



**West Virginia
Army
National Guard
Child & Youth
Program**

**2021
Annual
Report**



Mission and Goals

Our Mission

To help our military youth be resilient and develop their own personal coping skills to successfully face and overcome challenges to reach personal goals and understand the resources that are available to help them succeed in their endeavors.

Our Goals

- Education:** Provide developmentally appropriate life skill education to Army National Guard youth.
- Access:** Provide information on access to Federal and State benefits that support Army National Guard children and families, including: counseling, education, childcare and other resources needed to foster a healthy, stable and secure family environment.
- Opportunity:** Create partnerships that provide opportunities to participate in programs, events and activities geared toward improving the behavioral and physical health and welfare of children and youth that span the spectrum of Government, community and private sector.
- Communication:** Build a sense of belonging to the ARNG community by creating secure opportunities to network with other youth, parents and youth programs.
- Resilience:** Infuse resiliency and leadership skills and techniques into all ARNG child and youth programs.
- Outreach:** Build and sustain contact with parents and children of the WV Army National Guard In order to create awareness of available support services and programs.
- Commitment to Service:** Build a robust volunteer program through which we can host events that support the social, emotional and academic needs of our military kids.



Parent Quote

"The kids love getting the mailer kits and look forward to getting them. The activities in them are fun, educational and age appropriate and has helped tremendously through the COVID days".

Abby Hammack, WVARNG Spouse JFHQ

Participants and Highlights



Youth and Teens Served

2082-Army Guard Ages 6-12
608-Army Guard Ages 13-18
742-Air Guard Ages 6-12
230-Air Guard Ages 13-18
18-Other Ages 6-12
41-Other Ages 13-18
494-Ages 0-5

Total Served: 4,215

Adults Served

3633-Army National Guard
1366-Air National Guard
2-Army Active
6-Army Reserves
1264-Other

Total Served: 6,271

350 Programming Hours

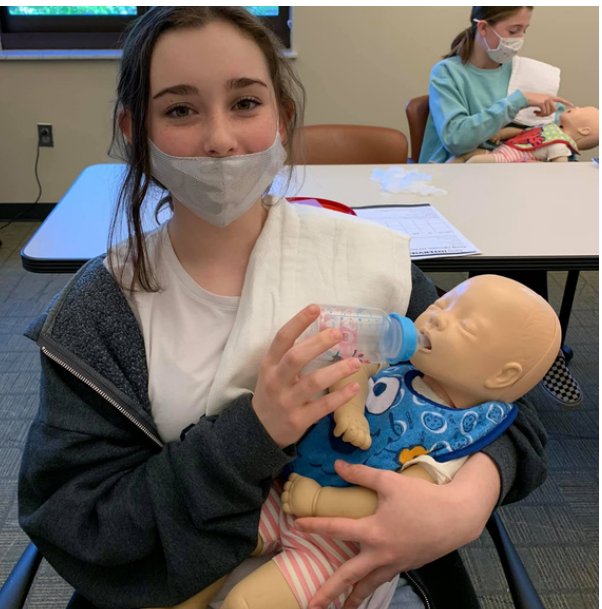
Volunteer Activities

Holiday Events, Unit Events, State Teen Panel, Virtual Readings Deployment & Homecomings and our Military 4H Outreach

108—Volunteers

2021 Program Highlights

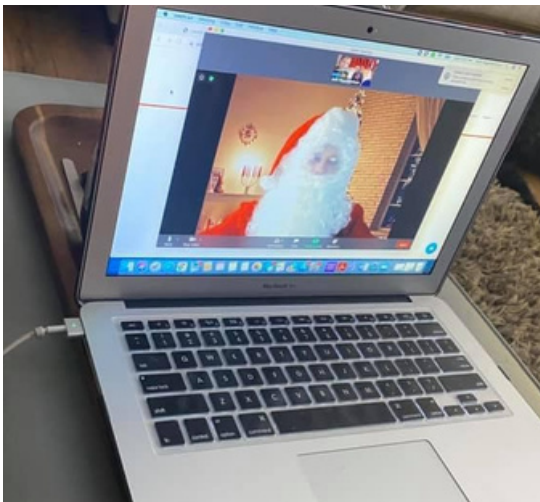
- 1—Virtual Regional Youth Symposium
- 1—State Teen Panel Retreat
- 1—Deployment Ceremony
- 2—Red Cross Baby Sitting Classes
- 2—Family 7 Habits Strong Bonds Weekend
- 2—Family Day Events
- 2—School Supply Pick Ups Events
- 2—Reunion Virtual Workshops
- 3—Red Cross First Aid, CPR AED Certification Classes
- 3—Homecomings Ceremonies
- 5—Themed Deployment Cycle Support Kits
- 6—Themed Activity Mailer Kits
- 7—Yellow Ribbon Events (Virtual & In Person)





