



2021 Annual Report



TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM

OUR MISSION

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.



GOALS

Education: Provide developmentally-appropriate life skills education to TXARNG youth.

Access: Provide information on access to Federal and State benefits that support TXARNG 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 by creating secure opportunities to network with other youth, parents/legal guardians, and CYS Coordinators in one's community, state/territory, and across the nation.

Resilience: Infuse resiliency and leadership skills and techniques into all TXARNG child and youth programming.

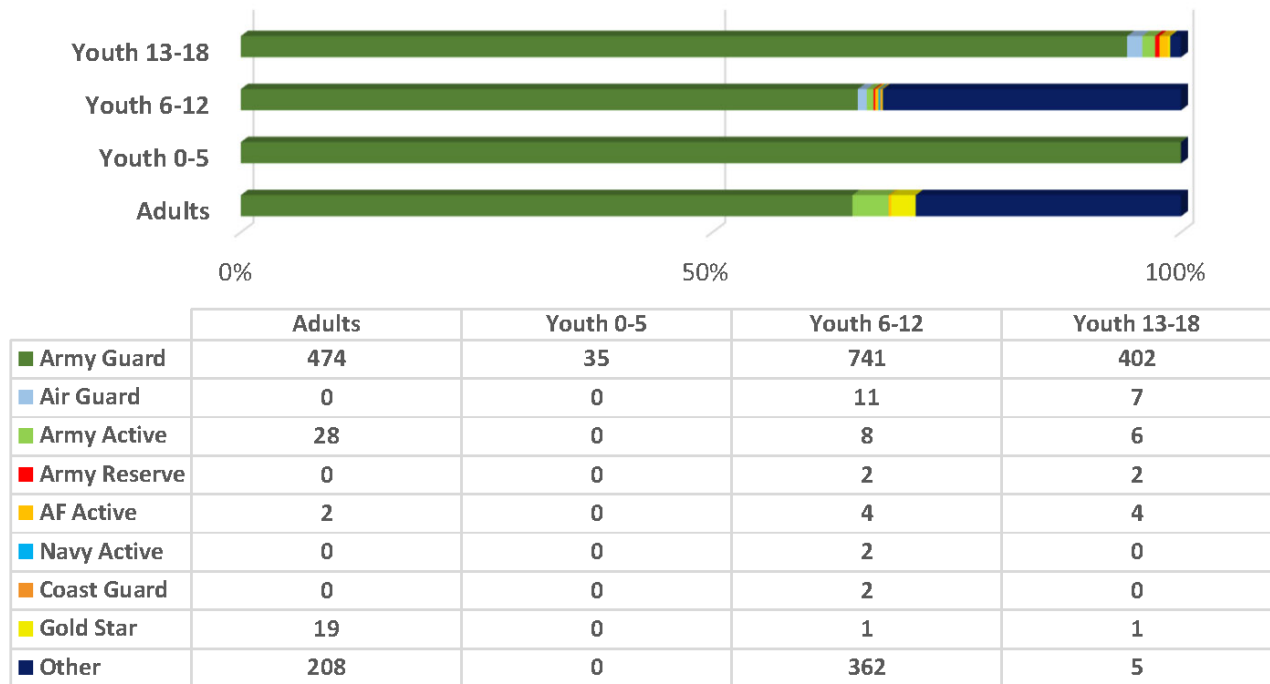
Outreach: Build and sustain contact with parents/legal guardians, and children of the TXARNG in order to create awareness of available support services and programs.

Pictured to the left : TXARNG Youth participating in a variety of programming activities

2021 Event Summary

- 6 Yellow Ribbons
- 2 Overnight Camps
- 5 Day Camps
- 4 Overnight Camps (YMCA Youth/Family)
- 7 TX Youth Leadership Council Meetings
- 2 Month of Military Child Events
- 1 State Youth Symposium
- 12 Partner Meetings and Events
- 2 Volunteer Trainings

2021 Participation



■ Army Guard
 ■ Air Guard
 ■ Army Active
 ■ Army Reserve
 ■ AF Active
 ■ Navy Active
 ■ Coast Guard
 ■ Gold Star
 ■ Other

“Camp was a saving grace for my children during the Summer. TXARNG Child and Youth Program not only paid for the experience, but provided a fun-filled, safe, communicative, morale-boosting environment for all three of my children. They look forward to this week every year. The team is amazing and they live up to the support the family mentality every time!”

- Courtney Danner, Texas National Guard Spouse



Pictured above : TXARNG Youth at YMCA Camp

Volunteer Information

Our program would not be as successful without our volunteers. Our volunteers assist with events such as day camps, family events, Yellow Ribbons and other trainings throughout the state. Their talents and areas of expertise act as an important force multiplier. This contributes to the increased popularity and success of the Child & Youth Program.

Of Volunteers : 24

Total Volunteers Hours : 151

Best Practices

Month of the Military Child Camp-In-A-Box

In an effort to celebrate our Military Youth and keep them connected for MOMC, we decided to venture out and try something new. The Texas CYP sent out 150 MOMC Camp-In-A-Box packages across the state. For each of the 4 weeks the TX Child and Youth Team went on Facebook Live and Google Meet and led a series of activities for youth and families. Weekly activities included a trivia night, tie dying a #purpleuptexas shirt, making slime, and a painting night! Each activity was intended to bring youth together in a virtual environment and simultaneously encourage youth to explore their creative abilities.

Virtual Spring Break Camp

During Spring Break, our program partnered with three programs to bring a Virtual Spring Break Camp experience to our TXARNG Youth. The Musical Instrument Museum (MIM), based out of Arizona brought us the musical history of blues and zydeco and how to build a washboard, spoons and a harmonica with materials they supplied us with. MIM allowed for our youth to experience new types of music that some may not have heard before. The Texas State Aquarium was able to provide us a virtual learning session where the youth were able to interact with aquarium staff and ask questions about marine life. Lastly, Code Ninjas held a virtual basic computer programming class that allowed students to create a game using basic coding.



Pictured above : TYLC Members leading camp activity

Texas Youth Leadership Council

The Texas Youth Leadership Council (TYLC) meets monthly for both in-person and virtual meetings and trainings throughout the year. At the beginning of the year, TYLC decided that they wanted to focus on mental health awareness, adding on the importance of self-care. The council found it useful to share with other youth their best practices for how they manage their stress and anxiety at home and at school. In the spring, Texas hosted the first Virtual State Youth Symposium, with the theme "Dream Big and Inspire Yourself." Three of our council members created and prepared a presentation, in which they educated other National Guard Youth about historic figures/persons who had a great impact on society by living chasing their dreams and following their inspiration. Come summertime, our 4 TYLC members assumed the roles as "junior counselors" at our overnight "Young Heroes" camp, leading youth in 10 hours of activities and programming. In addition, the Texas Child and Youth Program saw one of our senior TYLC members graduate high school and head off to Basic Combat Training, as she begins her career with the Army!

Teen MRT Program

The CYP staff know the importance of creating resilient Army Guard Youth, this is why we incorporate MRT in every event we do. We primarily bring multiple aspects during the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, however, we had the pleasure of including the curriculum during our State Youth Symposium this as well as our Young Heroes Camp, a total of 34 TXARNG received the 2-hour workshop which includes Hunt the Good Stuff, Goal Setting and Activating Event, Thoughts, Consequences or ATC. The Texas Youth Program consistently encourage our youth to Hunt the Good Stuff, how to set S.M.A.R.T. goals and incorporate resiliency in their everyday lives as a Military Youth. MRT is crucial for our Guard Youth to become the resilient members of their community.

Community Partnerships

Code Ninjas– The Texas Child and Youth Program partnered with Code Ninjas for a second consecutive year to develop a virtual Computer Programming Day Camp during Spring Break. The focus for the day was S.T.E.M. related computer programming and creating their own computer game.

Texas State Aquarium– The Texas State Aquarium was able to provide us a virtual learning session that allowed the youth to see a diver in a tank and ask questions about the sea life in the tank. The diver was able to speak with the youth and explain why certain sea animals that are specific to the Gulf Coast. They also were able to talk about the importance of conservation and how it can affect the ecosystem.

San Antonio Zoo's: Zoo Lights Overnight! – The San Antonio Zoo Education Center has been an outstanding partner in providing educational STEM programming for our National Guard Youth and Families. Youth learn all about animal biology, behavior, habitats, and conservation efforts. In addition, families are lead on a personal tour of the zoo and introduced to an animal for a close up “animal encounter.”

YMCA Camp Twin Lakes – TXARNG youth had the opportunity to attend Family and Summer Camps at YMCA Camp Twin Lakes. Military Youth were challenged to improve on leadership skills and independence through adventure, and outdoor recreation activities. Reconnect Camps gave TXARNG Service Members and their families the chance to spend time together outdoors, reconnect, and make great memories alongside other families doing the same.



"My daughter attended the youth camp and reported to have had a wonderful time. From it, she gained an educational and fun experience, as well as, new friendships. The camps definitely provide a great experience that she will look forward to every year."

– CPT Diana Lopez, Texas Army National Guard

Pictured to the right : TXARNG Youth engaging in teambuilding activity



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