

Military Kids Can



WYOMING FY 2020



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

- ✓ **Spooky Science Night** - Collaborated with Starbase to give families an opportunity to explore Halloween related STEAM activities.
- ✓ **Youth Advisory and Leadership Council Symposium** - Focused on teen leadership, MRT skills and creating a vision for the future of the YALC program.
- ✓ **GUARDian Angel** - Organized volunteers to collect and wrap gifts for families in need.
- ✓ **Cookies and Cocoa with Santa** - With a focus on communication and teamwork, families worked together to build gingerbread houses and then had the opportunity to talk to Santa.
- ✓ **Daddy Daughter Dance** - WYNG Dads and daughters were able to join us for a dressed up night of dinner, dancing and relationship building.
- ✓ **2 Family Game Nights** - Gave families and opportunity to unplug from technology and play games while talking about effective communication.
- ✓ **5 Yellow Ribbon Events** - Supported, educated and advocated for youth and families in various stages of the deployment cycle.
- ✓ **Virtual Month of the Military Child Celebration** - Hosted a month long virtual celebration to honor and recognize our amazing military kids and their families. Activities included spirit week, an essay contest, various challenges, resources and military kid profiles.
- ✓ **Volunteer training** - Our program added 4 active volunteers over the last year. We trained them on proper procedures, the uniqueness of being a military kid, and the mission of our program.
- ✓ **Camp in a Box** - We had to be creative with our camp efforts this year so we packed 3 full days worth of camp activities into a box and sent them out to 50 NG kids around the state accompanied by 2 zoom calls.
- ✓ **Back to School Movie Night** - Hosted and outdoor back to school movie event giving families an opportunity to spend quality time together and receive backpacks full of brand new school supplies.
- ✓ **1 Unit Family Event** - Created family friendly crafts, answered questions on programming and activity recruited for the YALC as well as program volunteers.

PROGRAM GOALS

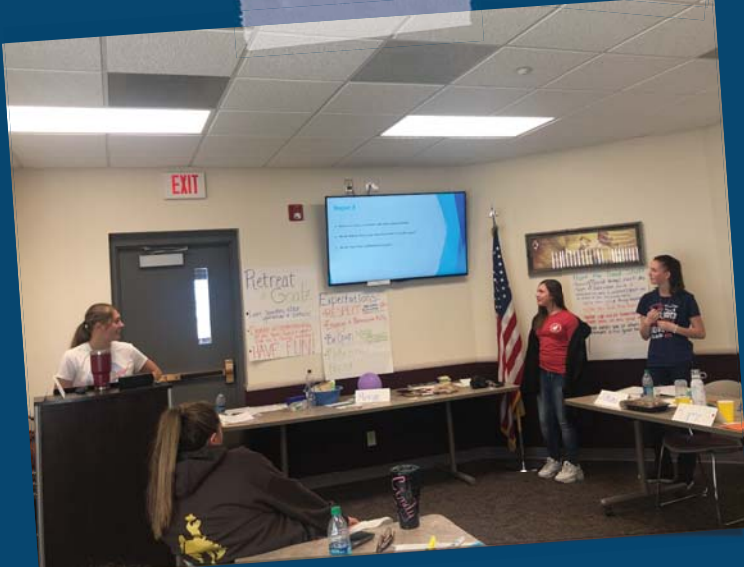
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| ACCESS | Maintain and provide information to families of WYNG Service Members to include counseling, education, deployment and other resources needed to foster positive relationships and a secure family environment. |
| EDUCATE | Create opportunities 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

