teen panel has been an experience unlike any other. It has given me a second family and helped support me through many life challenges that come along with being a military kid. I will forever be grateful for the love and support I have been shown".
Hayley Deans-Teen Panel member
(SGM Troy Deans)



"The teen panel has gotten me inspired and excited to be a military child which is something I never thought I'd say. I feel this way because of the great people and activities associated with the teen panel". Avery Hadley
New Teen Panel member



1st Place MOMC Photo Contest



Month of the Military Child (MOMC)

MN Military Families participated in the annual photo contest, art contest and requested letters from the governor. Photo contest allows families to showcase their military family. The Art Contest allows young artists to express their support and military pride.

- 390 Bears were purchased by USAA for kids to have an opportunity to make a bear at Build-A-Bear Workshop
- 300 MOMC At-Home Celebration kits were requested & sent
- 298 Letters from the Governor were requested to recognize military connected youth for their service
- 249 MOMC shirts were purchased to show support for Military Kids
- 30 Families submitted a photo for the MOMC Photo contest
- 16 Mini MOMC kits were requested & sent for 1-5 year olds
- 15 MCY entered artwork to our 8th Annual MOMC Art Contest
- 12 Art contest participants received prizes from Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Network
- 3 Photo contest winners were announced and won prizes donated by USO Midwest Chapter and Geico
- 3 Honorable mention photos

COVID-19 Response-

At Home MOMC Purple Up Celebration Kit

MN families celebrated MOMC with At Home Celebration kits. Families were able to request a kit filled with goodies for the whole family. The kits included everything needed to enjoy a fun-filled evening at home from a movie provided by the USO, popcorn, movie candy, family conversation starters, Purple UP lunch bag, stress ball and pen! The Vikings provided a neck gator and hat. The kit also included a family game for everyone to play. Goal of the MOMC kit was to create family connection.

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