



NOVEMBER 2008



HONORING ALL
VETERANS

Program Coordinator

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www.guardfamilyyouth.org

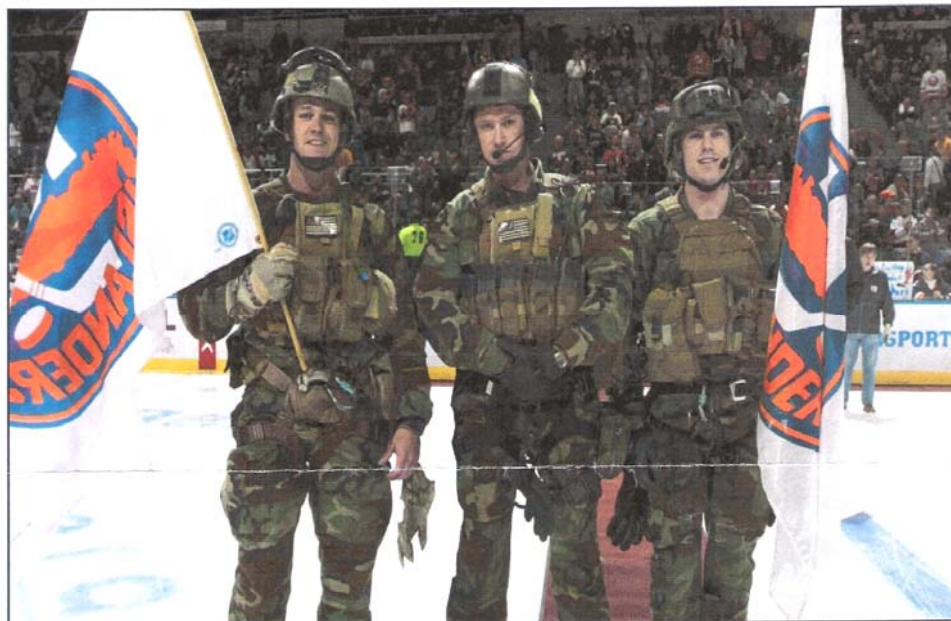
Call Toll Free:
1-877-715-7817

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

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

Guard En Of Youth

This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave!!! Thank you for your service!!! Submitted by Greg age 16



MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY



The Islanders and their fans are grateful for all of the heroes that serve, and have served, in our military. On November 11th, the Islanders will honor all current members of the military and veterans at Military Appreciation Day. As part of this special day, participants will be able to enjoy special ticket pricing, and can save up to 50% off of box office prices.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 2PM
VS. PHILADELPHIA FLYERS



Current military and veterans can save
up to 50% off of box office prices

PRICING

- \$75 Lower VIP endzone seats for \$49
- \$60 Center mezzanine seats for \$34
- \$50 End mezzanine seats for \$25
- \$30 Upper mezzanine seats for \$16

For more information please contact:

1.800.882.ISLES ext.3

groupsales@newyorkislanders.com

newyorkislanders.com

CHILD CARE NEWS

Child Care \$\$\$ Available

Active Duty National Guard serving under Title 10 or Title 32, United States Code (U.S.C.) military families are now eligible for Child Care subsidy benefits subject to eligibility requirements and availability of funds. Please visit the NACCRRA website, www.naccrra.org, for further information regarding this subject.

When you reach the site click on (Click here for Military Child Care) lower left hand corner, then click on Army, then Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood. Should you have any question please do not hesitate to call me.

National Guard TITLE 10 Activated military Spouse, If you are:

*Employed

*Seeking employment (for 60 days)

*Going to school

You qualify for \$100 per month per child for full time care
(Licensed Provider Required).

Call the National Guard Child Care Program today to apply!

1-888-NGCCP-99 (888-642-2799) or ngccp@guardfamily.org

Child Care for Families of Severely Injured Military Service Members

NACCCRA and the Department of Defense (DoD) have partnered to provide families of severely injured military members with assistance to find and pay for safe, licensed child care services for a period of six months during their period of recuperation. The program is available nationwide wherever the injured member is receiving either in-patient or out-patient medical care.

