



MARCH & APRIL 2009

# GUARD EN OF YOUTH

To support the social, emotional, and academic needs of  
National Guard children and youth

**ALL AGR, FEDERAL TECHNICIANS, TITLE 10-ARMY & AIR GUARD ARE ELIGIBLE**

## **NATIONAL GUARD FAMILIES, Need help paying for child care costs? We can help!**

We appreciate the sacrifices that National Guard families make and are honored to help these great families with the application process that will connect them to the funding that can relieve the financial burden of child care, especially during deployment. Call 1-888-642-2799 today to determine your family's eligibility and supplement amounts. It's free, it's easy and it's worth it.

The Advocates of the National Guard Child Care Program, want to ensure that every eligible family of the National Guard is aware that these supplements are available and assist them with the application process.

Supplement rates are based on several factors including child care cost and family income. All income levels may be eligible to receive a \*minimum of \$100 per child per month for full time child care while the spouse is working, going to school full time, or looking for work. Guardians may also apply.

### **Guard Family Examples:**

- E4 with two children is receiving **\$200** per month for toddler and school age care.
- E4 with one child is receiving **\$210** per month for full time infant care.
- E7 with three children is receiving **\$310** per month for full time day care.
- O3 with two children is receiving **\$100** while spouse attends school part time.

### **What We Will Do For You:**

- Conduct a brief 10-minute phone interview to determine your family's needs and eligibility.
- Answer your questions and research your options.
- Help you locate eligible care if needed.
- Complete the applications for you.
- Work with your child care provider and explain the process so that you won't have to.
- Support and defend your family's unique situation when necessary.



*\*Minimums vary depending on branch of service.*

*"It was easy! Didn't take much time at all. I'm really pleased with the program." – Elisha B*

*"You guys are awesome! I would never have been able to do this without you. Thanks so much." – CPT R*

*"It is amazing to actually talk to someone right away and not a machine! The process is quick and the information needed is basic stuff with the military." – Tom S*

**Don't wait until child care costs and military commitment take a toll on your finances, or your spouse's career or education.**

Call 1-888-642-2799 or [NGCCP@GuardFamily.org](mailto:NGCCP@GuardFamily.org)



The Florence and Robert A. Rosen

**Family Wellness Center**

For Law Enforcement and Military Personnel and Their Families

**Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Institute  
Military Child Education Coalition™**

**April 21, 22, 28, 29, 2009, Roslyn, New York**

The Military Child Education Coalition's™ **Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Institute**® is a professional development program for educators and professionals to reach out in a support network to the children and families of the National Guard and Reserve. There is no fee for this conference. The curriculum, content, process and delivery are correlated with the National Staff Development Council's Standards and the National Standards for School Counseling Programs. Because the Institute is very interactive and participation is required to fully benefit from this training, participants must commit to attend all four modules.

Training: **Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Institute**®

Dates: April 21 - Module I    April 22 - Module II    April 28 - Module III    April 29 – Module IV  
**Attendance at all modules is required** - 12 full seat hours required for Institute credit.  
No partial attendance is accepted.

Location: Roslyn Claremont Hotel, 1221 Old Northern Boulevard, Roslyn, NY 11576 - 516-625-2700

Time: Please check which session you will attend:  
 **Morning Session** - 8:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.  
 **Afternoon Session** - 12:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Deadline for registration: **April 10, 2009**. Register on-line at <http://www.militarychild.org> (Upcoming trainings) or fax registration to 254-953-1925, Attn: Linda Neault

Registration fees, materials and conference meals are covered by funds provided through a partnership with **The Bob Woodruff Foundation** and **The Florence and Robert A. Rosen Family Wellness Center for Law Enforcement and Military Personnel** in conjunction with the **Military Child Education Coalition™**

**Educational credits are available and are to be paid to the G&R Institute**  
**1.2 Continuing Education Credit through IACET, certification costs \$25.00**  
**1 Graduate Credit through a branch of Texas A&M University costs \$175.00**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title/Assignment \_\_\_\_\_  
District and School Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Confirmation: You will receive an e-mail confirmation within 10 business days. Please make sure you have received confirmation in order to ensure you are registered.**

For more information about the Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Institute®, please contact Linda Neault at 254-953-1923 or [Linda.Neault@MilitaryChild.org](mailto:Linda.Neault@MilitaryChild.org)

**Disclaimer: I understand that participants are required to attend all four days of training. No partial attendance is accepted due to conformance with IACET standards.**

Printed Name (as will appear on certificate) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## **Sesame Street's Coming Home: Military Families Cope with Change**

The American Red Cross of Northeastern New York in partnership with The Desmond Hotel and WMHT Channel 17 are excited to announce a screening of *Sesame Street's Coming Home: Military Families Cope with Change*. The free screening of the half-hour special will be held on Friday, March 27, 2009, 6:30PM at The Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany-Shaker Road in Albany, for families and children.

