

# MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM



## 2021 ANNUAL FY REPORT

### MISSION:

Promote & sustain the quality of life and resilience of Montana Army National Guard Youth.

### GOAL:

Provide a program that promotes education, access, opportunity, resilience, communication, & positive youth development.



**5,217**  
TOTAL PEOPLE SERVED

Parker Enjoying the "Kids PT Workshop" with CW5 Vacura at Fort Harrison Day Camp, where kids got an intro into all the cool things our parents do!

# YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

Total: 1,836

261

AGES 0-5

1,008

AGES 6-12

567

AGES 13-18

12%

INCREASE  
IN AGES 6 - 12

Youth Served  
From

67

Communities

39%

INCREASE  
IN AGES 13 - 18

268

IN-PERSON

1,220

SPECIALTY BOXES  
& VIRTUAL

348

CAMP-IN-A-BOX

SPECIALTY BOXES & VIRTUAL: MOMC BOXES, DC ACTIVATED- PROUD MIL KID BOXES, YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAMMING IN A BOX, FAMILY VIRTUAL EVENTS, PARTNERED BOX/VIRTUAL EVENTS, M&T, ACTIVITY PACKETS, SPECIALTY REQUEST BOXES, TEEN COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETINGS, ETC

## YOUTH EVENT PARTICIPANTS AGES 6-18 BY BRANCH

1,310

ARMY GUARD

181

AIR GUARD

44

ARMY RESERVE

16

NAVY RESERVE

19

OTHER BRANCES



New Teen Council Members, Zoe & Rhianna, celebrating after completing the Team Building and Ropes Challenge course at the Youth Symposium, while utilizing their Gold & Orange Leadership skills they learned from the 4-Lenses Training.

## PARENT QUOTES

*"This has been a tough deployment and I was hesitant to send her to Camp Runnamucka, but boy was I wrong! It was the best thing for her! She still talks about it to this day, absolutely can't wait until next year, and has honestly been doing better ever since she went. I just didn't realize the power of a camp and being around other Military Kids would have on her. Thank You! She even wants to be a part of the Teen Council when she's old enough"*

**-Mother of 13 year old experiencing deployment- Mrs. Hall**

*These camps and camp in the boxes through the covid pandemic helped keep her mind busy. She was less stressed and depressed because of you.*

THANK YOU.

**-FY21 Satisfaction Survey**

The Child and Youth Program has definitely helped my daughter cope better, knowing that she's not alone during this deployment.

**-FY21 Satisfaction Survey**

27%

1 EVENT

33%

2-3 EVENTS

40%

4+ EVENTS

Number of Events Youth Participants Joined

# EVENT OVERVIEW

## Total Programming Hours: 307

### Summer Camps

#### Ft. Harrison Day Camp

Resilience Day Camp: Ages 6-10  
Intro to MT Guard Careers & What our Parents Do  
Resilience & Personal Skills  
Character Strengths & Mil Kid Adaptations

#### Runnamucka 1

Resilience Overnight Camp: Ages 9-11  
"Guard Kids are Out of this World"  
Resilience & Personal Skills  
Yoda Growth Mindset & Mil Kids Top 10  
Team Building and Communication

#### Runnamucka 2

Resilience Overnight Camp: Ages 11-18  
"Guard Kids are Out of this World"  
Resilience & Personal Skills  
Yoda Growth Mindset & Mil Kids top 10  
Team Building and Communication

#### JC Retreat

AARs, Clean Up, & Celebration

#### Youth Symposium

Teen Leadership & Resilience Camp  
4 Lenses- Leadership & Communication  
Resilience Overview & HTGS  
MT Guard Kids; Ages 13-18

#### Family Camp

Resilience Workshops & Bonding  
Activities for MT Guard Families  
Character Strengths & Communication Games

# 197

## Youth Served

### Camp-in-a-Box

#### Halloween

Stress & Worry Lesson, Furry Worry Monster Craft, Pumpkin Stress Balls, A Very Brave Witch Lesson, STEAM: Spooky Expanding Ghost/Pumpkin Slime  
Recipes: Monster Munch, Hocus Pocus Punch  
Problem Solving: Building Games

#### Holiday Box

Mission Possible Elves: Acts of Kindness  
My Special GIFTS&Talents- Personal Strengths  
Reindeer Food Activity

#### January Box

Goal Setting, Money Management, Overcoming Challenges, Stress Management.  
What Shakes My Snow Globe- Resilience  
Escape Room- Brain Science behind Stress,  
Money MNGT Board Game, Price is Right  
My Year in Review & Next Year Goal Setting

