

2021

Annual Report

NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAM



Mission

To promote and sustain the quality of life and resilience of National Guard Children and Youth by providing secure, timely, flexible, high quality support services and enrichment programs.

Goals

- Empower National Guard Children and Youth using a variety of recreational, social, and educational programs to foster their resilience during all stages of deployment
- Enlist community support and partner with other organizations to provide improved opportunities for events and education
- Educate the school systems on the unique needs of Military Children
- Engage Military Service Members and their families to help achieve the overall success of the Child and Youth Program

Best Practices/New Initiatives

Purple Up Color Run

Our Purple Up Color Run was held in Bismarck as an event during Month of the Military Child. The ND Teen Council ran this event. They had a face painting station, colored leighs for the kids, water bottles, music and dancing to get the families ready for the run and excited. They said a few facts about the resiliency of military kids, and what military kids go through during times of training and deployment.

They also highlighted military youth as leaders, and talked about the significance of the color purple. Then they started the run. The course was 1 mile, and they had 10 purple, powder, color stations set up, where they threw it on the participants. The families loved the event, and can't wait for next years. We had over 60 people participate in our first ever Purple Up Color Run.

"My heart is so happy! Not too many times do I post about my job and the organization that I have been apart of for almost 22years. But yesterday I picked Wyatt up from his first ever camp, NDNG Military Fish Camp. I am so grateful for everything they did for my Wyatt and all other military kids out there. What our kids sacrifice everyday for our careers is often overlooked. He will forever remember you and his experience."

SFC Carina Wittmier

COVID Response

In response to COVID, we did most of our Volunteer Training virtually this year. Along with Jr. Camp Counselor training for our teens. This helped us prepare our volunteers when we couldn't meet.

Our Teen Council helped design Camp Homefront, a box full of camp activities. It gave our youth 4 days of camp activities that we lead virtually. Those activities included a STEM activity, a craft, an outdoor activity, a fitness challenge, and at the end of the day we did our hunt the good stuff journals. We also hosted nightly virtual events including a talent show and our Teen Council lead nightly campfire songs.



Teen Council

- Visited with Governor Burgum and The Adjutant General about the importance of Month of the Military Child
- 64 Classroom Hours (Meetings/MRT/Trainings)
- Briefed families that were deploying on the hardships their children may face during their departure.
- Logged over 164 Community Service Hours in 2021.
- Participated in the Travis Manion Project, and learned about the importance of resiliency and leadership skills.
- Planned, set up and led a Purple Up Color Run for our military families for the Month of the Military Child. Bringing recognition to the sacrifices our military youth make.
- Participated as Junior Camp Counselors for us this year at our youth camps. They all took 4 hours of Junior Camp Counselor Training.
- Helped military youth at numerous Yellow Ribbon Events throughout the year, leading activities and giving back..
- They attended the Region 8 Leadership Symposium in South Dakota and participated in creating a song against bullying.



Resilience Training

- Over 188 military youth completed Hunt the Good Stuff Training, and created journals for them to continue the skill at home.
- We went over resiliency with our MRT Certificate members of our Teen council as a refresher course, and had them come up with different activities for our military youth going through trying times, using their MRT knowledge.
- The teen council completed a number of MRT trainings in FY21.
- Completed Activating Thoughts, Goal Setting and Ice Bergs training with over 75 youth.

