



# N.D. NATIONAL GUARD

## Child & Youth Program



May 2012 Newsletter

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*If you are a mom in the military, send Beth a picture with you and your child(ren) and we will highlight you and your kid(s) in our June newsletter!*

*[beth.sandeen1@us.army.mil](mailto:beth.sandeen1@us.army.mil)*

**Anna Jarvis** is recognized as the Founder of Mothers Day (May 8th) in the United States. Though Anna Jarvis never married and never had kids, she is also known as the Mother of Mother's Day, an apt title for the lady who worked hard to bestow honor on all mothers.

Anna Jarvis got the inspiration of celebrating Mother's Day from her own mother. Her mother used to express her desire that someday someone must honor all mothers, living and dead, and pay tribute to the contribution made by them.

The growing negligent attitude of adult Americans towards their mothers and a desire to honor her mother soared her ambitions.

Much hard work paid off! On May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.



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# Region 8 Youth Leadership Summit

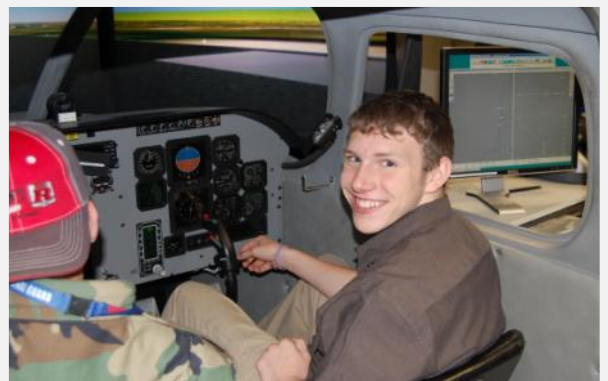
## Colorado Springs, CO - April 12-15

**ATTENDEES: ALEXIS BLAZEK, HUNTER SHERMAN, ELIZABETH SOMDAHL, CAITLYN SANDEEN, AND LEAH CARLSON**

On April 12th, five ND National Guard youth boarded planes to Colorado Springs, Colorado to attend the second annual Region 8 Youth Leadership Summit. The three Army National Guard and two Air National Guard youth joined 35 National Guard youth from the five other Region 8 states (UT, MT, SD, CO, and WY). For Caitlyn Sandeen and Leah Carlson, it was the first plane ride they could remember (the last time they flew they were under the age of five). For Alexis Blazek, it was her second Region 8 summit as she was chosen last year to attend the summit in Utah.



The first stop was early Friday morning when the youth rode a bus to the Air Force Academy. They spent time learning the curriculum available at the academy, trying their skills in the flight simulators, and eating lunch with the cadets. Friday night ended with a hunt for Bigfoot back at the Glen Eyrie Conference Center where the youth were staying. Clues needed to be viewed, recorded and photographed and seeing Bigfoot at the end of the hike was a bonus. Winning teams received a Bigfoot trophy. It was a fun day for everyone.



Hunter Sherman on the flight simulators.

# Region 8 Youth Leadership Summit

## Colorado Springs, CO - April 12-15



Alexis Blazek examining her options.

★  
★  
**BUILDING A  
STRONGER  
TEAM**



★ Elizabeth Somdahl before doing the leap of faith.



On Saturday, the youth were in for a day of challenges. The weather was gorgeous for a day of hiking, climbing walls, and other low and high rope activities. Each of the ND youth rose to the challenge and stepped out of their comfort zones.



Caitlyn Sandeen with new friends right after she jumped from the Leap of Faith and Leah Carlson on her way up.

Saturday night ended with a local artist teaching the youth to express themselves through art. Plenty of time was given for their creativity to shine and also to say their good-byes. Sunday morning it was up and on the shuttle by 4:00 am for an early flight home. A lot of fun was had by all! If you would like to attend next year, be sure to check out the NDNG Child & Youth Web site on March 1st.



## MAY Youth Council Meetings

### Fargo Youth Council

Date: May 7th, 2012

Time: 5:30-8:00 pm

Where: Humane Society

1201 28th Ave. N

(RSVP needed)

Topics:

We will have a tour of the Humane Society and a pizza party after to discuss next year's plans. (No Youth Council meetings in June, July, or August)



### Bismarck Youth Council

Date: May 6th, 2012

Time: 7:00-8:00 pm

Where: Tutti Frutti

3rd Street south of HuHot

(RSVP needed)

Topics:

Speak Out for Military Kids Retreat, Camps, and more.

Bring money if you want to buy a yummy frozen yogurt treat.

