

South Carolina Army National Guard Child & Youth Program Annual Report FY21



**“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the
service of others” ~ Mahatma Gandhi**

Vision

To provide high quality enrichment programs and support services to help create the most resilient children throughout the South Carolina National Guard.

Mission

The South Carolina National Guard Youth Services mission is to provide the resources, training, communication and opportunities to help the children of the South Carolina National Guard thrive and succeed not only during a family members deployment, but throughout their lives.

Goals

- Infuse resilience into all SCNG programs and activities.
- To maintain contact with all parents and children of the SCNG to keep them aware of all available programs and services.
- Continue to educate teachers and guidance counselors of the South Carolina School System on the opportunities available to them to assist with military children.
- Provide youth activities that offer variety of interests that appeal to different populations of the SCNG.
- Continue to develop Teen Panel to provide children the opportunity to discuss and resolve issues that face National Guard Youth.
- Conduct annual SCNG residential youth camp that builds resilience, promotes team building, confidence and social skills.
- Continue adapting to our changing environment by implementing virtual opportunities and resources for our military families.

Program Participants



	Adults	0-5yrs	6-12yrs	13-18yrs
Army NG	931	157	952	565
Army Active	6	40	1	2
Air NG	6	0	23	8
Other	691	0	0	0
Total	1636	197	978	576

Program Volunteers

Number of Volunteers: 211 Total Number of Volunteer Hours: 6,852

From running programs at Yellow Ribbon Events, to lending their expertise at our family events, to implementing programming at our youth camp and spending countless hours mentoring our youth, our volunteers are instrumental to the success of our programs. Thank you to our volunteers who have made a difference in the lives of military children and their families across the great state of South Carolina.

SCNG Youth Events 2021

2 Yellow Ribbon Events	1 Overnight Youth Camp	Purple Up Day
1 Fireflies Family Day	7 Military Appreciation Days	6 Hunting/Fishing Trips
1 Denver Downs Family Day	2 Virtual Events	Proclamation Signing
Hero Packs	1 Youth Symposium	1 Leadership Retreat
Gift Wrapping Event	1 Camp Long Youth Retreat	

Teen MRT

This year 29 teens between the ages of 14 and 17 years old participated in Master Resilience Training. The trainings included: hunt the good stuff; goal setting; activating event, thoughts, consequences; energy management; problem solving; putting it in perspective; real-time resilience; identifying character strengths in self and others; character strengths; challenges and leadership; and assertive communication. Teens have the opportunity throughout the course of the year to apply the knowledge and skills they learned from MRT when volunteering in their community, while working with youth at youth camp and while representing our state at Teen Panel.

SC Teen Panel

The SC Teen Panel participated in numerous events throughout the state (Yellow Ribbon events, Stuffing Hero Packs, Family Days, State Community Service Project) including quarterly meetings that allowed for relationship building that continues to support them through the pandemic. Each member receives leadership training and public speaking. They are also very vocal in the planning and direction of the Youth Leadership Retreat. We currently have 14 active members on the panel who have participated in 132 hours of community service projects.



BEST PRACTICES

South Carolina National Guard Outdoor Program

By incorporating state and community partners we created a window of opportunity for youth of military families who are going through deployment to experience outdoor activities in an educational safe environment. Our Outdoor programs provided 97 youth between the ages of 6 and 18 the unique opportunity to learn environmental stewardship, grow and share unique hunting and fishing experiences with other military youth.

COVID 19 Response

South Carolina National Guard Youth Programs continued to provide unique opportunities during the COVID shut down through virtual activities including Art and Photo contests, and Youth Camp T-shirt Design contest. Through our virtual programs we were able to connect with over 100 youth. Participants both new and returning stayed connected and gained confidence during the pandemic.

SCNG Youth Leadership Retreat

SCNG Youth and Family Programs held our inaugural Youth Leadership Retreat in September at Camp Hannon in northern South Carolina. Twenty Nine Junior Counselors participated in our traditional camp activities while enhancing their leadership skills through MRT Training and community service. This year's focus was making positive life choices and paying it forward.

"There is not words to describe the joy you guys provided to us, parents. The fact to leave our most precious treasures in your hands for a week being confident our kids are just fine is indescribable and priceless, knowing they are going to be safe and happy. Thank you."

~ Samuel Silvamolina, SCARNG Service Member



South Carolina State and National Partners

South Carolina National Guard youth program has a statewide support network built of adults, youth, schools, civic groups, military and private organizations. This collaboration has provided much needed support and mentoring for our youth and families helping them to build lifelong friendships, life skills and resilience during these times of excitement and growth in our youth. Our partners provide volunteers, programming donations and funding increasing our capacity to serve our military youth.

"Tank's been waiting his whole life to be old enough to go to National Guard Camp like Dakota and Chloe (JuneBug). Needless to say, you guys did not disappoint!! He hasn't stopped talking about it yet!!! Thank y'all so much for everything you do for our kids!!!"

~Amanda Adams Cooper, SCARNG spouse



Building Community Capacity

Department of Natural Resources, South Carolina Forestry Commission, National Wildlife Turkey Federation, Outdoors at Last Youth Adventures, 4 H, and Low Country Field of Dreams and numerous other community partners fully sponsored and assisted with programming 6 hunting and fishing trips for our National Guard Youth.

Clemson Youth Learning Institute, Columbia Fireflies, Denver Downs Farms and numerous other community partners partnered with the our program providing 11 unique programs including Family Day with the Columbia Fireflies, Family Day at Denver Downs, Proclamation Signing at the State House, virtual events and 3 overnight residential camps at Camp Long, Camp Bob Cooper, and Camp Hannon.



For Program Information, Resources and Referrals:

<http://www.scguard.com/child-youth-programs.php>



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/SCNG-Family-Programs>

<https://www.facebook.com/SCNGYouth/>



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

James E. Harris Jr.

Lead Child Youth Coordinator

Office: (864) 757-1901

Cell: (803) 667-2056

james.e.harris704.ctr@mail.mil