Best Practice

During our last programming year, we found ourselves looking for ways to stay safe and yet still continue to serve our military kids. The best way to accomplish our mission was to provide at home mailer kits! Our mailer kits have continued this year as well and we couldn't be to any happier with the results and feedback! For FY21, we provided Winter STEM Kits, Read Across America with Dr. Seuss Kits, Month of the Military Child Purple Up Kits, Museum Mailer Kits and my favorite, American Flag Appreciation Kit. Each kit provided hands on activities, resiliency skill building, history lessons to include virtual tours of the Star Spangled Banner House and it's resting place at the Smithsonian in Washington DC. Thanks to our STARBASE program, our mailer kits included STEM building activities as well! 539 mailer kits went out to our military kids and we are excited to say, they will continue in the upcoming year.



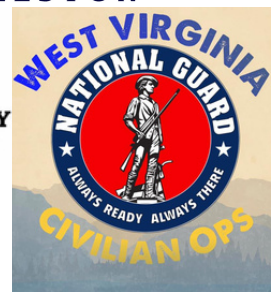
Virtual Santa Visit

As our COVID response continued, we partnered with our Military OneSource representative to provide virtual Santa visits to our military kids as a way to ensure the magic of Christmas and this time honored tradition would carry on.



Program Partners

From ideas, instructions and supplies for mailer kits, Day Camp opportunities, to virtual tours around the Mountain State, our program partners do not let us down. STARBASE was key to our success with the STEM programming in the mailer kits. We now have 23 Red Cross First Aid, CPR & AED certified STP & volunteers with another 16 teens certified in the Red Cross Babysitters Training. The Boys & Girls Club provides amazing opportunities for our military kids and we are proud to be a part of it.





State Teen Panel Overview

Our State Teen Panel (STP) leadership consist of four members representing both Army and Air National Guard. This year our panel members began with readings and outreach on our social media sites for Halloween and Month of the Military Family Celebrations. They have also participated in the United Through Reading program providing targeted support to military kids experiencing deployment. Our STP members also participated in our virtual Regional Youth Symposium where the goal was for them to check in with each other to see how they were staying connected and resilient during this pandemic. Our teens shared interesting facts about their states as an introduction icebreaker and finished off with a round of Jeopardy, complete with questions such as "Why is optimistic thinking difficult?" and "what are the 5 steps for the skill Goal Setting?" As a bragging moment, the WV STP were the winners of that round! Our STP also hosted a Teen Retreat where MRT skills, quick team building ideas that they could do at their units and resource scenarios such as Military OneSource and Tutor.com were covered. New members were recruited and they are super excited to start off the new programming year!

MRT Overview

Each of our mailer kits contained an aspect of resiliency building during FY22. We also hosted a Teen Retreat Weekend and implemented the two hour MRT module along with the WVNG R3SP Coordinator. 14 Teens were trained in Resilience Overview, Hunt the Good Stuff, Activation Event, and Goal Setting.



New Initiative-Deployment Cycle Support Mailer Kits

Even though COVID caused us to stop, deployments continued. We had to find a way to continue supporting our military kids thru this most difficult time. We decided to create mailer kits just for this purpose. Our kits contained activities and connection ideas along with supplies for our kids to complete. We also provided journals, countdown jars and created pillowcases with their military parents picture on them for them to keep close by. We made sure deployment guides and resources were also included. We also increased our outreach with the schools in which our kids attend by creating mailer kits for their teachers and included resources and ideas for them to use in their classrooms. 475 kits were provided.

Soldier Quote

"I enjoy doing the activities and experiments that come in the mail through the Child & Youth Program. It's a nice way to mix learning and family bonding. My daughter always gets so excited when she gets the mail. It's amazing the time and effort put into making the crafts for our NG youth. I hope we can continue this program for many years to come!!"

CPT Autumn Stake, WVARNG, 1092nd



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Check out our Social Media Sites:

Twitter: WVNG Child & Youth Program

Instagram: WVNGChild_Youth

Facebook: WV National Guard Child & Youth Program