## Delivering Hope on Wheels across North Dakota

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is a mobile dental clinic that delivers needed dental care to babies all the way to age 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.

The mobile dental clinic will be in:

**Minot on June 18-22**

**Dickinson on 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](mailto:NDMilitaryKids@gmail.com)



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

You are invited to the Living In the New Normal: Helping Children Thrive In Good and Challenging Times Practicum this **Saturday, May 5 at Sleep Inn and Suites in Minot.** The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)<sup>™</sup>, a nonprofit organi-

zation 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](http://www.militarychild.org)

# Highlighted Programs of the Month



## Welcome Military Families- Sittercity Membership at No Cost!

Sittercity Memberships are funded by the DoD to help you find local sitters and military subsidized child care providers. Memberships are available to Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force families. Activate your membership today!

[www.sittercity.com](http://www.sittercity.com)



## What is Sittercity?

Sittercity connects families with quality local in-home caregivers, with over 1 million caregivers nationwide.

Your Sittercity membership gives you online access to local caregivers with profiles that include pictures, parent reviews, references, background checks\* and more.

## Sittercity Helps You Find:



- ✓ Babysitters! Child care for after-school, hourly care, school vacations, deployment and PCS, extended work hours, special needs children, and anytime you need a sitter
- ✓ Nannies! Child care for full and part time, infant and young child care
- ✓ Certified CDH/FCC care providers
- ✓ Care providers who are authorized access to an installation
- ✓ Elder care companions, dog walkers, housekeepers and tutors

I found a great babysitter on Sittercity to help me while my husband was deployed. It was a life saver having someone reliable to take care of my kids!

- Bridget D.; Austin, TX

► Join "Sittercity for Military Families" on Facebook



Military families are extraordinarily dedicated, strong, and resilient. The information and resources on the Talk, Listen, Connect Web site were created specifically to help parents and caregivers face the challenges of deployments, homecomings, changes, and grief. Here, you'll find the support you need when your family needs you most.



[www.familiesnearandfar.org](http://www.familiesnearandfar.org)



### Military Youth Fish Camp (ND National Guard)

June 6-8 / Camp of the Cross, Garrison

Ages 8-15 Register before May 31 at [www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil/family/support/youth/Pages/](http://www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil/family/support/youth/Pages/)

Fee: FREE!

- Youth will learn all about fishing from Game & Fish Department staff and volunteers 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.

### Outdoor Adventures for Military Connected Youth (OMK)

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

• Ages: 8-12 Registration: [www.ndsu.edu/4h/camp](http://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.



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



### **Military Youth Camp I (ND National Guard)**

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

Ages 8-11 Registration: [www.ndsu.edu/4h/camp](http://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 (ND National Guard)**

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

Ages 12-15 Registration: [www.ndsu.edu/4h/camp](http://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.



**These camps are for military - connected children. Register your child today for these great Camps!!**

## Valley City Soldiers Recognize Month of the Military Child

Valley City Soldiers of the North Dakota National Guard took time Friday, April 13, to honor local military children in recognition of April being the Month of the Military Child. Several members of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment of the Valley City-based 231st Brigade Support Battalion were present at Jefferson Elementary in Valley City to recognize sons and daughters of service members for the sacrifices they have made and the great support they provide their military family members. The children were presented with a "True Patriot Award" certificate and a gift from "Operation Military Kids."



Maj. Anna Wittrock, Moorhead, Minn., presents Autumn McGough, daughter of Nathan and Jill McGough, Valley City, with a "True Patriot Award" certificate on Friday, April 13, 2012, at Jefferson Elementary in Valley City, N.D. (Photo by Spc. Sue Urlacher)



*News article and photos are owned by the ND National Guard Public Affairs Office.*

### 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

### Child & Youth Program Coordinators

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<http://www.facebook.com/NDNGCYP>



Child & Youth Program Web site:  
[www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil](http://www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil)

### **Bandanas & Letters for Soldiers**

Mandan Middle School students presented bandanas to Soldiers of the N.D. National Guard's 818th Engineer Company (Sapper) on April 19, 2012. The students raised money to pay for the bandanas in a show of support for the military. The Williston, N.D. based unit is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan and was honored at a send-off ceremony on April 29 at the Bismarck Civic Center. Accepting on behalf of the unit were Mandan residents Sgt. Michael Beechie, Sgt. Derek Beechie and Pfc. Preston Beechie. *News article and photo are owned by the ND National Guard Public Affairs Office.*



Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Haugen,  
NDNG JFHQ