



WYOMING

Annual Report

FY2021



Our mission is to provide resources, training and leadership opportunities and to establish local community support to meet the social, emotional and academic needs of youth who are impacted by a family member's military service.



HIGHLIGHTS & EVENTS

- ✓ **Harry Potter Science Night** - Created a magical Halloween event to give families an opportunity to explore STEAM related activities
- ✓ **Youth Advisory and Leadership Council Symposium** - Allowed Youth Council members some time to focus on MRT skills, teen leadership and finding a vision through COVID.
- ✓ **GUARDian Angel** - Organized volunteers to collect and wrap gifts for families in need.
- ✓ **Drive Thru Christmas Event** - Collaborated with other family programs to provide a drive thru Christmas experience for families including a chance to visit with Santa and collect STEAM activities.
- ✓ **Virtual BRAT PACKS** - Put together monthly 'subscription' boxes filled with STEAM activities, an MRT skill, a cooking lesson led by a Youth Council Member, an art lesson led by a local art teacher and a family finance class from the Personal Finance Counselor.
- ✓ **Month of the Military Child Celebration** - Collaborated with 14 different community organizations to provide activities, games and activities that celebrated Military Kids from around the state.
- ✓ **Region 8 Symposium** - Partnered with other Region 8 states to focus on Moving Mountains through leadership.
- ✓ **2 Residential Summer Camps** - Promoted connections between military youth across the state of Wyoming.
- ✓ **Back to School Movie Night** - Hosted an outdoor back to school movie event giving families an opportunity to spend quality time together. Gave away over 50 backpacks full of donated school supplies.
- ✓ **1 Unit Family Event** - Created family friendly activities, answered questions on programming and actively recruited for the Wyoming Youth and Leadership Council as well as program volunteers.
- ✓ **Daddy Daughter Dance** - WYNG Dads and Daughters were able to join us for a dressed up night of dinner, dancing and relationship building.

TOTAL PROGRAMMING HOURS: 71

PROGRAM GOALS

ACCESS	Maintain and provide information to families of WYNG Service Members to include counseling, education, deployment and other resources needed to foster positive relationships and a secure family environment.
EDUCATE	Create opportunities for youth to develop resilience, leadership and life skills through engaging in training and service learning activities.
OUTREACH	Promote and develop relationships with community stakeholders to provide service and opportunities to educate and support the needs of our unique National Guard youth and families.
CONNECT	Develop a variety of events and secure networking opportunities to build a sense of belonging for National Guard families and youth across the state of Wyoming.

YOUTH ADVISORY AND

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



Wyoming held steady with 8 Youth Council members and in an effort to recruit participants, started a Junior Youth Council Program initiative. These 11-12 year old junior members attend our monthly Zoom calls as well as any local in person events and meetings. At events, they are paired with a Youth Council member for some 'on the job training'. We now have 3 junior members who are always eager to participate and learn.

In November, we hosted an in person fall symposium and learned all about event planning, MRT skills as well as engaged in leadership and team building opportunities.

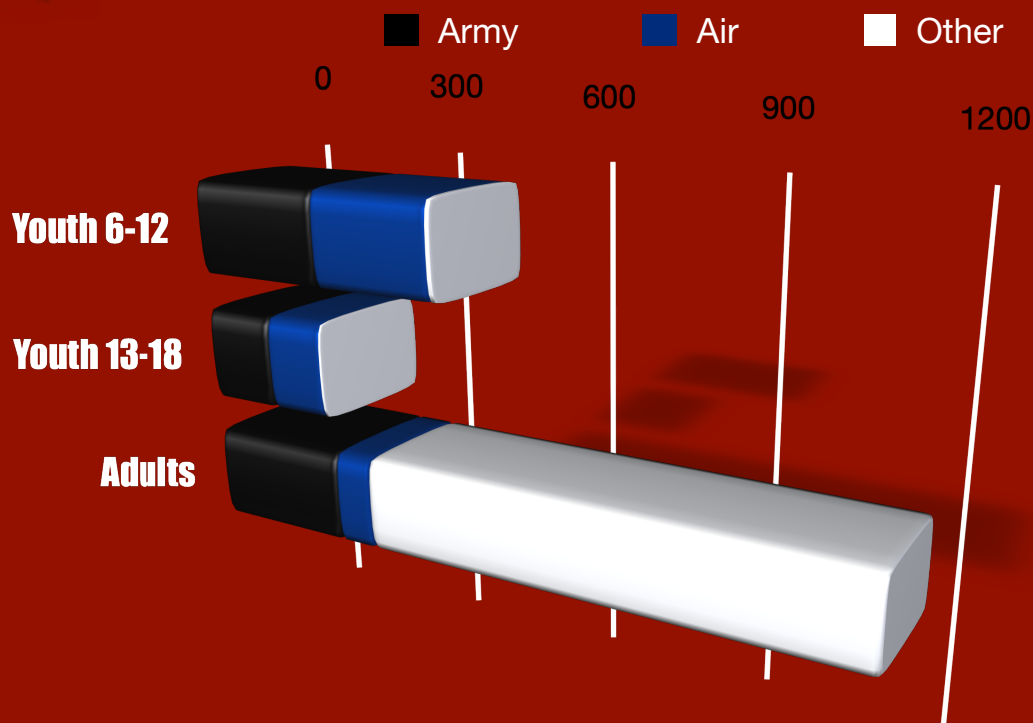
The Youth Council played a large part in our virtual outreach response to COVID-19 by leading 4 different video cooking demonstrations that went along with our monthly Brat Pack initiative.

