



N.D. NATIONAL GUARD

Child & Youth Program



April 2012 Newsletter

Celebrate



2012 APRIL Month of the Military Child



Military Children

April is "Month of the Military Child." Since 1986, the Department of Defense has teamed with various partners to recognize the sacrifices and to applaud the courage of military children. More than 1.7 million American children under the age of 18 have at least one parent serving in the military. It is estimated, the Army has more than 900,000 military children with one or both parents having deployed multiple times. Throughout April, local communities and communities nationwide will hold a variety of fun and exciting events for military children so all can recognize the sacrifices and challenges of military children.



Youth square off in the banana relay at the 2012 State Youth Symposium in Fargo, ND on Mar 9-11.



Youth Symposium attendee, Evan Frankhanel, smiles big as his team securely duck-taped him to the wall. The youth wrote strong leadership traits on the duct tape for a teambuilding exercise during the 2012 State Youth Symposium in Fargo, ND on Mar 9-11.



Military youth attendees at the 2012 State Youth Symposium in Fargo, ND on Mar 9-11.

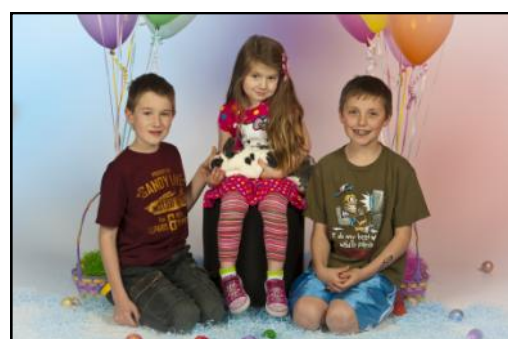
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Fargo & Bismarck Spring Events

On April 1st, the Bismarck and Fargo armories were full of military children as over 200 people participated in the National Guard Spring Events. Children decorated eggs, took pictures with the Easter Bunny, participated in action-packed egg hunts and played many games, to include a bubble blowing contest and an egg toss.

The events were marked down as successes and the Child & Youth Program will definitely hold the events again next year. A special thank you to all the children, families, volunteers and staff who made the day so fun!



Photos courtesy of MAJ Mark Topp, Chief Kiel Skager, and SFC Steve Urlacher



April Events



Lockdown Party!

March 31 - April 1st, YMCA, 400 1st Ave S, Fargo

Twenty-six military youth attended the Lockdown Party at the YMCA in Fargo, ND. Most of the youth pulled an all-nighter where they swam, participated in gym activities, engaged in team building activities and more. Thanks to all who participated! It was definitely a fun night!



2012 Region 8 Youth Leadership Summit

April 12-15, Colorado Springs, CO

Thank you to all the youth who applied to attend the Summit! Congratulations to Alexis Blazek, Leah Carlson, Caitlyn Sandeen, Hunter Sherman and Elizabeth Somdahl who will be traveling to Colorado to attend the 2nd Annual Region 8 Youth Leadership Summit.



Military Child Education Coalition: Living in the New Normal

April 19 - 20, Baymont Inn & Suites, Wahpeton, ND

8 a.m.—4 p.m.

There are still openings for the upcoming Living in the New Normal Institute: Helping Children Thrive Through Good and Challenging Times. The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)™, a nonprofit organization addressing the educational needs of children in military families will present the training. This training is designed for Family Readiness Group leaders, first responders and other concerned adults to gain strategies and practical applications to increase resiliency in military-connected children. There is no cost to participate. To register, go to www.militarychild.org

Delivering Hope on Wheels

Bismarck April 16-20

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is a mobile dental clinic on wheels that delivers needed dental care to children ages 0-21 in their communities in the western half of North Dakota. Military Children of Active Duty, Guard/Reserves, Veterans and pregnant spouses of a military

member will receive free dental work that includes cleanings, X-rays, light cavity work and extractions. There is NO COST associated with this.

This mobile dental clinic will be in:

Bismarck April 16-20

Minot June 18-22

Dickinson July 9-13

If you are interested, send an e-mail with your phone number and where you want to see the dentist to:

NDMilitaryKids@gmail.com





True Patriot Award Certificates

Military Families can request a True Patriot Award certificate honoring their children. The significance of the certificates is to personally thank our youngest heroes for their service, heroism and continued resiliency. Signed by the Adjutant General, the certificates are mailed out to the families where the families take time to personally thank their child.