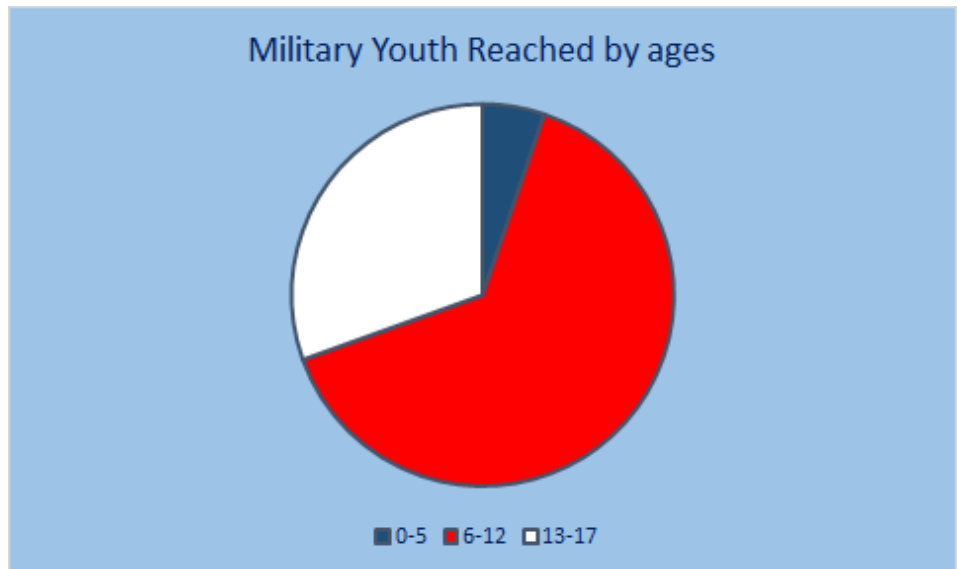
Program Impact

Youth Ages 0 to 5:
Total-250

Youth Ages 6 to 12:
Army National Guard-2255
Air National Guard-450
Other Branches-364

Youth Ages 13-17:
Army National Guard-1155
Air National Guard-197
Other Branches-105

Adults:
Total-4742



“These are the only camps and programs my kids want to attend. My daughter attended military camps from 3rd through 10th grade loved it so much she volunteered as a youth and adult leader the last two years. My son has attended five military camps over the last few years attended his first non military youth camp and was greatly disappointed. The ND child and youth program team gives these kids a chance to make new military friends or reconnect with old ones. It is so important to teach them the values of resiliency, pride in their country, and giving them the self-confidence they need to try new things. That is what our NDNG Child and Youth Program does so well.”

CMSGT Ryan Went 119th ANG

Volunteers

- Total Number of Volunteers: 231
- Total Number of Hours Worked: 6331.5
- Average: 27.4 hours per Volunteer

Our Volunteers have heart. Our kids are always made to feel welcome, loved and safe at each event, thanks to our amazing volunteers. From setting up activities, training youth, preparing snacks, hauling items to a different location, to tearing down an event, our volunteers are there with a helping hand and smile.

Program Highlights

- 15 Virtual Educational Day Camps: Building leadership and resiliency skills through our youth
- 2 Father/Daughters Balls: Building Family Resilience
- 4 Yellow Ribbon Events: Resilience, preparedness, Resources
- 3 Family Resilience Events: Building Family Resilience and relationships
- 24 Camp in a Box Kits: Educational, Mental Health, Resilience, Physical Fitness
- 1 Guard Your Future Retention Events: Resources/Retention
- 6 Month of the Military Child Events
- 217 youth attended teen council meetings throughout the year at Various locations
- 1 Gold Star youth programming event
- Over 400 families impacted by school supply and stocking stuffer drives
- 1 Virtual College Preparation Course given for parents and students
- 3 overnight summer camps; Military Fish Camp, STEAM Camp, and Military Adventure Camp
- 1 In Person Ninja Academy Day Camp: Physical Fitness/Resilience
- 84,658 Total Reached for our Outreach Efforts

Community Partners

- Lure em' For Life provided us with bait, fisherman, boats, life jackets, fishing rods, and curriculum pieces for our Fish Camp.
- ND Game and Fish Department provided us with instructors and curriculum for our Fish Camp.
- Travis Manion Project provided us with leadership training for our teen council
- Dan's Supermarket provided us with food items for our annual Halloween Safety Event.
- Thrivent Financial provided us with food and prizes for our Father-Daughter Ball event, and our Halloween Safety Event.
- Gate City Bank provided us with cookies for the youth to decorate at our Month of the Military Family event.
- Ninja Academy provided our youth with a fitness challenge and resiliency training.
- provided us with an educational experience caring for horses.
- Plains Art Museum provided us with an educational class on art.
- Luminate Studios provided our youth with other options to deal with stress.
- Art From the Heart Studio provided our youth with art supplies and helped them find their creativity and create art.
- DreamCatcher Photography provided us with photos of our Fargo Father-Daughter Ball.
- Bridal Butler provided us with decorations for our military balls.
- Dollar Tree helped get school supply and stocking stuffer donations for our youth and Operation Homefront.
- Red Cross provided our youth going through deployments with an emergency preparedness plan, and coping skills.

Contact Information



Facebook Page: North Dakota National Guard Youth



Instagram: @ndmilitaryyouth



Twitter: NDMilitaryYouth@ndmilitaryyouth



National Website: www.arngcyss.com



Lead North Dakota National Guard Child and Youth Coordinator
Contractor for Dynamic Technology Systems
Email: mandy.r.malo.ctr@mail.mil
Phone number: 701-333-3822
Address: 4500 E. Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58504



North Dakota National Guard Child and Youth Coordinator
Contractor for Dynamic Technology Systems
Email: Trudy.L.hjelseth.ctr@mail.mil
Phone number: 701-451-6109
Address: 3920 32nd Avenue North
Fargo, ND 58102