

New York Army National Guard

Child and Youth Program

ANNUAL REPORT FY21



Mission Statement

The mission of Army National Guard (ARNG) Child & Youth Services (CYS) is to promote and sustain the quality of life and resilience of Army National Guard dependent children and youth by providing secure, timely, flexible, high-quality support services and enrichment programs.

Program Goals

Education:

Provide developmentally-appropriate life skills education to National Guard youth

Access:

Provide information on access to Federal and State/Territory benefits that support National Guard children and Families, including: counseling, education, child care, and other resources needed to foster a healthy, stable and secure family environment

Opportunity:

Create partnerships for opportunities to participate in programs, events, and activities geared toward the behavioral and physical health and welfare of children and youth that are available across the spectrum of Government, community, and private sector

Communication:

Build a sense of belonging to the Army National Guard Community by creating secure opportunities to network with other youth, parents/legal guardians, and ARNG CYS Coordinators in one's community, state/territory, and across the nation

Resilience:

Infuse resiliency and leadership skills and techniques into all Army National Guard child and youth programming

Outreach:

Build and sustain contact with parents/legal guardians, and children of the National Guard in order to create awareness of available support services and programs, while being mindful of age, location, military and civilian mindsets

Program Highlights

- 17 Community and Partner Trainings or Meetings
- 2 Community Outreach, Briefings, and Events
- 22 Virtual Day Camps
- 3 Family Days and Military Appreciation Events
- 4 MOMC Events
- 3 Command/Unit/FRG Briefings
- 2 Teen Council Meetings or Trainings
- 6 Yellow Ribbon Briefings and Trainings



Participation

FY21 Child & Youth Program Totals Reported:

Adult Participants: 1159 Total

911 Army NG 45 Air NG 3 AF Active 4 Navy Active 1 Marine Active 1 CG Active 51 Other

Youth Ages 6-12: 1905 Total

1309 Army NG 329 Air NG 95 AF Active 7 Navy Active 11 Marine Active 23 AF Reserve 50 Other
80 Army Active 1 Gold Star

Youth Ages 13-18: 158 Total

85 Army NG 13 Air NG 8 Army Active 49 AF Active 3 AF Active

Ages 0-5: 190 Total

Programing Hours: 1505

Community Partners



TSL Kids Crew: Supported the cost of a summer camp while utilizing Covid Precautions this summer for Military Children.



Operation Homefront: Partnered for back to school brigade. They helped to provide over 300 backpacks filled with school supplies to a number of families.



Military One Source: Our Military OneSource continues to be one of our biggest assets this past year. They offer a number of resources for families from confidential non-medical counseling, spouse education and career opportunities, peer to peer support, child care support, coverage of extracurricular activities for children and more.



Child Care Aware: Offers coverage of childcare fees at accredited child care providers throughout the state.

Teen Council and MRT

The COVID-19 epidemic has challenged our ARNG families to adapt and stay flexible in the past year. In FY21 we had 2 virtual teen council meetings. In June of 2021, our existing Teen Council members graduated from High School and are headed to college and the service. We are looking forward to FY22 and rebuilding our Teen Council Program.

We will be opening our teen council application process for candidates over the coming months of October and November 2021. We are hopeful to resume all in person programming as things start to open back up. For the upcoming year we will be looking to hold three in person teen resiliency trips in February, June and September.

With a change in staff in FY21, our program coordinators will be attending there MRT a Master Resilience Trainer course in 2022. Following certification as trainers, we will begin to resume our teen resilience training for NYARNG youth.

Best Practices

Pandemic Practices:

New York started Virtual Military Kids Club in January 2021. There was a need for a curriculum to keep kids who were not eligible for Teen counsel engaged. We met a total of five times from January to May. We had a total of 25 kids and 15 adults participate. The VMKC would consist of a team-builder, resource to share like Military OneSource, and an art activity. Kids from all across the state joined and met others in different areas. Additionally Child and Youth had four virtual MOMC events. From an April Activity packet, to MOMC Appreciation boxes, Purple up Day Facebook live event to an art contest. A total of 633 kids had attended these events.

Other pandemic practices utilized were a parenting virtual workshop and activity box. Parenting EQ is a subscription box service that teaches and provides resources to families about emotional intelligence. We all know it's been a challenging time for youth during COVID, especially when they weren't in school. We wanted to provide our military families with some tools. We had purchased 50 boxes and offered a virtual workshop that taught families how to utilize the boxes.

MARKETING:

This year New York Child and Youth took initiative to create several new resources and marketing related programs to engage our military families. We worked on incorporating outreach to families through a virtual online recipe book, parenting resource posts, and social media competition with the State of Massachusetts CYS.

We created a Link Tree Account where families can access a quick reference guide into who we are and what services we have to offer, to satisfaction surveys, link to sign up for any activity distribution list, NYNG News letters, access our online recipe book and submission of recipe form, and access to education and activity ideas for families.

YOUTH DEPLOYMENT GUIDE:

Our Youth deployment guide references any resources available to military families throughout the deployment cycle. It discusses deployment specific resources, emotional health resources, school resources, state specific resources, regional specific resources, teen council application, air national guard contacts, survivor outreach services, and a Child and Youth Family Checklist for emergencies. The deployment guide is to help all families through the trials of deployment. Additionally we broke down some of the content from the Youth Deployment Guide and created a Child and Youth Resource brochure.



Connect with Us!

"Child & Youth really hit the ground running when the pandemic occurred. They stepped in with a number of virtual activities to help military families keep their children engaged and occupied."

-Taylor Cross NYARNG Spouse



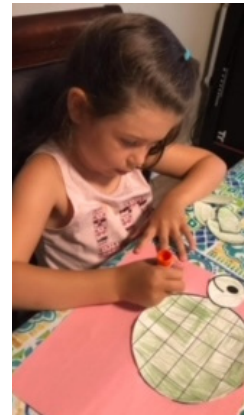
"Child & Youth Services provided valuable support to the NYNG Families throughout the COVID pandemic through Camp-in-a-Box, Yellow Ribbon Briefings, "Tuesday Talks," funded 30 NYNG Youth at a NYS Camp, and various other virtual events."

- Family Programs Director Scott Walker



"Child and Youth has provided a great outlet for kids for future deployments"

-LT Hill NYARNG



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LinkTree
<https://linktr.ee/NYARNGCYS>



DMNA Family Programs Main Page
<https://dmna.ny.gov/family/>

**For More Information
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