#### February Box

Healthy Relationships & Friendships,  
5 love languages Intra- Communicating with Family  
"Inside Out"- Healthy Emotions  
Bow & Arrow STEM

#### Black History Month

Jackie Robinson & Mae Jemison  
Activity Packets with Books,  
STEM Projects, & Cultural Art Projects

#### Family Camp

Waitlist Families for Family Camp  
Resilience, Communication, &  
Bonding Activities

# 348

## Youth Served



Maddox learning about Animal Adaptations & how Mil Kids can Adapt to build Resilience too!  
Ft. Harrison Day Camp.

### Military Family Events

#### Pumpkin & Costume Contest

Virtual Halloween Event

#### Month of the Military Family

Virtual Proud Military Family Show & Tell

#### My Family Serves

Proud Mil Kid & Family Box- DC Activated Families  
Guidones, Dog Tags, My Parent Serves Lesson  
Resilience Overview

# 98

## Youth Served

### MOMC Events

#### MOMC Camp-in-a-Box

Military Kid Strengths Guidones, Dog Tags,  
Super Hero Comic Strips, Dandelion Craft,  
Family Photo Craft, & Resilience Activity Packet

#### Purple Up! Day

Photo Shoot & CYP Program Information

#### Certificate of Appreciation

Thank You for Your Service, Too  
certificates signed by TAG

# 546

## Participants (Youth & Adults)

### Partnered Events

#### Strong Bonds

Camp-In-a-Box  
Healthy Friendships Lesson- Friendship Bracelets  
5 Love Languages- Communicating with our Family  
& Money Management Board Games

#### 4-H

Rockets- STEAM Camp in a Box  
& Virtual Lessons

#### StarBase

A STEAM & Art Project about Chromatography  
from StarBase was added to one of our  
Camp-in-a-Boxes this year

# 102

## Youth Served

### Resilience (MRT)

#### Topics Covered

Resilience Overview, Goal Setting, Character  
Strengths, Thinking Traps,  
Hunt the Good Stuff, P.I.P.,  
Real Time Resilience

#### 17 Program Hours

Lesson, Activity, & Worksheets for  
Summer Camps, Yellow Ribbon,  
Virtual, & Camp-in-a-Box.

# 310

## Youth Served



Emma and Zayne Identifying their Core  
Character Strengths at Family Camp

### Support Boxes

Resilience activities, games, & crafts with  
specialized materials & resources for children  
& families based on their need. These were  
specially requested by families facing difficult  
situations including grief, abuse, or serious  
family illness.

# 12

## Youth Served

### Activity Packets

4 Total Packets Provided to MT Guard Kids.  
Monthly Do-It-By- Yourself Packets Created  
by Region 1 & Missouri were available to be  
registered for and shared with MT Guard Kids.  
Big Thanks to these Programs for sharing!

# 274

## Youth Served

# YELLOW RIBBON EVENTS

## Youth Programming

In- Person

**28**

Youth Served

In-a-Box

**244**

Youth Served



Jocelynn designing her very own Mil-Kid Guidone that represents her and her families strengths at a Pre-Yellow Ribbon Event.

## Child & Youth Program Briefs

Soldiers & Family Members

**807**

Adults Served

Resource Packs

**246**

Parents Served

# TEEN COUNCIL

## FY 21 Highlights

**10 Members**

**998 Hours Volunteered**

**10 Meetings - 1 Retreat - 1 Volunteer Training**

-Region 8-

3 Montana Teen Council Members were selected to represent our State at the Region 8 Youth Symposium Hosted by South Dakota. They joined Teens from Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming to share some of their best practices and successes, while learning from other Region 8 Teen Council Members. They participated in various trainings including, MRT- Character Strengths, Team Building, Resilience Workshop- Say it with Music, and multiple Peer and Best Practice workgroups.

-MOMC-

Helped to update the School ToolKit provided to hundreds of Montana Schools across the state.

