

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES

It's More Than A Program...It's A Promise!

NEWS LETTER

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GETTING READY FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Summer may be flying by, but there is still plenty of time for fun before the first day of school arrives! As families begin preparing for a new school year, ARNG Child & Youth Services is sharing resources to help military-connected students and educators start strong, including our new [Educator Resource Packet](#), free 24/7 tutoring through [Tutor.com](#) for U.S. Military Families, and trusted parenting tools from [Sesame Street for Military Families](#).

Many states and territories are also planning back-to-school events and school supply giveaways. Be sure to connect with your [local CYC Coordinator](#) to learn about activities and resources available in your area and help your family head into the school year ready for success!

TUTOR.COM

Summer doesn't mean learning has to stop! Through Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families, eligible military and DoD civilian families have free 24/7 access to personalized tutoring and homework help in more than 150 subjects, from kindergarten through college. Whether students need help right away, want to schedule a session, or receive feedback on a paper, expert tutors are available from anywhere in the world.

Visit [Tutor.com/military](#) to create an account and [download the free Summer Activity Kit](#) for fun, engaging ways to keep learning all summer long.



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REGION 6 SPOTLIGHT: BUILDING LEADERS THROUGH LEARNING AND ADVENTURE

Across Region 6, Army National Guard Child & Youth Programs are helping military-connected youth build confidence, resilience, and lifelong skills through hands-on learning, leadership development, and meaningful connections. From resilience training and cultural exploration to leadership retreats and youth symposiums, these programs are preparing the next generation to succeed both today and in the future.

Oklahoma: Building Stronger Bonds Through Resilience

The Oklahoma National Guard Child & Youth Program brought mothers and daughters together for a colorful day of connection at a paint splatter room. While creating vibrant keepsakes, participants explored their individual character strengths using Master Resilience Training modules. The event encouraged meaningful conversations, strengthened family relationships, and provided practical tools to build healthy connections that last long after the paint had dried.



Arkansas: Around the World in One Week

Arkansas campers embarked on a global adventure during the Around the World Day Camp, where they explored Costa Rica, Kenya, and Japan through interactive STEAM activities. Youth learned about geography, culture, and traditions while building country-themed KiwiCo projects, including Costa Rican carretas, Maasai jewelry, safari binoculars, and Japanese sand gardens. The camp combined creativity, cultural awareness, and hands-on learning to inspire curiosity about the world around them.



Texas: Growing Tomorrow's Leaders

The Texas Youth Leadership Council welcomed teens from across the state for its annual Teen Leadership Retreat, a weekend focused on leadership development and personal growth. Participants strengthened life skills through workshops on financial literacy, college and career readiness, and mental health and wellness while collaborating on future community service initiatives. The retreat also provided opportunities to recruit new council members, elect student leaders, and build teamwork through outdoor challenges including zip lining, high ropes, and the giant swing.



Louisiana: Leadership, Service, and Resilience

Louisiana's annual Youth Symposium gave military-connected teens an opportunity to strengthen leadership, resilience, communication, problem-solving, and time management skills while connecting with peers who understand the military lifestyle. Educational visits to the Louisiana Old State Capitol and the Louisiana Art & Science Museum brought learning to life through history, government, science, and culture. The spirit of service continued as members of the Louisiana Teen Panel volunteered at the Office of Family Programs State Workshop, and the weekend concluded by celebrating the Vicknair Family as the Louisiana Army National Guard Family of the Year, recognizing their outstanding volunteerism and commitment to strengthening military families and their community.





NATIONAL GUARD DELEGATES PARTICIPATE IN JOINT SERVICE TEEN COUNCIL SUMMIT

In June, National Guard Guard Teen Panel delegates Christian M. (Region 2), Kendra B. (Region 9), and Charlee C. (Region 7) traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Joint Service Teen Council (JSTC). The annual event brings together representatives from the National Guard, Army, Army Reserve, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard to discuss issues impacting military-connected youth and provide recommendations to senior leaders.

Throughout the week, delegates collaborated with peers from across the military community, participated in service projects, met with senior leaders, and briefed key issues affecting military-connected teens. Below, the delegates share highlights from their experience.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS AND CREATING CHANGE

Written by Christian M., Region 2 Delegate

The Joint Service Teen Council was an amazing experience that gave me the opportunity to meet teens from different military branches and learn more about their experiences. It was interesting to see that, even though we come from different branches, we share many of the same challenges and concerns.

Together, we identified issues affecting military youth across all branches and collaborated to develop solutions that could benefit everyone. The experience showed the importance of working together and ensuring that every voice is heard.

It was not all work, though. We also participated in community service by welcoming veterans returning on an Honor Flight, which was a heartwarming and memorable experience. Activities like beach volleyball gave us the chance to socialize, build friendships, and connect with teens from other branches.

Overall, the Joint Service Teen Council provides representation for military youth from the National Guard, Army, Army Reserve, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Space Force, ensuring that their perspectives are heard and that they have a role in creating positive change.





ADVOCATING FOR NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH

Written by Kendra B., Region 9 Delegate

During the JSTC Summit, each service branch participated in an Office Call at the Pentagon with senior leaders. Charlee, Christian, and I had the incredible opportunity to meet with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Steven Nordhaus, and Senior Enlisted Advisor CSM John Raines.