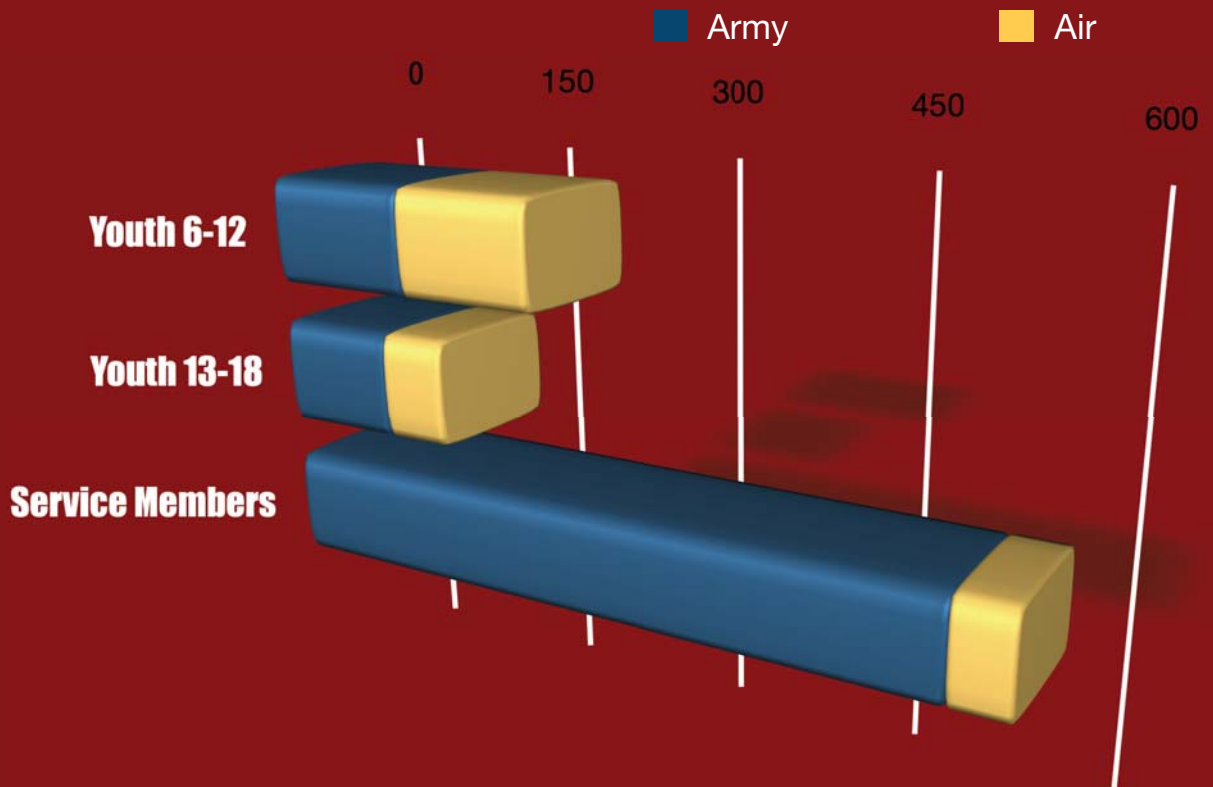


In November, we hosted a ninja themed WYNG YALC retreat. We focused on leadership and resiliency skills, attended the local ninja gym, wrote the VERY FIRST charter, selected governing positions and participated in various team building activities. Our youth council grew together, formed lifelong friendships and created a vision for our program.



Our youth council also participated in the FE Warren AFB trunk or treat event, logged over 70 volunteer hours at various events including Yellow Ribbons, Daddy Daughter Dance, Spooky Science Night and Cookies with Santa. Three of our leaders acted as junior camp counselors for Summer Camp in a Box. We asked them to plan and execute a 10-15 minute interactive activity for our 'bunk time' zoom call for our campers (ages 5-15).

Wyoming National Guard
YOUTH AND FAMILIES
SERVED



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 AND the use of their lodge to host this years Daddy Daughter Dance which is always an event to be remembered and cherished.

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

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 BREAKDOWN

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS	80
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS	154
COMMUNITY PARTNERS	8



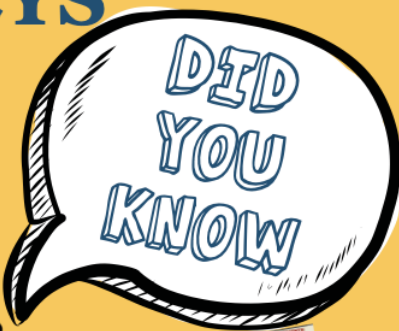
Month of the Military Child Virtual Purple Up Day

"These events always excite all 4 of my girls (ranging in age from 5-12). These events create wonderful memories of building gingerbread houses and meeting Santa to game nights together where my girls can meet other guard kids and build friendships with other children who can relate to being a military kid. I am so thankful for these events." - Nicole Elliot, WYANG Spouse

WYARNG CYS

COVID Response

FY20's
In the know...



SUMMER CAMP...IN A BOX

- 50 boxes sent out to kids around the state.
- 3 days FULL of crafts, family games, STEAM activities and traditional camp engagements.
- Zoom call with MRT skills including PiiP covering back to school stressors.
- Zoom call with junior counselors (YALC leaders) hosting 'bunk time'
- Daily HTGS

NEW INITIATIVE



Camp in a Box Pick Up Event

Resource Management

Over 80 different resources related to COVID 19, mental health, and virtual school were posted to our facebook page for parents to use. These post had more than 400 engagements and over 40 shares.

BEST PRACTICE

PICK UP EVENT

We had 26 local children and their families at our tailgate style pick up event. Following social distancing guidelines, each family created their own family camp flag, enjoyed s'mores cookies while singing camp songs, and played family charades.

"My children love all of the sponsored events. Last year I was both of their dates for the daddy daughter dance. They look forward to the event every year. They have so much fun that they start asking me when the next daddy daughter dance is in order to ensure I remember to get signed up. They also love the ginger bread house building events. The virtual summer camp was an excellent program that allowed my children to connect with others through zoom. The camp projects were well thought out and my children enjoyed all projects. Thanks for all that you do for our children."

-TOBY J. ALKIRE, LTC, MS, Deputy USPF0, 94TC BN CDR

BEST PRACTICES

Based on feedback from our WYNG families, we increased family events over the past year. Due to the many deployments, families requested more events that provide opportunities for quality time and activities that the whole family can do together. The focus of these events was effective communication, the importance of quality time and conversation for families, and ideas for families to spend time together without the distraction of technology. To accomplish this, we talked to our families about the importance of distraction free and engaged conversation as well as the negative effects of being disengaged with your loved ones. During events we provided families with training videos, short PowerPoint presentations, and numerous worksheets and handouts focused on healthy family engagement.

NEW INITIATIVES

RESILIENCY TRAINING

We trained our 11 YALC members during the Youth Council Retreat in November on Goal Setting and HTGS. We also added resiliency training into our Camp in Box curriculum with PiiP and HTGS. We planned a weekend MRT retreat for 20 teens in the Spring, however, we were forced to cancel due to COVID.

TOTAL YOUTH TRAINED	21
TOTAL RESILIENCY HOURS	94

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"Awesome" & Alena (8)

"That was all amazing" & Jayden (7)