To apply for any of these programs, families and service members can call 1-800-424-2246 or visit <http://www.NACCRRA.org/military>.

To find suitable child care please visit: www.childcareaware.org

If you have any questions on how to apply, or if you need help with completing the application to receive assistance, please contact me at:

shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil

914-788-7405



Operation Hire: Veterans' Career Fairs

Events in Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany and New York City

Thursday, November 13, 2008

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(Buffalo 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Buffalo

The Leonard VFW Post #6251
2450 Walden Avenue
Cheektowaga, New York

Syracuse

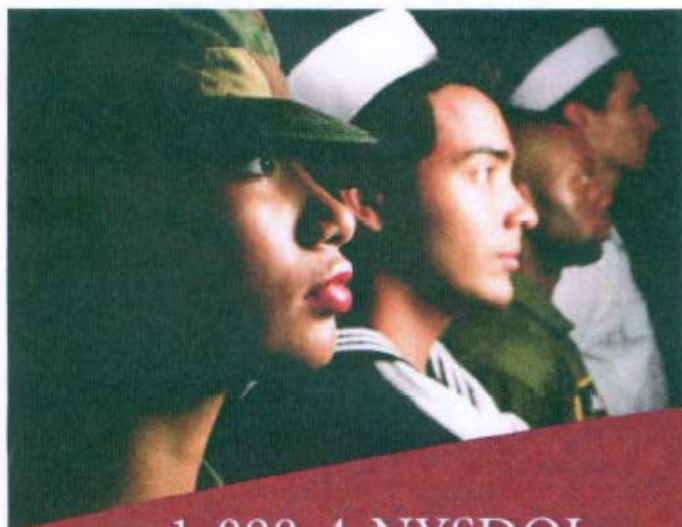
Horticulture Building/Veterans Park
581 State Fair Boulevard
Syracuse, New York

Albany

Joseph E. Zaloga Post #1520
4 Everett Road
Albany, New York

New York City

The New Yorker Hotel
481 Eighth Avenue at 34th Street
New York City



Come explore the many career opportunities, benefits and services available to veterans and immediate family members. Dress for success and bring copies of your resume.

1-888-4-NYSDOL



The New York State Department of Labor is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Armed Services YMCA and Department of Defense Outreach Initiative AND YMCA Respite Child Care

DoD has contracted with the Armed Services YMCA to fund YMCA memberships at participating YMCAs throughout the United States and Puerto Rico for the following groups:

- Families of Deployed National Guard and Reserve Personnel (Army/Navy/Air Force/Marine Corps). Deployment must be for a minimum of 6 months.
 - 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

IN ADDITION

The Department of Defense will buy down memberships, through Military OneSource, to a local Fitness facility (e.g. Gold's Gym/Bally's/24 Hour Fitness, etc) for Single Active Duty Personnel at Independent Duty Stations.

Respite Child Care – Children up to age 12 of deployed Guard and Reserve personnel along with children of Independent Duty Personnel will be authorized free respite child care up to 32 hours per month, per child in participating YMCAs in those states preapproved by DoD with a comparable rating system. Those states are: Indiana, Maryland, Montana, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and Washington.

For Family Members of Deployed Guard/Reserve

Eligibility: Spouse/children of Guard/Reserve personnel currently deployed for a minimum of 6 months or who will deploy in the next 3 months, for a minimum of 6 months. A copy of deployment orders and a military ID card **must** be presented at the participating YMCA when applying for membership. Guard/Reserve personnel will be authorized use for 3 months pre and post deployment. Family members of deployed Guard/Reserve are authorized a total of 18 months, contingent upon use (minimum family aggregate use of 8 times per month).