Families can register by calling the Red Cross at (518) 458-8111 x3033. Online registration is also available at [www.redcrossneny.org](http://www.redcrossneny.org)

The event will also include snacks, activities and a discussion on the themes in "Coming Home."

Tim Bachman  
Emergency Services Director  
American Red Cross of Northeastern New York  
33 Everett Road  
Albany, New York 12205  
(518) 458-8111 ext. 3030

# "Take a Break" Camp



For Military Youth

Hosted by Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center and Operation Enduring Comfort™



July 12 - 17, 2009

Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center  
Angola, NY

Registration opens April 1, 2009

For more information: Call Pioneer at (716)549-1420 or  
Email at [info@pioneercamp.org](mailto:info@pioneercamp.org)



**Operation Enduring Comfort**™

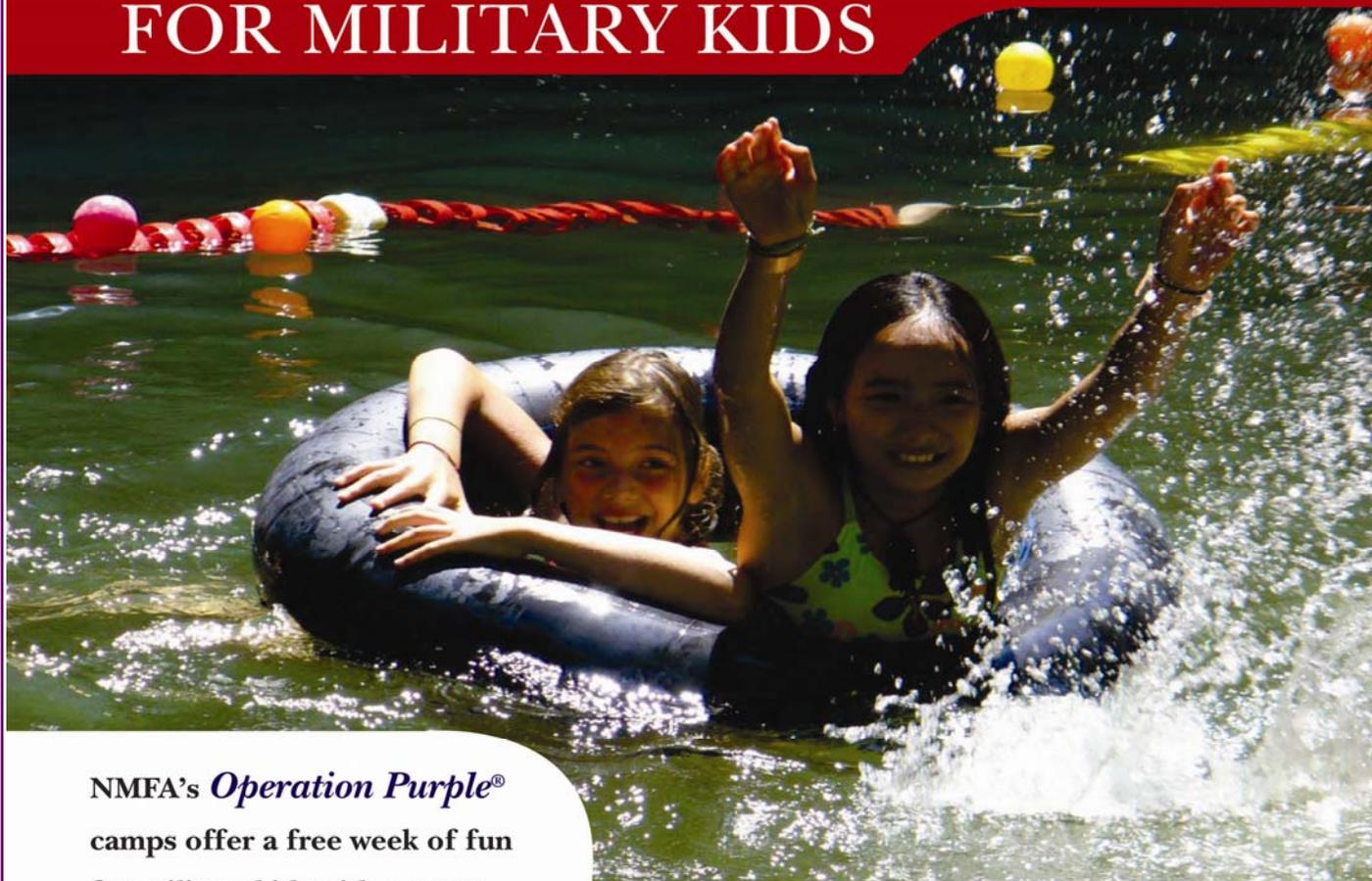
A continuing effort to find ways to personally thank and support service members and their loved ones in our area.

