

**Pennsylvania Army
National Guard
Child and Youth
Program**

FY21 Annual Report

“Always Ready, Always There”

MISSION

The Pennsylvania National Guard Child and Youth Program will advocate for all PA National Guard children and will offer programs and opportunities to collaborate with other military children to form a strong support base for all.



PURPOSE

The Child and Youth Program (CYP) is an integral component of the National Guard's comprehensive approach to Family Readiness. By upholding the well-being of the entire family, the CYP offers outcome-based activities designed to foster positive youth development and support the unique strengths and challenges of National Guard children. This program exists to mitigate risky behaviors, enhance resilience, develop positive coping strategies, and assist our National Guard youth in reaching their full potential as the next generation of leaders.

*"I feel like it shows my children that there are other families and children that are going through the same separations."
- Soldier Parent Satisfaction Survey*

BRANCH OF SERVICE	ADULTS	YOUTH 6-12	YOUTH 13-18
Army National Guard	455	457	172
Air National Guard	80	169	33
Army Active	0	24	3
Air Force Active	0	11	1
Navy Active	0	30	0
Marine Active	0	10	0
Coast Guard Reserve	0	1	0
Other	159	9	6
TOTAL	694	711	215

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED

926

*"I'm grateful my children have been a part of these programs and we will be participating for years to come!"
- Soldier Parent Satisfaction Survey*

FY21 Program Highlights

- 22 Community/Partner Trainings or Meetings
- 16 Hours of Lego Snapology sessions
- 7 Activity Boxes or Packets Mailed
- 6 Overnight Camps (Easterseals and YMCA partnered)
- 3 Family Programs Staff Training or Meetings
- 3 Teen Council Meetings
- 3 Virtual Events, including Scavenger Hunts
- 3 Yellow Ribbon Ceremonies
- 2 MOMC events
- 1 Teen Challenge Camp (State Symposium)
- 1 Regional Teen Symposium
- 1 Volunteer Training



Last December, Zoom had two very special hosts waiting to meet our CYP families. It was Mr & Mrs. Claus sharing some holiday cheer and activities! We couldn't have done it without our volunteers' support. **TOTAL OF 12 VOLUNTEER HOURS**

Teen Council

PA Teen Council is made up of 11 teens (13-18 yrs. old) who are focused on leadership and service. Teens attend quarterly meetings, and regional and state symposiums where there is a focus on MRT skill building, and they learn about and practice the qualities of being a great leader. Teens volunteer at events held by CYP and other organizations to support their communities and other military families. Virtual meeting discussions about resilience, connection, and support directly linked to the challenges every teen faces, even without a pandemic going on.

Teen Challenge Camp

Teen Challenge Camp (State Symposium) had 12 registered teens for the weekend at Camp Krislund. While it was a smaller group, we can say it wasn't boring, it wasn't easy, and it most definitely wasn't disappointing. Teens were



challenged to use their mental and physical strength, resilience, and knowledge to complete a variety of tasks. They encouraged each other as much as they encouraged themselves to keep going. Some stepped up to take the lead and support while others surpassed their own hurdles to be successful. They showed perseverance and resiliency every step of the way.

Region 3 Symposium

The pandemic has changed the way we do things, and Region 3 (Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania) adapted by working together to create a virtual symposium for the 18 youth in attendance. Showing their creativity and support of military children, the group created “The Purplest Panel” on-screen with shirts, wigs, and other purple decor. The event went on to allow the teens time to discuss how the pandemic has affected military youth and how their resiliency training has helped them to remain strong in the face of adversity. Jeopardy, while it was an entertaining game, proved to challenge everyone’s knowledge of MRT skills and military questions. Coming together during the pandemic may look different, but it still had the same heart in it.



“... my husband is the military spouse with no personal military experience ... he has always been distanced from the military. The family camp has allowed him to hang out with the military men and not be separated out. It has made my personal life much easier. “
- Soldier Parent
Satisfaction Survey

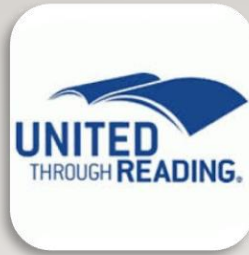
Family Camp

In early September, forty-five military families from around the state joined us for our annual Labor Day Family Camp, hosted by Camp Speers YMCA in the heart of the Poconos. This event is always a highly-anticipated, with families coming from all over the state to join for an enjoyable weekend. Families joined in a variety of traditional camp activities like canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, and campfires. While a great opportunity to bond as a family, it also allowed participants to meet other military families from throughout the state. By joining together, whether in collaboration or competition,

children and adults alike were able to find camaraderie amongst new friends. One of the highlights from the weekend was "Battleship", a highly energetic, lakefront competition in which teams attempt to be in the last canoe floating by flooding their rivals' boats with bucketfuls of water.

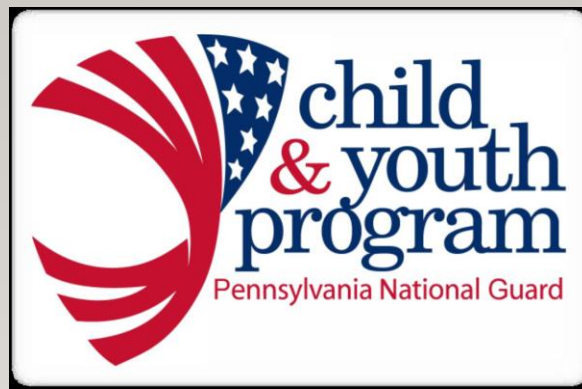


COMMUNITY PARTNERS



The Pennsylvania Child & Youth Program works with a variety of nonprofit and charitable organizations to help us increase our capacity to provide quality programming and services to military families throughout the state. These organizations contribute essential resources such as logistical planning, volunteer organization, materials for events and outreach efforts, and pertinent information and support for military families in need of assistance.





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