For Independent Duty Station Personnel (Single and/or Family Members) and Relocated Spouse/Family members of Deployed Active Duty Personnel

Eligibility: Independent Duty Personnel (IDP) are those assigned to areas away from an installation (recruiters are an example). The Military Service Point of Contact (POC) will authorize eligibility (and validate that DoD funded fitness/recreation support is currently not provided) and send an authorization memo to the ASYMCA POC with a copy to the requesting command. IDP who are married will be authorized YMCA memberships according to the same terms as families of deployed Guard and Reserve personnel. Single IDP personnel may decide, as a group, to join the YMCA or have the option to use a commercial fitness facility as explained below.

Relocated spouses of active duty deployed personnel are those who leave the military installation and relocate while their spouse is deployed, usually back to their hometown where family support is readily available. A copy of deployment orders which depict at least a 6 month deployment cycle and a military ID card **must** be presented at the participating YMCA when applying for membership.

Armed Services YMCA and Department of Defense Outreach Initiative AND YMCA Respite Child Care

Single IDP: After the Military Service Component POC authorizes eligibility for single IDP, personnel in the command must come to a consensus as to what service provider they want to use and notify ASYMCA. The Armed Services YMCA will then contact that provider and set up the reimbursement process to that provider. The buy down will be at the current military published discounted rate or negotiated discount membership rate, if offered, but not to exceed \$50 per month. Any monthly fees exceeding \$50 and all applicable registration/joining fee will be the responsibility of the Service member. Memberships will be issued in 6 month increments and will be reissued in six month increments contingent upon use (minimum use of 8 times per month). A military ID card **must** be presented at the participating YMCA when applying for membership.

Relocated spouse of active duty deployed personnel and family: YMCA membership will be free for these families, courtesy of Military One Source. Memberships will be issued in two 6 month increments contingent upon use (minimum family aggregate use of 8 times per month). A copy of deployment orders and a military ID card **must** be presented at the participating YMCA when applying for membership.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

My spouse is deployed but I don't have a copy of his/her orders? Can I still join the YMCA?

You will need to get a copy of the deployment orders or have an official letter verifying the deployment. You can call your point of contact in the Rear Detachment.

I meet the eligibility requirements to join the YMCA but I never received an ID card and the nearest place is 100+ miles away. Can I still join?

You can bring a copy of your deployment orders and marriage certificate, which will suffice until you get your ID card.

I have legal custody of children of a deployed Guard/Reserve member. Can we participate in the initiative?

Yes, just bring a copy of the deployment orders and a copy of the document which gives you temporary custody of the family members.

Is there any portion of the YMCA membership fees that I am obligated to pay on my own?

The YMCA membership is free, (participating YMCAs can see attached grid for reimbursement information). Certain classes or special programs may have an additional fee should you choose to participate in those activities. These additional fees are not included in the membership and are your responsibility.

There is more than one YMCA in my area. Can I choose any one?

Yes. Please visit www.ymca.net to find the participating YMCA nearest you.

CAMOUFLAGE KIDS

Support Through Sports

Camouflage Kids, Inc. is an Indiana based non-profit organization that supports the children of our military by providing them an opportunity to attend and experience a college athletic event.

The games listed are available to Indiana families from all military branches with a currently deployed, previously deployed or soon to be deployed soldier.

Tickets are FREE and LIMITED IN NUMBER provided on a FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVE basis.

We request that each family limit their ticket request to a maximum of 6 tickets with a ratio of 2 adults and 4 children. All children must have adult supervision at the games.

Ticket requests (if allotment is not sold out) will terminate 10 days prior to your selected game(s). Remaining tickets will be returned to the school ticket office for their use.

A waiting list will also be created to fill any cancellations on games where the Camouflage Kids ticket allotment has been filled.

We request that all families arrive 1 ½ hours prior to the game for distribution of game tickets, t-shirts, backpacks and food vouchers.