GIFTS—"TAKE A BREAK" EVENTS—LOCAL SUPPORT



*...offering multi-faceted programs and lake front facilities to all people year round!*

# FREE SUMMER CAMP FOR MILITARY KIDS



NMFA's *Operation Purple*<sup>®</sup> camps offer a free week of fun for military kids with parents who have been, are currently, or will be deployed.

**SIGN UP TO ATTEND  
THE CAMP IN YOUR AREA.**

**WHERE: Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center, Greig, NY**

**WHEN: Aug. 2nd - Aug. 7th, 2009** AGES: 8-15

Visit [www.operationpurple.org](http://www.operationpurple.org) for registration information or additional locations and dates.

  
**OperationPurple**<sup>®</sup>  
A program of the National Military Family Association

**ADDITIONAL LOCATION: HUGUENOT, NY—DATES: 28 JUNE-3 JULY**

**The Child Development Home Office provides active duty military families with job opportunities and exceptional childcare services**

ATTENTION MILITARY SPOUSES:

Would you like to work from home?

Here are just a few reasons you should contact the Child Development Home (CDH) Office and inquire about becoming a CDH provider:

- You can be your own boss. Learn valuable business skills and build your resume for future employment opportunities.
- You can set your own business hours-- full-time, part-time, days, evenings, weekends, or before and after school. The choice is yours!
- Increase your family income while you are caring for your own children.
- Earn extra money to pamper yourself, or save it up for birthdays and holiday spending money.
- Receive comprehensive training and certification in professional childcare. Training is transferable when you relocate to your next duty station.

Support your military neighbors while they are working and/or attending school.

For more information on becoming a CDH provider, please call or stop by our office today. We are located in the first office inside the Fleet and Family Support Center at NSU, Saratoga Springs.

Phone: (518) 886-0200 ext. 161

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**National Guard Conducting Child Care Survey**

The National Guard Family Program Division is pleased to announce the National Guard:  
Child Care Use During Deployment Survey.

Please assist the National Guard Child Care Program by distributing this survey link to National Guard members and their families.

Survey Link: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228AQH9A7LQ>

Target Audience: National Guard families with children who are currently preparing for deployment, in a deployment phase, or recently returned from deployment (up to 2 months after return).

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: Information collected in this survey will be used to research perceptions and child care needs of military members. This information will assist in the formulation and improvement of policies for programs that benefit military families. Reports will be provided to the National Guard Family Programs Division. Findings may be used in reports and testimony provided to Congress and other Government Agencies. Some findings may be published in professional journals, or presented at conferences, symposia, and scientific meetings. In no case will individual identifiable survey responses be reported.

Providing information on this survey is voluntary. Most people take 10-15 minutes to complete the survey.

Thank you,  
Mr. Michael Conner, Sr.

# YMCA Memberships and Respite Care for Title 10 Military Families

The Department of Defense has partnered with the Armed Services YMCA to fund memberships at participating YMCAs throughout the United States and Puerto Rico for the following groups:

- \*Families of joint deployed National Guard and Reserve personnel
- \*Active duty personnel and their families at independent duty stations
- \*Active duty families assigned to newly established joint bases
- \*Relocated spouse and family members of deployed active duty personnel

## **FITNESS FACILITY MEMBERSHIPS**

The DoD will also buy down memberships at local fitness facilities (e.g. Gold's Gym/Bally's/24 Hour Fitness, etc) for single active duty personnel at independent duty stations.

## **RESPITE CHILD CARE**

Deployed Guard and Reserve personnel and independent duty personnel with children up to age 12 of will be authorized free respite child care up to 32 hours per month, per child in YMCA facilities in states approved by DoD.