-Events Supported-

Camp Runnamucka, Fort Harrison Day Camp, Yellow Ribbons, Teen Camp, Teen Council Retreat, & Virtual Events

-Camp Runnamucka-

**800+ Hours**

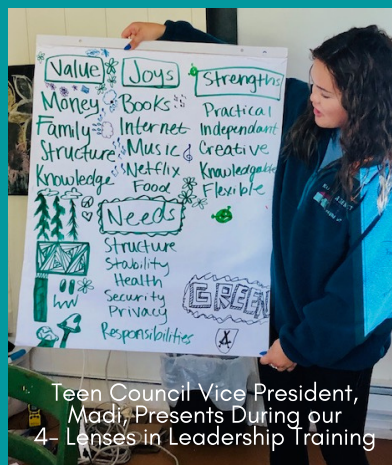
They picked this years theme, Space, and helped to pick and plan the workshops provided through-out the week, including leading the Top 10 of Military Kids and multiple Team Builders and Ice Breakers. They were the lead Junior Counselors for each group and helped train new Junior Counselors at Camp.

-Seniors-

Madison- Air Guard / Amber- Air Guard  
Michaela- Navy



Madison, Michaela, and Katie proudly representing Montana and joining their counterparts at the Region 8 Youth Symposium to participate in trainings and partaking in a Peer Share of Teen Council Practices.



Teen Council Vice President, Madi, Presents During our 4- Lenses in Leadership Training



Teen Council Member, Jacob, Leading his Group at Camp Runnamucka.



Teen Council President, Madison, leading the team building workshop at Camp Runnamucka

*My son, Knox, has been waiting to be old enough to join the Teen Council for years. He has always looked up to the Teen Council and is so excited to be a part of it now.*

**-Service Member who was deployed last year.**

# ADULT PARTICIPANTS/OUTREACH

**3,381**

TOTAL ADULT PARTICIPANTS

**1,053**

YELLOW RIBBON BRIEFS & DEPLOYMENT RESOURCE PACKETS

**974**

OUTREACH EDUCATION & COMMUNITY

**610**

EVENT ATTENDEES & OTHER

**170**

VOLUNTEERS

**574**

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

**1,775**

ARMY GUARD

**56**

AIR GUARD

**75**

ARMY RESERVE

**842**

CIVILIAN EDUCATOR OUTREACH

**633**

CIVILIAN MEETINGS & OUTREACH

## THANK YOU!

To every individual who has helped support our program & enriched the lives of hundreds of Montana Military Youth this year! We appreciate everything that you do & all the positive impact you've had!

### Education Outreach

Total Individuals  
**842**

#### MOMC Educator Toolkit

562 School Principals  
279 School District Superintendents  
Montana School Counselors Association  
Montana Office of Public Instruction

### Community Outreach

#### MT- MOMC Awareness & Declaration Packet

Governor Gianforte's Office  
Purple Up & MOMC Declaration Post  
1,484 Engagements

#### MOMC Business Toolkit

8 City Chamber of Commerce  
Shared the Toolkit with their community on ways to recognize and celebrate our MT Military Kids.

#### MOMC Public Library Toolkit

Toolkit provided to Montana Library Association

### MTNG Outreach & Briefs

#### Podcast Interview

MOMC and the Child and Youth Program Interview with Recruiting and Retention Podcast.

**85 People Reached**

#### Unit, AGR, & Tech. Briefs

AGR/Tech Workshop Tabling Event  
CR2C, Command, & Unit Briefs

**242 People Reached**

#### Yellow Ribbon Briefs

Total YR Briefs: 6  
**807 People Reached**



Longest Standing Camp Runnamucka Volunteer, Kathie Frank, being lifted by her Cabin Girls who absolutely adore their favorite Cabin Mom  
-This year was her 13th Year at Runnamucka-

### Program Partners Highlight

Total: 52

This year various Montana Guard Programs and Service Members really stepped up to help our Program & MT Guard Kids, like hosting workshops, such as 4 lenses Leadership, PT with a Soldier, Site Tours, STEM Rockets & Self Fuel/Care, Yoda Growth Minset and more! They also volunteered to be Cabin Parents at Camp and helped us with logistics, such as Set-up/Tear-down.

We partnered with the Montana Office of Public Instruction to help raise awareness about MT Military Kids and MOMC. Jessica Flint with OPI updated the Military Kids portion of their website, including our Tool Kits and helped us reach Superintendents and Schools cccross the state.

### Special Thanks To:

- Soldier Family Readiness - G1 - RS3P - YRRP  
- MT Air Guard - MT Army Guard - UTES -  
Aviation - MT Wild - Animal Wonders  
-Region 1 - Missouri CYP -

Special Thanks to Region 1, Missouri CYP, and other CYP organization for sharing Activity Packets and ideas all Guard Kids could use through the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### Volunteers

Number of Volunteers: 170  
Volunteer Hours: 2,910.5  
Volunteer Trainings: 5  
Training Hours: 11.75  
Specified Volunteers: 14  
New Specified Volunteers: 8

### Volunteer Roles

Cabin Parents - Workshop Facilitators  
Group Leaders - Camp Nurse  
Cooks - Set-Up/Tear Down  
and everything in-between!