Direct all ticket requests (return form) and questions to:

Jeff Nix
Camouflage Kids, Inc.
P.O. Box 356
Granger, Indiana 46530

Office: (866) 435-1875
Fax: (866) 614-2015
E-Mail: jnixer@aol.com
Web: www.camokids.org

CAMOUFLAGE KIDS

Support Through Sports

Game Selection	# of Tickets	Basketball Games	Date	Location	Start Time	Arrival Time
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loyola (MD) @ Army (Women)	11/23/08	West Point, N.Y.	12:00 p.m.	10:30 a.m.
		Princeton @ Army (Men)				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Navy @ Canisius	12/20/08	Buffalo, N.Y.	2:00 p.m.	12:30 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Manhattan @ Niagara	1/3/09	Niagara Falls, N.Y.	7:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Niagara @ Siena	1/24/09	Albany, N.Y.	12:00 p.m.	10:30 a.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Charlotte @ St. Bonaventure	3/7/09	Olean, N.Y.	4:00 p.m.	2:30 p.m.

Parent(s) Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home: (_____) _____

Cell: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____

Military Branch: _____

Total # Attending: _____

First Name Of Attending Children:

(S - M - L - XL)

_____	Age: _____	Adult T-Shirt Size: _____
_____	Age: _____	Adult T-Shirt Size: _____
_____	Age: _____	Adult T-Shirt Size: _____
_____	Age: _____	Adult T-Shirt Size: _____

Please return this completed form with your game selection(s) as soon as possible to:

Jeff Nix
Camouflage Kids, Inc.
P.O. Box 356
Granger, Indiana 46530

Office: (866) 435-1875
Fax: (866) 614-2015
E-Mail: jnixer@aol.com

AAFES Gives Troops Opportunity to Set Sail with Mickey and Friends

DALLAS - The Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) and Sandberg & Sikorski Jewelry are teaming up to provide military Families the opportunity to win a magical four-night Disney Cruise for four. The total value of this "AAFES-only" prize package, which offers a unique vacation experience that every member of the family will feel was created exclusively for them, is approximately \$10,000.

"The 'happiest place on Earth' is now giving AAFES shoppers the opportunity to experience the wonder at sea," said Chief Marketing Officer Mat Dromey. "One lucky family will pack a treasure trove of magical memories into an unforgettable four-night getaway."

From Oct. 17-Dec. 24, authorized exchange shoppers at participating stores world-wide can register for their chance to win AAFES' Disney cruise getaway, which will be awarded on or about Jan. 28. No purchase is necessary as shoppers need only fill out an entry form at participating locations for their chance to win. Personnel with exchange privileges can find contact information for the PX/BX nearest them by logging on to the store locator link at www.aafes.com

OUTWARD WILDERNESS EXCURSIONS

Fully Paid Outward Bound Wilderness Excursions for OEF/OIF Veterans (POC e-mail and phone numbers listed at the end of paragraph) Outward Bound, an international non-profit outdoor education program, is offering fully funded outdoor adventure excursions to all OEF/OIF veterans. It doesn't matter what your current military status is (active, inactive, discharged, retired) - you're eligible to attend as long as you deployed in support of OEF/OIF combat operations while in the military. These five-day excursions offer adventure activities such as backpacking, rock climbing, canyoneering, canoeing, and dog sledding in beautiful wilderness areas in Maine, Texas, Colorado, California, and Minnesota. Scheduled courses from Sep 08-Feb 09 are listed below, and future courses will be scheduled soon. All expedition costs for lodging, equipment, food, and instruction are completely funded by a multi-million dollar

Sierra Club grant, including the participants' round-trip transportation between home and the wilderness site. The excursion is offered at no cost to the participant. To sign up for one of the prescheduled courses, please contact Doug Hayward at 1-866-669-2362, ext. 8387, or simply e-mail him at obvets@outwardbound.org. To learn more about the OEF/OIF program, visit the website at www.outwardboundwilderness.org/veterans.html. You can also contact two of our retired Judge Advocates, Joe and Amy Frisk, who are working for Outward Bound on this incredible program at vetsor@outwardbound.org, or at (303) 968-4420.

Attention Military Families

Major Cable Network Casting Pet Adoption & Makeover show!

Are you thinking about adopting a dog from an animal shelter?

Have you always dreamed of giving a safe, warm home to a pooch in need of some tender loving care?

What if you could rescue the perfect dog from a shelter and then have him trained just for you and your family by some of the nation's top dog makeover and behavioral specialists?