In April, our Youth Council showed amazing support for the in person Month of the Military Child event. They designed a t-shirt that was sent to military kids across the state and executed a variety of crafts and games for this community event!

In May, 2 of our youth council members were able to travel to South Dakota to participate in the Region 8 Symposium where the theme was "Moving Mountains Through Character Strengths". Our teens gathered ideas from other youth council members and have a plan to implement many of them in the upcoming year!

This was also the first year that Youth Council members served as Junior Counselors for our Youth Camp! Our teens gained lots of leadership experience and overall, had a great time mentoring!

Wyoming National Guard YOUTH AND FAMILIES SERVED



Wyoming provided programming and resources to more than 300 service members and their families with the support and help from over 800 community members, volunteers and partnering programs.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



THANK YOU!!!!

Our community partners helped us provide a variety of fun and educational events for WYNG families and youth around the region. The Elks Club donated \$1000 for our annual Daddy Daughter Dance which is always an event to be remembered and cherished.

For the Fourth consecutive year, the Wyoming FBLA chapter volunteered many hours collecting, wrapping and shipping gifts to families in need for the GUARDian Angel project.

We had 13 community partners support our MOMC celebration this year which turned out to be our most successful event in 2021!

A BIG thank you to all of the organizations who donated time, materials, knowledge and resources for our National Guard youth around the state!

VOLUNTEER HEROES

Our program would not be successful or even possible without the talent and time of our amazing volunteers! From packing and shipping out Brat Pack kits, setting up and running our highly anticipated community Month of the Military Child event, and going above and beyond to make our Daddy Daughter Dance a huge success. Our volunteers genuinely care about our military community and always willing to roll up their sleeves to make sure our military kids are well taken care of!

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS	35
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS	107
COMMUNITY PARTNERS	25

VOLUNTEER BREAKDOWN



“We love the Child and Youth Program. Many of their activities help us to connect as a family and other activities provide experiences for the kids that we would not otherwise be able to afford ourselves like the summer camps.”

-Heather Burnham, WYARNG Spouse

BEST PRACTICES

COVID-19 continues to impact our events and programming. In an effort to keep up with and navigate the ever changing statistics and protocols we decided we needed to come up with something creative to provide resources and outreach to our National Guard families across the state. In January, we launched a virtual BRAT PACK program. These Brat Packs were set up to be like a subscription box for the months of February, March, April and May in hopes that by June we would be back to in-person events including residential summer camps. We initially opened 25 spots but due to the overwhelming response, we doubled that number and had 50 kids sign up to receive these boxes each month. We found an extra positive outcome that came with launching this initiative is that families who live out of state and typically can't and don't participate in our events were so excited to be given a chance to be involved! Each monthly kit contained a fun STEAM activity, a cooking lesson demonstrated online with a member of our Youth Advisory and Leadership Council and an art lesson that we called Social Distanced Drawing demonstrated by a local junior high art teacher and an MRT lesson. These kits were a HUGE success and we had a lot of positive feedback from both kids and parents.

Another new initiative that we were able to roll up into our Brat Packs was a partnership with the Personal Financial Consultant who initially planned a monthly financial lesson for each kit and facilitated a family Zoom call to go along with each lesson. We plan to continue our partnership to include a Teen Financial Planning Symposium in the Spring.



Brat Packers with some of their activities

NEW INITIATIVES



“The WYNG Child and Youth Program is a great benefit for National Guard kids. That families for the National Guard members straddle the line between civilian and military, which can lead to a lack of cohesion in support systems and resources. It's especially difficult for National Guard children who can sometimes be overlooked as “military kids” when a parent is not deployed. The events and activities that the WYNG Child and Youth Program offers are fun and engaging ways for these kids to connect with others in the community who are navigating the same National Guard lifestyle.”

- Jenna Chapin, WYANG Spouse

RESILIENCY TRAINING

There were lots of opportunities for resiliency training in 2021! We added an MRT skill to our monthly Brat Pack kits including HTGS, RTR, PIIP and Energy Management. We also trained our campers on HTGS, RTR and Strengths of Character. We wrapped up the year learning all about Goal Setting with our Youth Council!



Youth Summer Camp
Buffalo WY

TOTAL YOUTH TRAINED	36
TOTAL RESILIENCY HOURS	121



“Both of my children have been participating in the Child and Youth Program for years. They absolutely loved the virtual Brat Pack and Camp in a Box activity kits and the events they can participate in. I often hear them tell their friends about the awesome activity kits and what they’ve made. We even took many items with us while on a family camping trip! I think they would say, without a doubt, their favorite part has always been the summer camp. Hands down one of the biggest things they look forward to every summer is who they’ll see again at camp and what they’ll get to do. The entire program helps them feel proud of their military family and helps us feel like we are being taken care of in a bigger way that we realize.”
- Shelly Bybee, WYANG Spouse

Cindy Vroman-Pugh

Lead Child and Youth Coordinator
cynthia.m.vroman.ctr@mail.mil
307.772.5211

Ashley Garcia

Child and Youth Coordinator
ashley.n.garcia64.ctr@mail.mil
307.772.5212



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