## **GET STARTED!**

1. Complete the [YMCA/DoD Eligibility Form](#).
2. Visit [www.YMCA.net](http://www.YMCA.net) to find a participating, local YMCA.
3. Take the eligibility form, a copy of your deployment orders, and your military ID card to your local YMCA.

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# Super Saturday!



To support the many families affected by the stressors of deployment, Fort Hamilton Child & Youth Services extends an invitation for Military Families to join us for our very first Super Saturday childcare event February 9, 2008 from 0800-1600 hours. Childcare, for ages 0-10, is provided free of charge to families affected by deployment. All others may be provided space on a first come first served basis and will pay the current hourly care rates. Some restrictions apply.

All families must be registered with CYS to participate in this Super Saturday event.  
Call to register today: 718-630-4805/4812





## A UNIVERSE OF THANKS FOR SERVING OUR NATION

**FREE** 2-Park Unlimited  
Admission Ticket\*

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**PLUS** Save up to \$35 each on  
2-Park Unlimited Admission Tickets  
for family and friends!

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE SPECIAL LIMITED TIME OFFERS

- 1. ONE (1) FREE 2-PARK UNLIMITED ADMISSION TICKET OFFER** – Valid for Active Duty (includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard or Reservists) or Retired military service members with valid military photo ID. *To receive this offer, please:*
  - **Visit your nearest participating military base ticket office (ITT / ITR)** to receive your free ticket. You will be asked to complete an Acknowledgment Form and sign the signature line on the free ticket.
  - **Once at Universal Orlando Resort, present your valid military photo ID** at any theme park front gate ticket window to **ACTIVATE** your free ticket. Once activated, proceed to the turnstile for entry to Universal Studios and/or Universal's Islands of Adventure theme parks.
- 2. SPECIALLY-DISCOUNTED 2-PARK UNLIMITED ADMISSION TICKET OFFER** – Valid for family and friends. Tickets can be purchased by U.S. Active Duty and Retired military service members and/or familial dependents with the presentation of a valid military or dependent Photo ID. *To receive this offer, please:*
  - **Visit your nearest participating military base ticket office** to purchase these specially priced tickets. You will be asked to present your valid military or dependent photo ID to purchase.
  - **Once at Universal Orlando Resort**, holders of the specially priced companion tickets can proceed directly to Universal Studios and/or Universal's Islands of Adventure theme parks turnstiles for entry.

#### MILITARY OFFER DETAILS

Universal Orlando's Military Salute Free tickets can ONLY be obtained by active duty (includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard or Reservists) or Retired military service members with valid military photo ID (a maximum of one (1) Free ticket per service member, regardless of where the ticket is obtained). Offer available through June 28, 2009. Visit a participating U.S. military base ticket office or the Shades of Green Resort in Orlando to receive an unactivated Military Salute Free ticket. The active duty or retired military service member must have the unactivated Free ticket then **ACTIVATED** at any front gate ticket window at either Universal Studios Florida or Universal's Islands of Adventure theme parks on the first date of use. Military Salute Free tickets will only be **ACTIVATED** when presented by the service member to whom they are issued with a matching valid military photo ID.

Universal Orlando's Military Salute companion tickets can be purchased by Active Duty and Retired military service members OR their familial dependents with valid military or dependent photo ID. 2 Park Unlimited tickets are valid for unlimited access to BOTH Universal Studios Florida and Universal's Islands of Adventure theme parks for up to 6 days from date of first use. Military Salute tickets are valid through 12/18/09. Tickets must be used by the same person on any and all days. Companion tickets can only be used by the family, friends or companions for whom they are purchased.

\*Savings based on Universal Orlando Resort theme parks front gate Adult 2 Park Unlimited Ticket retail price of \$124.99.

Universal Orlando Military Salute ticket offers are for use at Universal Orlando Resort ONLY (not applicable for use at Universal Studios Hollywood).



**DAY OF RACE REGISTRATION**

PACKET PICK UP AT THE EAST PAVILION AT 7:30AM – 8:45AM

First 250 Paid Registrations will receive a T-Shirt.

OUR SINCERE THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS EVENT POSSIBLE:



Capital Communications Federal Credit Union

Together. We can.™



better water. pure and simple.™

FOR PARK INFORMATION GO TO:

The Crossings Park:

<http://www.colonie.org/parks/>

Directions: .6 of a mile East of Exit 4 off I-87

**SECOND ANNUAL 5K RUN AND WALK**



By competing in our event you are helping the families of your "Hometown Heroes" deal with the impact of long deployments, while improving your physical fitness and having a lot of fun.