In 2011, the NDNG Child & Youth Program mailed over 300 True Patriot Award certificates. If you would like a personalized certificate please contact Jessi or Beth with your child's name and mailing address.

Purple Up! For Military Kids

Friday, April 13

In celebration of "Month of the Military Child", North Dakota Operation: Military Kids (OMK) is encouraging everyone across North Dakota to wear purple on Friday, April 13, as a visible way to show support and thank children from military families for their strength and sacrifices.

Be creative! The goal is for military youth to see the support of their community.

- Ask local, regional and state officials to wear purple on

April 13.

- Spread the word by inviting newspapers and other news media outlets to feature a story about Purple Up! For Military Kids.
- Involve area schools, sports teams, youth organizations and clubs, after-school programs and recreation departments.
- Request that 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.

Remember to send us your photos to post on the North Dakota OMK website, where military youth and families from across the state will see them.

Many thanks,
Diane Hahn
ND OMK Coordinator
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701-231-9601

Military Child Education Coalition: Living in the New Normal: Helping Children Thrive in Good and Challenging Times Practicum

May 5, Sleep Inn and Suites, Minot, ND

You are invited to the Living In the New Normal: Helping Children Thrive In Good and Challenging Times Practicum. The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)[™], a nonprofit organization addressing the edu-

cational needs of children in military families will present the training. This training is designed for Family Readiness Group leaders, first responders and other concerned adults to gain strategies and practical

applications to increase resiliency in military-connected children. There is no cost to participate. To register, go to www.militarychild.org



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

PROCLAMATION
MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD
APRIL 2012

WHEREAS, thousands of brave North Dakotans serve in the military and have taken the oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota has more than 8,300 children with a parent or step-parent serving in the military; and

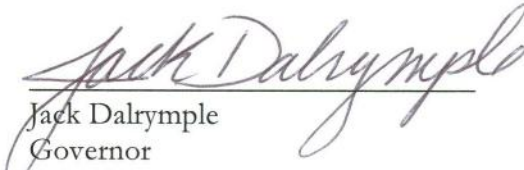
WHEREAS, North Dakota has many children with a sibling, grandparent, aunt or uncle serving in the military; and

WHEREAS, these children are a source of pride and honor to us all, and it is fitting that we take time to recognize their contributions, celebrate their spirit, and let our men and women in uniform know that while they are taking care of us, we are taking care of their children; and

WHEREAS, the recognition of April as the “Month of the Military Child” provides an opportunity to pay tribute to military children for their commitment, their sacrifice and their unconditional support of our troops, because when parents serve in the military, their “Kids Serve Too”; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota citizens are encouraged to observe this month by connecting with military kids, military families and the communities where they work, live and play to provide support to all our North Dakota children affected by the deployment of family members and other caring adults in their lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 2012, **MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD** in the state of North Dakota.



Jack Dalrymple
Governor

ATTEST:



Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State

N.D. National Guard Volunteers



Saying Goodbye to State Lead Volunteer, Maureen Wanner



Maureen had been the State Lead Volunteer for the last four years and has been volunteering for Family Readiness Groups since the late '80's. Maureen Wanner is the wife of Master Sergeant (Retired) Sherwin Wanner, the daughter of Rose Jasmann (and the late Richard Jasmann) and Charlie Johnson.

She has been the lead volunteer for 164th Company C, Dickinson; 164th Company A, Minot; 191st Military Police, Mandan and the lead Youth Volunteer for the 34th Engineer Brigade Forward.

When Maureen was not in a lead position, she was always helping where needed; anywhere from planning events, decorating and (back in the day) licking stamps and envelopes. We thank you Maureen for your selfless service and wish you nothing but the best in your future endeavors!

2011 Youth Volunteer Award

Congratulations to **Samantha Greenwell!** Samantha was nominated by the HHC 164th Engineer Battalion. Here's what they had to say about Samantha: "Samantha volunteers to watch children for Guard Members so they can attend drill. She re-adjusted her work schedule so she could help others by picking up their children from afterschool programs so they could continue to work on rebuilding flooded houses. Samantha also volunteers as a Sunday school helper. When the flood hit Minot, and the boil order was put in place, Samantha went into work two hours early to ensure there was water sitting out around the entire building for those Soldiers and Airmen working on State Active Duty". Thank you Samantha for all you have done for our Soldiers and Airmen!

