

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Tennessee Army National Guard



Tennessee Child & Youth Program

Our Mission

To support, advocate and build resilience with the Tennessee National Guard children through education and fellowship.

Our Goals

- Provide developmentally appropriate life skills to our National Guard youth across the state through events and activities
- Educate and provide resources and services to National Guard families, community members and school administration
- Instill resiliency, leadership skills, and techniques in our National Guard youth and families.

Highlights

- 61 "Camp in a Box" boxes delivered
- 17 "Back to School" boxes delivered
- 6 YAC Meetings and Trainings
- 6 Month of the Military Child Events
- 8 Virtual Drawing Classes with Military One Source
- 2 Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Events
- 1 Angel Soldiers Toy Drive
- 1 National Guard Association of Tennessee Conference
- 1 Enlisted Association Conference
- YAC Meeting with Governor Bill Lee



Tennessee Participants & Volunteers

Branch	Ages 6-12	Ages 13-18	Adults
Army NG	108	73	332
Air NG	17	40	x
Other	7	2	169
Total	132	115	501

Ages 0-5: 1
Some participants served multiple times.

Volunteers

This year we were lucky enough to have nine volunteers help with our program by providing sixty hours of their time. Each volunteer went above and beyond by helping us pack and ship boxes for our "Camp in a Box" and "Back to School Box" series. The volunteers provided their assistance with our virtual events such as Monthly Drawings with Military One Source and Military Kids Serve Too Events with the American Red Cross. We are beyond grateful for each volunteer that has helped us this year.

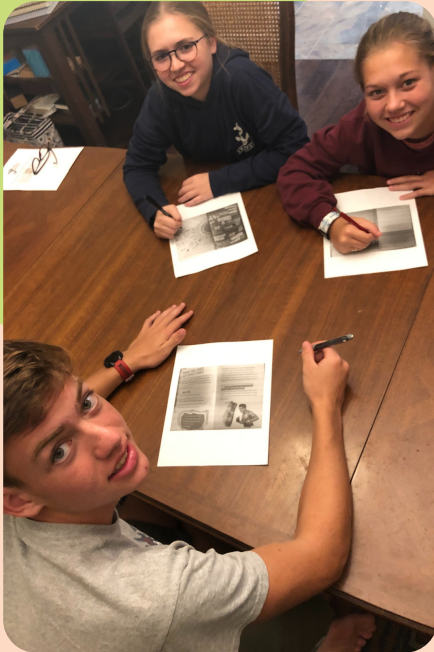


"The Child and Youth Program provided emotional and physical support to our child during a transitional time. By receiving school supplies and the Big Life Journal, they felt a sense of pride and ownership that brought joy."

- Staff Sergeant Patrone, Tennessee Army National Guard

Tennessee Events

Youth Action Council



This year was packed full of exciting and educational events for the Youth Action Council. We were able to meet with 12 members from the Youth Action Council five times through zoom meetings. We were able to discuss COVID and concerns with the pandemic, resilience topics and activities, along with continuing efforts towards our Purple Cord initiative for military children. As an in person event, we were able to attend the annual National Guard Association of Tennessee conference that included a special meeting with Governor Bill Lee where we discussed ideas we are trying to move forward with in the future..

Resilience

Through zoom meetings and Yellow Ribbons events, we were able to reach 247 youth this year. Part of each zoom meeting with our Youth Action Council included a resiliency skill such as Goal Setting, Character Strengths, and Energy Management. As for Yellow Ribbon events, educational packets were given to families experiencing Post-Deployment. Hunt the Good Stuff and Put it in Perspective were just a couple of the skills featured in these packets. Regardless of the status of the pandemic, we will continue to offer resiliency based packets as an additional resource.



Tennessee Events

Events in a Box

With the spread of the pandemic on the rise again we believed it safest to continue "Events in a Box" this year. 61 Campers were able to receive a "Camp in a Box". These boxes contained educational materials, craft kits, camp SWAG, CYP SWAG, masks, and hand sanitizer.

We continued the tradition of a "Back to school Box" with supplies we had donated by Dollar General. Included in these boxes were resilience activities, back to school supplies, and CYP SWAG. We were able to supply 17 Children with "Back to School Boxes". We look forward to providing for our families in the future.



Month of the Military Child

We were able to get creative this year by hosting three "Escape Games" and three "Scavenger Hunts" through a virtual platform with the American Red Cross. Our military youth, ages 13-17, are so brave and resilient that each group was able to "escape" in record time. For our younger military children, ages 6-12, the scavenger hunt was a unique way to show how creative the youth could be to find objects throughout their homes.



Tennessee Partners & Contacts



Military One Source for Tennessee provided reoccurring virtual cartoon drawing classes for all ages, as well as MOS resources.



American Red Cross provided Break out Room and Scavenger Hunt events for all ages during Month of Military Child.



"With every new job, class, or social event, I bring up [National Purple Up Day] to spread awareness for military children like myself and my sisters. Without this program I would have a completely different future and plan for myself."

- Breagyn Jenkins, former Youth Action Council member

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