SGT Willis sneaking in a hug with his daughter Savannah while hosting our UTES Tour at Camp

# BEST PRACTICES

We utilize Positive Youth Development and Youth Leadership practices within our programming. We will break down a few examples of how we foster Positive Youth Development within our Montana Guard Kids

**Contribution:** Our Teen Council works hard each year to pick our summer camp themes & the workshops that are provided. They even help lead and facilitate some of the workshops and activities provided at camp. They also make sure to ask different campers for help, so the kids feel like they are contributing too.

**Character:** Our program is very big on teaching the MRT Skill Character Strengths. This gives kids a sense of self-awareness and pride in their own Character Strengths and values as an individual, while also recognizing and appreciating the strengths of others. We also include the "Shadow Side" of Character Strengths, so kids can better recognize when their behavior or strength isn't constructive at the time and can take responsibility.

**Competence:** Whenever we are teaching a new skill at an event, we always have the kids participate in giving their own insight, examples, and experience. It's not just adults teaching kids, but the kids get to teach us and their peers. We usually have an activity where they create something, based on the skill we just learned, and they share their project and explain the skill in their own words.

**Connection:** At our events, we always start off with stating that this event is just for Montana Military Kids and that together, we are not only a community, but a Guard Family. Every year, MT Guard Kids make a new close friend at camp and the parents are able to connect with one another, so their kids can keep in touch throughout the year. These new friendships are a favorite of parents and guardians.

**Caring:** We have 5 major rules at our events and one of them is to be a "Good Friend". We let the kids define and give examples of how to be a good friend at camp and it allows them to consciously think about sympathy and empathy, what it means, and practice it in real time.

**Confidence:** Our staff, volunteers, JC's, and kids are always cheering each other on and pointing out each other's successes through out our events. This is something we go over in our trainings and we all lead by example, which organically gets the kids involved in doing the same.

## COVID-19

We created different themes for Camp-in-a-Box through out the year, which were broken down by age groups, so the activities/lessons were better suited for their age. Each Box also contained 3-5 activities focused on building resilience & personal skills. Examples of the activities included: Lesson on Coping with anxiety & building Bravery- Creating Furry Fear Monsters for our Halloween Box. Mission Possible Elves that spread Random Acts of Kindness- this was a Top Secret Mission sent from the Jolly man himself. My Special Gifts & Talents- Self-Awareness & Confidence for our Holiday Box. Healthy Friendships Lesson with Friendship bracelet making and Thank You for Being a Friend Cards for our February Box. Price is Right Board Game to teach Money Management. Escape the Box Activity for families after learning about Character Strengths and Communication Styles. This is just to name a few!



New Teen Council Member, Jonathan, helps the last member of his Team complete the ropes course at a Summer Camp, after learning about Leadership and Communication Styles through our 4- Lenses workshop

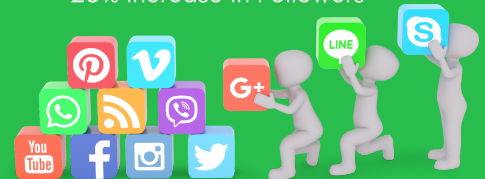
## Virtual Out Reach

Resource Posts	Scholarships, Grants, Child Care Aware, Tutor.com, Parent Resources, etc. <b>3,940 Reached</b>
Fun Facebook Posts	Activities, Crafts, Fun Facts, Holiday, Recognition Posts, etc. <b>13,792 Reached</b>
Newsletter Distro	15 Newsletters: Child & Youth, Family Programs, Readiness NCOS <b>15,744 Reached</b>
Event Marketing	MTNG Child and Youth Program Events Community Events, Military Kid Events, Guard Events <b>17,410 Reached</b>

## Facebook/Instagram

**Followers: 630**  
**Total FY Posts: 121**  
**Engagements: 3,094**  
**People Reached: 35,142**

10% Increase in People Reached  
 28% Increase in Followers



# MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM

[www.montanaguardfamily.org/program/child-and-youth-programs](http://www.montanaguardfamily.org/program/child-and-youth-programs)



**Montana Guard Kids**



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