It was refreshing to see how professional they were while also creating a comfortable environment for us to speak openly with senior military leadership. We presented two major issues affecting National Guard teens: the lack of available childcare during drill weekends and limited access to social media platforms for some state teen programs.

It was amazing to advocate for youth issues directly with National Guard leadership, and we even learned that one of these issues is expected to be addressed within the next year.

In addition to sharing our concerns, we asked General Nordhaus and CSM Raines about their vision for the National Guard Youth Program and what message they wanted to share with National Guard youth. Their advice on leadership and perseverance was inspiring. General Nordhaus talked about his S.O.P. mindset—Service, Optimism, and Passion—and how those principles helped him overcome difficult times.

Overall, the Office Call was an unforgettable experience that showed me the importance of using our voices to advocate for National Guard youth and make a positive impact.

PRESENTING YOUTH ISSUES TO SENIOR LEADERS

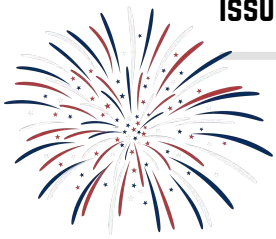
Written by Charlee C., Region 7 Delegate

One of the highlights of the Joint Service Teen Council was presenting to a panel of eight officials representing each branch of the military. During the briefing, we shared the issues and priorities identified by the council and discussed ways to improve support for military-connected youth.

Through this experience, we were able to create an impact not only for National Guard youth, but for military-connected teens across all service branches. It gave us an amazing start toward addressing the challenges we discussed and working together to find solutions.

We hope the briefing, along with the other experiences during JSTC, will help create a stronger sense of community and a more supportive future for military-connected youth everywhere.



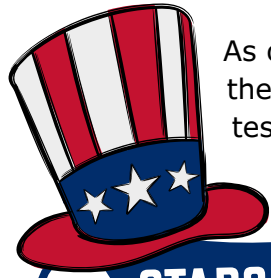


FAMILY FUN CORNER

Celebrate America 250!



As our nation prepares to celebrate America's 250th anniversary in 2026, summer is the perfect time to explore history together. Whether you are reading a good book, testing your knowledge, or enjoying a family game night, these activities are a fun way to learn more about our country and create lasting memories.



STARS AND STRIPES TRIVIA

How many can your family answer correctly?

1 What year was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
A. 1774 B. 1775 C. 1776 D. 1781

2 How many original colonies formed the United States?
A. 10 B. 13 C. 15 D. 50

3 What is the national bird of the United States?
A. Hawk B. Falcon C. Bald Eagle D. Owl

4 Which U.S. monument was a gift from France?
A. Washington Monument B. Mount Rushmore
C. Statue of Liberty D. Liberty Bell

5 What are the first three words of the constitution?
A. We the People B. Life and Liberty
C. United We Stand D. One Nation Under

Challenge Your Family!

What is one place, person, or event from American history you'd like to learn more about this year?



SCAVENGER HUNT

Can your family complete all 10?

- Visit a historical marker or museum
- Find a state flag other than your own
- Learn about someone who helped shape American history
- Attend a parade, festival, or community celebration
- Read a book about the United States
- Try a favorite food from another region of the country
- Learn the history behind your state nickname
- Interview a grandparent or veteran about their memories
- Watch fireworks or a patriotic concert
- Take a family photo at a local landmark

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ The Liberty Bell weighs more than 2,000 pounds
- ✓ The American flag has changed 27 times throughout history
- ✓ Every state has its own unique nickname and symbols
- ✓ The bald eagle became the official national bird in 2024



Sesame Street for
Military Families

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

Military life comes with unique challenges, and Sesame Street for Military Families is here to help. This free, bilingual (English and Spanish) resource offers videos, articles, printable activities, and digital tools designed to support military children and their caregivers through everyday routines and major life transitions.

From deployments and reunions to grief, caregiving, and building resilience, Sesame Street for Military Families provides trusted, research-based resources that help families strengthen connections and navigate change together. Best of all, military families can feel seen, supported, and know they are never alone on their journey.

Visit ss4mf.org, and follow Sesame Street for Military Families on Facebook and Instagram for the latest resources.

Disclaimer: Sharing of resources in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by NGB, any contract vendor or the PM Team.

DOWNLOAD OUR APP!



Search "ARNG CYP"

ANSWER KEY

Stars and Stripe Trivia

1. C - 1776
2. B - 13
3. C - Bald Eagle
4. C - Statue of Liberty
5. A - We the People



NEW RESOURCE FOR EDUCATORS!

As students prepare to head back to school, the Army National Guard Child and Youth Services Program is proud to introduce a new Educator Resource Packet designed to help teachers, counselors, administrators, and school staff better understand and support military-connected students. The packet provides information and tools to increase awareness of military life, strengthen school connections, and help students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to share this free resource with their child's school, teachers, counselors, and other educators. By working together, we can help create welcoming and supportive learning environments where military-connected youth feel understood, valued, and empowered to succeed.

Download the packet here: [Information, Lessons, and Activities for Educators](#)

Whether you've attended an ARNG Child & Youth Services event or are just learning about the program, we want to hear from you!

Take a few minutes to complete the ARNG CYS Feedback Form and help shape the future of the program. Every voice matters, and yours could make a big difference!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ARNGCYS-Feedback-FY26>