**Electronic Timing by Race With Us**

Refreshments provided  
Ceremony for 5K Run

Special Awards - Top male and female overall.  
Age Group Divisions

19 & under, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69,  
70 & over (no duplication of awards)

**REGISTER ONE OF THREE WAYS**

**SUBMIT RACE APPLICATION AND FEE TO:**

NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD  
FAMILY READINESS COUNCIL INC.  
595 New Loudon Rd, # 170  
Latham, NY 12110

(A Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Organization)  
Checks payable to NYNGFRC, Inc.

**MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 18, 2009**



OR  
[WWW.ACTIVE.COM](http://WWW.ACTIVE.COM)



OR  
**Day of Race Registration**

**Packet Pick Up**  
**At the East Pavilion 7:30AM to 8:45AM**



THE NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD  
FAMILY READINESS COUNCIL, INC.

[www.NYFRC-INC.org](http://www.NYFRC-INC.org)

SECOND ANNUAL RUN AND WALK

**5K FOR RUNNERS AND WALKERS**  
**(Certified by USA Track and Field (USATF))**  
**ALONG WITH A ONE MILE**  
**FUN RUN FOR KIDS**  
**(8:30 A.M.)**



**JUNE 20, 2009**  
**9:15 A.M.**

**The Crossings Park of Colonie**

580 Albany Shaker Rd., Loudonville, NY 12211

<http://www.colonie.org/parks/>

Directions: 0.6 of a mile East of Exit 4 off I-87



**OFFICIAL 2009 ENTRY FORM**

SECOND NYNGFRC 5K RUN AND WALK

Saturday, June 20, 2009 at 9:15 AM

The Crossings Park, Colonie, NY



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E-MAIL ADDRESS		AGE ON RACE DAY	
MAILING ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
DAY PHONE		EVENING PHONE	

**REGISTRATION FEES**

5K RUN / WALK INDIVIDUAL: \$20.00 (\$25.00 on race day)

1M KIDS FUN RUN - 10 & under: \$10.00   
(Ribbons to all participating children) PLEASE NO STROLLERS

**CIRCLE T-Shirt Size: SM MED LG XL XXL**

In consideration of this entry being accepted, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, successors, and administrators waive any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against The New York National Guard Family Readiness Council Inc., race committee members, race officials and any and all sponsors and the directors, Officers, employees and agents of such parties, their representatives, successors, and assigns even though those liabilities may arise from negligence or carelessness on the part of persons name in this waiver. I acknowledge and accept all the risks inherent in participating in a Road Race. Further, I hereby grant full permission to any of the foregoing to use any photo, videotape, or any record of this event for any legitimate purpose.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Members of minor age must have the consent of a Parent / Legal Guardian**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **April is Month of the Military Child**

For well over ten years April has been set aside as the Month of the Military child. The Month of the Military Child offers the opportunity to focus on military children and honor their sacrifice.

Installations and other organizations throughout the military community will sponsor activities and events for Service members' children. Check with your local Family Center, Family Readiness Group, or Youth Services to find out what's happening in your community to celebrate the Military Child.

If you are not near a military installation but want ideas for activities to help celebrate our military children, visit the following websites:

- [MilitaryHOMEFRONT's Healthy Parenting Initiative](#)
- Military OneSource's Public Service Announcements:  
[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)
- [Military Child Education Coalition](#)
- [Our Military Kids](#)

For more details please visit:

[www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil)

## **Homefront America SCHOLARSHIP**

Homefront America, Inc is currently accepting applications for their American Patriot Freedom Scholarship.

These are \$1,000 scholarships for military dependent children. Eligibility details and applications can be found on their website at

<http://www.oohrah-usa.org>

or

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

Applications must be post-marked by April 24, 2009.

## **Fisher House Announces**

### **2009 Newman's Own Award Competition**

The Newman's Own Award season is open for the 10th year. A total of \$75,000 will be awarded to volunteer and non-profit organizations with programs that improve the quality of life for Service members and their Families in innovative ways. The awards are sponsored by Newman's Own, Fisher House Foundation and the Military Times Media Group. Winners will be announced in early September. For more information about eligibility requirements and for the application form, visit <http://www.fisherhouse.org> or call (888)294-8560.