2011 Youth Development Award

Congratulations to **CW2 Galen and Cassie Roness**. The Roness' were nominated by the HHC 164th Engineer Battalion. "Galen and Cassie Roness have been instrumental in supporting youth activities in the Minot area. They both volunteer to clean the Mesa Arena, providing this selfless service ensures the Mesa can support local figure and hockey ice times while keeping it affordable for all. Galen also utilized his carpentry skills to rebuild a nursery at First Lutheran Church after the devastating flooding of 2011". Thank you Galen and Cassie for your selfless acts!



2012 Military Youth Camps



Outdoor Adventures for Military Connected Youth

June 3-7 / Western 4-H Camp, Washburn

- Ages: 8-12 Registration: www.ndsu.edu/4h/camp
- Register before May 15, \$55 / After May 15, \$75 (Remainder funded through the Department of Defense/Operation: Military Kids camp grant)
- This camp is specifically designed for youth from military-connected families (dependents, siblings, nieces and nephews, etc.) from all military branches.
- Enjoy a variety of fun traditional camp activities, together with sessions that focus on the life events youth face as a military family member.
- Learn outdoor activities such as archery, fishing, and rock climbing.
- Enjoy campfires, sing camp songs, roast marshmallows, participate in skits.

The Youth Program is looking for military members to serve as "Squad Leaders" for certain camps. Please contact your unit if you would like to be a squad leader.

Military Youth Camp I

June 24-28 / Western 4-H Camp, Washburn

Ages 8-11 Registration: www.ndsu.edu/4h/camp

Register before May 15, \$55 / After May 15, \$75 (Remainder funded through the Department of Defense/Operation: Military Kids camp grant)

- This camp is intended for youth who are members of military families.
- Youth will grow in areas such as self-confidence and independence through adult-led activities.
- Campers will develop resiliency skills through team building activities such as friendly competitions, meals with a twist, water fun, mud pit action and much more.

Military Youth Camp II

June 24-28 / Western 4-H Camp, Washburn

Ages 12-15 Registration: www.ndsu.edu/4h/camp

Register before May 15, \$55 / After May 15, \$75 (Remainder funded through the Department of Defense/Operation: Military Kids camp grant)

- This camp is intended for youth who are members of military families.
- Youth will strengthen their leadership skills while completing action-packed activities.
- Military & 4-H based curriculum will be intertwined with traditional camp activities.
- Campers will develop self-confidence through team building games, skill building activities and social interaction.

Military Youth Fish Camp

June 6-8 / Camp of the Cross, Garrison

Ages 8-15 Registration available on www.ndguard.com

Fee: FREE!

- Youth will learn all about fishing from Game & Fish Department staff and experience the military culture from uniformed personnel.
- Staff members will instill the values associated with the pursuit of sports and recreational activities, particularly, self-discipline, perseverance and decision making to the military youth.
- Youth will be empowered through a variety of teambuilding and leadership activities which will also help develop their life skills.



Get Ready to Read!

Get Ready to Read! is designed to support parents, educators, and early child care providers in helping young children to develop early literacy skills. The site is packed with dozens of free early learning resources and has a brand new look, lots of fresh content, and streamlined navigation. www.getreadytoread.org/

PARENTS LEAD

LISTEN EDUCATE ASK DISCUSS

Visit www.parentslead.org for information on how to start the conversation at any age. Sign up for monthly e-mails based on your child's age, ask questions, take the parenting style quiz, browse the resources, and follow us on Facebook. Remember:

Listen to your child's questions and interests without interrupting; **Educate** about consequences and your expectations; **Ask** what they are doing; and **Discuss** your values, how to handle peer pressure and how proud you are of them.

The Little Things You Say and Do

Taken from www.zerotothree.org

When you... Stay patient and calm when I am upset—even if you are feeling upset, too.

I regain control and feel safe.

When you... Tell me what is happening in simple words (e.g. "I was away a long time and now I am back. I love you.")

I understand the big changes in our life.

When you... Give me words for what I am feeling (e.g., "Are you feeling worried about all the changes around here?")

I feel understood. I learn it is OK to feel what I feel.

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A list of the events occurring across North Dakota in support of "Month of the Military Child" can be found online at <http://www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil/family/support/youth/>

Child & Youth Program Mission

Promote and sustain the quality of life and resilience of National Guard children and youth by providing secure, timely, flexible, high-quality support services and enrichment programs



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Find out what the free item of the month is!



Facebook: "North Dakota National Guard Youth"



www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil