

# Army National Guard

## Weekend Drill Childcare

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **Is there a cost to Soldiers to utilize the Weekend Drill Childcare (WDCC) Pilot Program?**

The WDCC Pilot Program provides quality childcare services to Soldiers at no cost to the Soldier. Payment of care will be made directly to the care provider.

#### **What military statuses are authorized to participate in the WDCC Pilot Program?**

To be considered eligible for the WDCC Pilot Program, Soldiers must be on T32 or M-Day status and participating in drill on the weekend they request childcare. The ARNG WDCC Pilot Program is available only to eligible ARNG Soldiers during drill weekend. The Pilot currently does not provide care during annual training, state duty, or emergency deployments.



#### **If drill is three or four days long, will all days be covered? Or are only Saturday and Sunday covered?**

ARNG Soldier childcare needs will be assessed based on drill duty hours (plus travel time, if traveling on drill days). In case of MUTA 4, care will be offered on Saturday and Sunday. In case of MUTA 6, care will be offered either on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday or on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Care is provided only one weekend period per month per ARNG Soldier. Childcare may be provided for up to twelve (12) hours per child per day. Care is also available for properly re-scheduled makeup drill MUTAs occurring on weekends. Care is not available for alternate or make-up drill periods outside of weekend drill periods.

#### **What hours are WDCC Pilot Program providers available?**

Childcare Service Providers will be available from 0600 to 1800 during identified drill periods.

#### **What soldier duty statuses are eligible for the WDCC Pilot Program?**

To participate in and be considered eligible for the WDCC Pilot Program, Soldiers must be on T32 or M-Day status on the weekend they are requesting childcare. Soldiers must participate in drill to receive childcare. The WDCC pilot is only available to eligible ARNG Soldiers during drill weekends. It is distinct from the Army Fee Assistance (AFA) program.

#### **Are AGR Service Members eligible for covered cost weekend childcare?**

The WDCC Pilot Program is available to drilling ARNG Soldiers, which includes "drilling Title 32 AGR" personnel, during scheduled drill weekends.

#### **What are the requirements or qualifications to become a childcare provider in the WDCC Pilot Program?**

Childcare providers in the WDCC Pilot Program facilitated by Upwards, must have completed a qualifying background check, must be a licensed childcare provider, be registered in their state to operate a family childcare home, and must maintain liability insurance in accordance with their state laws and regulations. Interested individuals should visit the Upwards website to learn how to become an Upwards provider.

#### **The WDCC Pilot Program is not offered in my state. Can I still participate?**

No. To participate in the WDCC Pilot Program you must be an active drilling member of a unit in a Pilot 2 state.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Can I cancel Childcare services if I no longer need them on Drill weekend?

Please be advised that you can cancel a reserved care space up to 48 hours before the start of care by promptly contacting your assigned care coordinator through the Upwards app or website. Alternatively, you can contact the Upwards Care team directly at [Heroes@upwards.com](mailto:Heroes@upwards.com) or (816) 403-4873. Cancellation within 48 hours of the scheduled start of care will result in no-show or cancellation charges. The ARNG will not cover costs for no-shows or cancellations.

## How do I reschedule Childcare services if my Command changes my drill period?

When drill periods are rescheduled by the Company Commander, Soldiers are required to coordinate with their Upwards care coordinator to reschedule their dates. They will not be liable for rescheduling or cancellation fees, as these circumstances are beyond their control and submit a request for care during the new drill period. Care is not available for alternate or make-up drill periods occurring outside of weekend drill periods.

## What happens if I fail to cancel or reschedule Childcare services?

When booking Childcare services, Soldiers enter into a direct agreement with the childcare provider and agree to adhere to Upwards no-show and cancellation policies. Failure to cancel or reschedule Childcare services in accordance with Upwards stated policy will result in the Soldier being responsible for the cost of related childcare. The ARNG will not cover costs for no-shows or cancellations. Soldiers must remember to cancel or reschedule requested childcare to avoid being responsible for the full cost of the scheduled childcare in case of no-shows.



## What children are eligible to receive care through the WDC Pilot Program?

Dependent children ages six weeks through 12 years old who are registered in DEERS are eligible to receive care through the WDC Pilot Program.

## How are WDC providers credentialed?

All Upwards childcare providers must undergo an extensive background check and must be licensed to provide childcare in their state. Every Upwards provider has successfully completed the most recent health and safety courses. Additionally, all daycare providers receive a home visit, are licensed by the state social services department, and are subject to periodic check-ins to ensure quality and safety.

## What will my kids learn during childcare?

Upwards providers have access to a curriculum of enrichment and learning activities curated by experts in early childhood education.

## How far in advance can I reserve childcare?

Childcare can be reserved at least 30 days up to a minimum of 48 hours before services are needed. Earlier reservation windows may be available depending on program utilization.



### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

#### Upwards Childcare

Email: [heroes@upwards.com](mailto:heroes@upwards.com)

Website: [www.upwards.com/benefits/military](http://www.upwards.com/benefits/military)



Exceptions for extenuating circumstances related to spouse availability may be considered. To request an exception, please contact NGB J1-M at:

[ng.ncr.ngb-arng.mbx.weekend-drill-childcare@army.mil](mailto:ng.ncr.ngb-arng.mbx.weekend-drill-childcare@army.mil)



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