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MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD

ANNUAL REPORT



"The most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of adults. The MSNG Child & Youth Program strives to provide the most dynamic and rewarding experiences for youth to inspire, develop, and influence them to embark on journeys that lead to lifelong resiliency and success:

SGT Dahlia Lewis, MSARNG



PARTNERED EVENTS

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD EVENTS

COMMAND/UNIT BRIEFS

. TEEN COUNCIL MEETINGS
. YELLOW RIBBONS

OVERNIGHT CAMPS

- VOLUNTEER TRAININGS
- ACT WORKSHOPS
- S.T.E.M. EVENTS

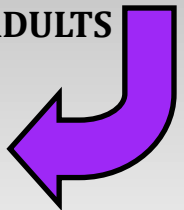
• STATE YOUTH SYMPOSIUM

• REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ADULTS

 **3581**

AIR NATIONAL GUARD ADULTS

89 

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD KIDS 6-12

 **1444**

AIR NATIONAL GUARD KIDS 6-12

110 

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD TEENS 13-18

 **1177**

AIR NATIONAL GUARD TEENS 13-18

74 

**OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE INVALUABLE TO OUR RESIDENTAL CAMPS AND
RESIDENTAL WEEKEND RETREATS. THIS YEAR WE HAD:**

83 VOLUNTEERS

4,610.5 HOURS VOLUNTEERED

"Youth Programs is defined by wonderful people in the mission of an invaluable service. It highlights the integral part military children hold in the MS National Guard family and honors the sacrifices they make as they love and support their soldier parent." -Leah Roberson- MSARNG Military Spouse, Mother of 4



2021 Initiatives

Operation Purple Pinwheel- Our Youth Council went to local business, organizations and Military Families and asked them to put our Purple Pinwheels in support of Military Kids for the Month of April. The Pinwheels were displayed at 20 businesses along with a sign the said "We Support Military Kids #MOMC21". This was a very well received initiative that we hope to grow this year.

Space Camp Day- This year we dedicated one morning of our residential camp to complete Space Camp. Campers used S.T.E.M. activities to build stomp rockets, learn about air flow, build light boards and coding. S.T.E.M. activities help teach critical thinking and problem solving.



ACT WORKSHOP

Mississippi National Guard Youth Programs afforded the opportunity for high school students to attend an ACT Prep Workshop. There were 35 students that participated in this workshop. With the proper COVID-19 screenings and precautions this event was able to be a success. The workshop has proved instrumental in raising test scores an average of 6 points per student. This event has proven beneficial increased scholarships for our students.

YOUTH COUNCIL

Mississippi has a twelve member council. Despite all the challenges, they were still able to meet virtually, and in person. They were able to be able to have face to face events and give back to their local community. They implemented new initiatives and worked hard to make sure to give back to their community as well as bring awareness to Military Kids in our state. They were instrumental in our first "Real Talk with Military Teens" to give parents the perspective of military life from a teen.

S.T.E.M EVENTS

This year we held two stand alone S.T.E.M. events as well as implemented S.T.E.M. into one of our residential camps. The first was Fall themed and was "Chunkin Punkin and Spooktacular Science". The older kids were able to build trebuchets to throw the pumpkins and learned about Witches brew. We also hosted a virtual S.T.E.M. event that allowed students to participate in the activity with packets sent directly to their home.

M.R.T.

Resiliency is one of our favorite skills to learn. While including these skills in many aspects of our programming, we were able to train 21 youth in 5 competencies. These include Hunt the Good Stuff, Goal Setting, Energy Management, Problem Solving, Mental Games and Put It in Perspective.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

April is our favorite month in Child and Youth, as it serves as the month that we get to bring awareness to the sacrifice that Military Kids make throughout the year. This year we went big with 9 ways to participate and bring awareness. We are proud to announce we had our very first Governor's Proclamation to recognize MOMC. We did several community outreach events as well as an art completion. Students were encouraged to paint, draw, or use any medium to express "What it means to be a Military Child". They could also use poetry. Having so many events made it possible to more participants and made sure they could participate in either virtual or in person events.



Mission Statement

The mission of the Mississippi National Guard Child and Youth Programs is to promote and sustain the quality of life and resilience of the Mississippi National Guard children and youth by providing secure, timely, flexible and high-quality support services and enrichment programs.

GOALS:

- Provide opportunities for our Military Youth and Children to bond and support one another especially during the deployment cycle, and to assure them they are not alone.
- Support Military Youth and Children by giving them the skills to cope with the responsibilities and difficulties regarding the deployment cycle.
- Partner with schools and other organizations to ensure that our Military Kids are continually experiencing new places and ideas.
- Provide educational programs that allow them to experience growth: mentally, physically and emotionally.
- Provide opportunities to volunteer and give back to our local military community.

Preparing for Success Testing Services, LLC

Preparing for success is instrumental in our ACT Workshops. They go above and beyond to insure our students are well prepared for standardized test that are mandatory for college admission and scholarships.

Community Partnerships



Military OneSource has really stepped up during the last year and is always willing to provide information and gives us an avenue to reach everyone. Partnering for Zoom meetings to get more information out has been invaluable.



Our local Elizabeth Dole Foundation fellow, Marjorie Harris, is always willing to partner with Child and Youth. She is so important it bringing a different perspective on live and volunteerism to our Children.



NGenius Learning really stepped up this year with virtual and in-person options for S.T.E.M. activities. This brings an educational aspect to our program that enhances learn for our Military Kids.

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