## **Nominations Open for Military Child Award**

Deserving Young Patriot  
Will Win \$5,000

Nominations for the award are open to military children between the ages of 8 and 18. The winner will be flown with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C., for the \$5,000 award and special recognition ceremony on April 29, 2009.

Anyone can nominate a deserving child for the award, but the nominee must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility System, DEERS.

Go to

[www.homefrontonline.com](http://www.homefrontonline.com) between now and March 30, 2009 to nominate children of both active duty and Reserve families. In addition to the financial award and travel expenses, meals and accommodations for two will also be provided.

To nominate a deserving young patriot, visit [www.homefrontonline.com](http://www.homefrontonline.com).



## CALLING ALL YOUTH

**Authors:** Do you know funny jokes? Do you have a story you want others to know about? Write an article for us. Please share with us. Make this YOUR newsletter.

**Artists:** We need your help now. Send us your artwork to be published in YOUR newsletter.

**Designers:** Do you have a flair for design? Help build a website, suggestions for your Newsletter. **CREATE a LOGO** for the youth Program. Let us know!!

**Recipes:** Do you have any Yummy recipes you want to share? Send them to us.

**Photographers:** Photo of the Month, Photos of special events, share a smile

**Poets:** Do you have a poem about your parent being deployed? Do you have a poem about being a military kid? Any poetry that you would like share?

If you are between the ages of 1 and 18, email or fax your gifts to the Youth Program.

All submissions should be sent to:

Shelly Aiken

Fax: 914-788-7407

[shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil](mailto:shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil)

## New York National Guard Youth Program Coordinator

Shelly Aiken

Camp Smith, Bldg 501

Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

(Phone) 914-788-7405

(Fax) 914-788-7407

(Cell) 518-727-0628

[shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil](mailto:shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil)

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

**Call Toll Free:**

**1-877-715-7817**

**Check us out on the Web!!!**

<http://dmna.state.ny.us/family/famredi.php>



**BCT YELLOW RIBBON TARRYTOWN EVENT**

**OPERATION COOPERATION QUILT**

# **PROJECT PEN PAL**

With Project Pen Pal you will meet other military children around the world. You can make friends, learn about their traditions, culture's, how they feel about their schools and their hobbies. In addition, Project Pen Pal encourages you to write about the challenges you face being a Military Youth, and share those feelings with children from different backgrounds who are dealing with similar issues like, military life, deployments and relocation, just to name a few.

**ALL AGES WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE!!**

**We have Pen Pals from New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Illinois, New Jersey, Nevada, Vermont, California, Connecticut, Ohio , Wyoming, New Mexico and Washington State is now on board!!!**

**UNITY IS STRENGTH!!**

**To sign up please fill out permission slip at the end of this newsletter and fax or mail it to:**

**Shelly Aiken~NY National Guard Youth Program Coordinator**

**Camp Smith, Bldg 501**

**Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567**

**[shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil](mailto:shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil)**

**Fax: 914-788-7407**

**Sign up today, Pen pals are waiting :)**

# PROJECT PEN PAL

## Permission Slip

Would your child be interested in making a new friend and getting to know another child like him/herself? **Why not sign them up for the Project Pen Pal.** What a great way for them to share stories about Military life and learn different cultures from around the Globe. If your child is interested please fill out the information below. Parents, **please don't forget to sign** the permission slip and either fax it or mail it to the number below.

**Child's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age/Grade** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hobbies/Interests** \_\_\_\_\_

**What Language do you speak and write?** \_\_\_\_\_

### **PROJECT PEN PAL PERMISSION FORM**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian) give my permission for  
\_\_\_\_\_ (child's name) to participate in Project Pen Pal.

I understand that it is my (parent/guardian) responsibility to supervise my child's contact with another Military child and not the responsibility of the New York National Guard Youth Program.

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone/Fax** \_\_\_\_\_

### **\*Please mail or fax this permission slip to:**

Shelly Aiken

NY National Guard Youth Program

Camp Smith, Bldg 501

Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

Fax (914-788-7407)

\*If you have questions about Project Pen Pal please **email Shelly** at:

**[shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil](mailto:shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil)** Or Call me at 914-788-7405

### **Project Pen Pal Code of Conduct**

- No obscenities in written or electronic correspondence
- No illegal material mailed or emailed
- No attempt to harm others in correspondence (making threats, making fun of another person, bullying behaviors, etc.)