

APR 2012

Volume 1 Issue 2



For Upcoming News
and Events

“Like” is on
Facebook

“CNG Child and
Youth Program”

Northern

We had our first Lock-In in Walnut Creek on March 23rd. It was an amazing turn out with over 30 kids. The kids had such a great time. One of the 9 year old girls said to me, “ Did you plan this?” I said “Yes.” She said, “ Thank you so much, this is the best night of my life!” It was so cute, and very rewarding.—

Jerica Lovett,

Child and Youth Program Coordinator



Central

The Central Valley Child and Youth Program is closing up the month of March with family Easter celebrations all over the valley. We are now gearing up for April the Month of the Military Child.

In support of the 1072nd unit's recent deployment. Hammer Fields We Care meeting was a positive success. The youth attendance was great and a fun filled night for all involved. Special highlights included making edible jumbo marshmallow bunnies and tearing through

colored tissue paper for the creative craft contest. Children of all ages participated in the Armory Easter Egg Hunt as well as receiving Easter Baskets.

Then the CYP then hopped on over to Modesto Armory's first ever Easter Bash. With the help of Family Assistant Specialist; Pam Plamondon and volunteers, the Saturday afternoon was filled with families and friends socializing enjoying the Easter festivities. The children en-

joyed arts and crafts tons of goodies and treats including special made Easter baskets. The event included watching the featured movie “Hop” and the afternoon was finished off with a golden egg hunt..



Central continued.....

CA National Guard Central Valley Teen Council came together for a meet and greet luncheon at Hammer Field Armory family center. Grant Hall (President) and Nate Van Dyke (Vice President) are off to a great start. Look out for these teens they are motivated to make a difference for military kids around the valley.

All teens in attendance came up with great ideas and strategies for upcoming events. The Teen Council's main focus for April is the upcoming Military Child Appreciation Ball. The Teen's encourage children of all ages

to come out and support the military child at the upcoming. Military Child Appreciation Ball in Fresno. Contact information will be listed in our upcoming events section. Do not forget to like us on our Facebook for up to date information, community resources and events.

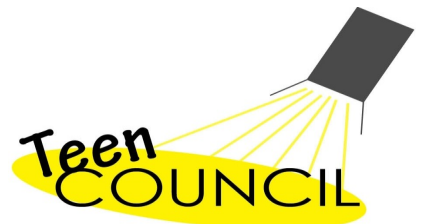
- Melanie Diaz Child and Youth Program Coordinator, Fresno CA



Melanie Handed out over 175 School Packets to deploying soldiers to hand out to children's teachers!



Northern Area Teen Council (Left) were trained in CPR by the Red Cross., Southern Teen Council (right)- had a visit from UCLA Financial Planning Team,



Resource Highlight!- Our Military Kids

Our Military Kids provides substantial support in the form of grants to the children of National Guard and Military Reserve personnel who are currently deployed overseas, as well as the children of Wounded Warriors in all branches. The grants from **Our Military Kids** pay for participation in sports, fine arts, camps, and tutoring programs that nurture and sustain children while a parent is away in service to our country or recovering from injury.

FOR MORE RESOURCES LIKE THIS VISIT OUR WEBSITE BELOW



SAVE THE DATE

The California National Guard
Child and Youth Program proudly presents our First annual

Military Children's Appreciation Ball

When: April 20th, 2012

Who: Army and Air National Guard Children and their Families
(ages 5-18)

Where: Rancho Cordova Elks Lodge, 1140 Elks Circle, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742



**MONTH
of the
Military
Child**

Cost: \$10 per person

Dress: Formal
ASU's, Army Greens, Dress Blues, and civilian equivalent.

Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm Social Hour
Event begins at 6 o'clock

Guest Speaker: Major Jeff Moore

Dinner will be served!

Dancing will begin at 8:00pm!

RSVP to Jerica Lovett at 916-369-4326, jerica.e.lovet.ctr@us.army.mil

The California National Guard
Child and Youth Program proudly presents our First Annual

Military Children's Appreciation Ball

When: April 20th, 2012

Who: All military branches including children and their Families
(all ages welcomed)



**MONTH
of the
Military
Child**

Where: American Legion 509, 3509 N. First St. Fresno Ca 93726
(Shields & Dakota)

Cost: \$10 per person

Dress: Formal
ASU's, Army Greens, Dress Blues, and civilian equivalent.

Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm Social Hour
Event begins at 6 o'clock

Guest Speaker: Chaplain Funk

Dinner will be served!

Dancing will begin at 8:00pm!

RSVP to Melanie Diaz, (559) 515-5212, Melanie.diaz.ctr@us.army.mil

RSVP by 13 April 2012

Adventures in Leadership Ages 14-18

DATES
June 26-28th,
2012
San Luis Obispo, CA

Bringing young people together from Military and Non-military Families to develop leadership skills for their communities. Gathering together at Camp San Luis Obispo, in a fun and energized setting, teens will develop the leadership skills needed to work together in their communities.

What to Bring:

Sleeping bag, pillow, towel, toiletries, flash light, sturdy shoes, clothes for warm days and cool nights, required prescribed medications, pad lock, enthusiasm, and a positive attitude to learn and have fun. Electronics are discouraged and brought at your own risk (Computers, ipads, etc)



Cost: \$50

For applications go to http://www.calnguard.ca.gov/readymil/families/Pages/child_youth.aspx

Please make checks payable to "Rivercity Blue Star Moms"

Mail checks to Jerica Lovett 10620 Mather Blvd, Mather CA 95655

Please submit application no later than 31 May 2012 to jerica.e.lovet.ctr@us.army.mil



1

"Purple Up! For Military Kids"

Friday, April 13th



April marks the nation's "Month of the Military Child," a time to honor youth impacted by deployment. In celebration, California's Operation: Military Kids (OMK), part of the University of California 4-H Youth Development program, invites you to join us for the 2nd annual "Purple Up! For Military Kids."

We are encouraging everyone across the nation and especially California to wear purple on Friday, April 13th, as a visible way to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. OMK hopes everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate these young heroes.



Be creative... the goal is for military youth to actually see the support of their community! Need some ideas to get you started?

- Ask local, regional, and state officials to wear purple on April 13th
- Spread the word by inviting newspaper and media outlets to feature a story about Purple Up! For Military Kids
- Involve area schools, sports teams, youth organizations and clubs, afterschool programs, recreation departments
- Engage the Chamber of Commerce, fraternal organizations, social clubs, and Rotary groups
- Request local businesses post a Purple Up! message on their roadside signs, and ask their employees to wear purple
- Ask stores and restaurants to offer a discount to all patrons who wear purple
- Invite coworkers, members of your spiritual community, exercise class, or golf league to join you in showing support for the military youth in your town

Remember to send us your photos to us or post them on the CA OMK Facebook Page, where military youth and families from across the state will see them. <http://www.facebook.com/CAOMK> - California's OMK Page

<http://www.facebook.com/events/254124211334113/> - Purple Up! Event Page

University of California, 4-H Military Partnership - Operation: Military Kids
www.ca4h.org and www.operationmilitarykids.org
PHONE 916-757-8969 EMAIL GROHANA@UCDANR.EDU

Operation: Military Kids is a partnership of Army Child, Youth & School Services, 4-H National Headquarters USDA, and USH Cooperative Extension, Operation: Military Kids-NH is supported by the 4-H Army Youth Development Project under Kansas State University special project number 2007-48661-03866.

University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources