



**ANNUAL REPORT 21**

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# **WISCONSIN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAM**

# WI CYP Mission

The mission of the WI Army National Guard Child and Youth Program is to positively impact Soldier and Family **readiness, resilience, and retention** by providing secure, timely, flexible, and high-quality youth development opportunities and resources which promote the overall well-being of ARNG children and youth.



"The CYP has greatly helped our family. Our kids have gained a lot of understanding of military life and met good friends along the way. The support we get from our kids makes it easier to be a part of the military."

SFC Merry, Kelsey 950th Engineer.



## FY21 GOALS

### Marketing and Outreach

Grow and sustain contact with families so they know the available opportunities and support provided by the CYP programs and other military programs.

### Program Development

Deliver programming that is inclusive to all families, develop leaders and build resiliency among military youth. Ensure National Guard families have the tools to be "Ready" when their Service members called on.

### Foster connection

Build a variety of events to engage all family types and help grow a larger sense of community.





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## BEST PRACTICES

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### Serialized Online Events

As the pandemic has had to push the WI CYP team to innovate our online program, we have serialized some of our programs. One successful innovation was having a subsequent Mental Health Summit, Leadership Academy, and Month of Military Child. Instead of having all the camp content in one day or weekend, we have one-hour activities spread out over a couple of weeks. Sequential programs have led to greater flexibility in hosting events on school nights and increasing youth participation by only taking an hour once a week instead of a full day or weekend.

### Day Camps

With Programs opening in Wisconsin, we increased the number of day camps through the State. Day Camps allow young children to join in the fun of camp. Also, it is an excellent introduction Child and Youth Program. We place the Day Camp in different parts of Wisconsin to give more youth access to our program. We had success at meeting new families that never interacted with our programs. Especially with our younger 6-8-year-old, not always ready for overnight camps, they can still enjoy parts of camp tell they are prepared to come to the overnight experiences.

## Community Partners

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We have been developing new community partners to increase the variety of activities we can offer to our families. One of the new partners this year has been Team Red White and Blue (Team RWB). Team RWB is a non-profit working to support veterans and connect to the local community. Team RWB has helped us with comic book drawing about "How to Draw Yourself as a Superhero" and helping out with pet first aid class. We have also been deepening our relationship with UW 4H by having a State Teen Panel member on the 4H leadership council. This has increased visibility of our program's needs and awareness of what military youth face.





## **Volunteers**

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In FY21, our volunteers were critical for the development of our serialized programs. They were needed as speakers for our November Leadership Academy when they talked about different leadership styles and career paths. The growth of our partnership with Madison Team Red White Blue (Team RWB) helped find a volunteer to host events for Month of the Military Child. Team RWB led an art, fitness, and pet first aid class. Lastly, our volunteers were significant for the in-person program. They help to teach wilderness survival, charcoal art, etc. They also helped with the smooth operation of the premier camp, Badger Youth Camp. We had 41 volunteers in FY21 contributing 236 amount hours to help support Wisconsin National Guard Children and Families.

## **Master Resiliency Training**

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With the Covid-19 pandemic still in effect, our daily lives come with stress and adversity. Resiliency is a critical factor in mental and emotional health to help youth cope with daily stressors. The Wisconsin Child and Youth Program utilized Master Resiliency Training in every camp, Yellow Ribbon Events, and activity we host. We achieve this by creating an intentional space for all our programs to Hunt the Good Stuff, Energy Management, Problem Solving, and Put into Perspective. Through our Teen Symposium and Mental Health Summit, we 29 youth dig deep Master Resilience training. Thought out FY21, we have made an effort to make sure our child gain the skill to cope and thrive when dealing with the realities of military life and the covid-19 pandemic

# Event Highlights

13 Day Camps - both online and in-person facilitating connection

7 Month of Military Child events celebrating our Military Youth

1 Master Resiliency day building emotional well being

2 Summer Overnight camps bring youth together from all over Wisconsin

1 Regional Symposium connecting Region 5 Teen Panels

9 Teen Panel Meeting helping mentor our youth

4 Yellow Ribbon process phase of development

1 Youth Symposium is building future leaders.

## Total Program Hours FY 21: 247

Age	6-12	13-18	ADULTS
Army NG	179	99	127
Air NG	50	31	19
Army Reserve	4	2	1
Army Active	1	4	1
Navy Active	4	8	0
Navy Reserve	7	5	0
CG Reserve	4	2	0
Other	1	0	312
Total	250	158	470

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"My family is SO thankful for the awesome opportunities the child and youth programs have given our son! Especially in an area with a lack of active duties families to relate with, this gives him an opportunity to meet children like him who "get" what it's like to be a military child. Without these programs, it's rather isolating!"  
SFC Everhardt HHC147

# State Teen Panel

Wisconsin State Teen Panel (WI STP) has seven active State Teen Members. The State Teen Panel held their annual November Food Drive for homeless veterans. STP collected over 452 pounds of food. In addition, they helped support Badger Yellow Ribbon by being a helpful mentor to youth getting pre, during, and after development. WI STP hosted and led conversations during Region 5 Summit, which WI hosted. Region 5 brought STP from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Ohio to talk about the impact of Covid-19 on National Guard Families. They also had a chance to come up with proposals to enact to help support National Guard youth. The recommendations focused on mental health, motivation, and communication. STP is excited to take on this next year and support military children.



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## WI CYP TEAM



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