Sharp Entertainment is casting for an ambitious new television series that pairs abandoned shelter dogs with deserving families. Guided by the expertise of some of the best canine trainers, vets, and groomers in the country, these shelter dogs will be transformed into gorgeous and playful pets, then placed with loving families who have been carefully selected for each dog.

...And not only will the pooches undergo an amazing transformation – so will the families and their homes with a special DOGGIE EXTREME HOME MAKE-OVER that insures the home and family are READY to welcome their new canine member.

If you (or someone you know) are...

- charismatic, enthusiastic and energetic
- a step-family, family, empty nester, single/couple, widower, part of an organization/charity, single parent, student, etc...
- have a unique, sentimental, emotional reason to want to adopt a dog email us today!

Above all else, we are looking for caring people who have a lot of love to give and are truly serious about giving a shelter or rescued dog a forever home.

If you are interested, please e-mail me (Amy.Maniscalco@us.army.mil) with your name, the name of your service member and branch of service (Army National Guard, Marines Reserve, Navy Reserve, Army Reserves, etc), address where you live and contact information (phone and e-mail) no later than November 21st.



It's time for the Armed Services YMCA

2009 Art Contest!

“ My Military Family ”



2008 1st Place Army
Troy Clark – 6th Grade

- An Elementary School age child from an Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force, Coast Guard & National Guard/ Reserve family will win a \$500 US Savings Bond.
- Second place winners will receive a \$100 US Savings Bond.
- The winning entries will be used on the Military Family Month Poster for November 2009.

Who can enter? Kindergarten through sixth grade children of Military Families in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard & National Guard/Reserves. The military parent must be active duty or retired.

What to do? Drawings should be of the student's family and **in color on a 6 by 8 inch template**. Oversized and three-dimensional entries will not be judged. Entries should depict the student's military family. Please do not identify family members on the drawings.

Facts to know! Art contest Entry Forms are included in this packet and may also be found on our website: www.asymca.org and should be included with the entry. Entries without an Entry Form will not be judged, so make sure it is filled out completely and sent in with your artwork.

When is the deadline? All drawings *must* be postmarked by February 20, 2009.

Questions? Call (703) 313-9600 or email to tharper@asymca.org.

All artwork becomes property of the Armed Services YMCA and will not be returned.

Completed Entry forms with 6" x 8" artwork may be sent to:

ASYMCA

Attn: Art Contest

6359 Walker Lane, #200

Alexandria, VA 22310



GEICO®

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

Camp Smith Bldg 501

Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

Fax: 914-788-7407

shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil



Soldiers' Angels

Bowling For Veterans

Kiamesha Lake Bowling:
Dec. 7 at 2 PM.

Kingston Bowling: Jan. 17
at 3 PM.

Parents Now Able to Track Grades Online

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) has introduced a new software program, GradeSpeed, which allows parents of children grades 4-12, to monitor their children's academic progress. GradeSpeed allows parents to access their children's attendance, grades, view individual assignments and enables communication with teachers. To set up an account, go to

[https://
dodea.gradespeed.net/gs/
Default.aspx](https://dodea.gradespeed.net/gs/Default.aspx)

click on "parent" and follow the directions to complete the process.

Teen Deployment Classes available

View the schedule and register online at www.arfp.org/teenclasses. If

you have further questions, you can call Sarah Jones at 913-334-4230

ext. 5334

HARVARD

Harvard University announced over the weekend that from now on undergraduate students from low-income families will pay no tuition. In making the announcement, Harvard's president Lawrence Summers said, 'When only 10 percent of the students in Elite higher education come from families in lower half of the income distribution, we are not doing enough. We are not doing enough in bringing elite higher education to the lower half of the income distribution.'

If you know of a family earning less than \$ 60,000 a year with an honor student graduating from high school soon, Harvard University wants to pay the tuition. The prestigious university recently announced that from now on undergraduate students from low-income families can go to Harvard for free...no tuition and no student loans!

To find out more about Harvard offering free tuition for families making less than \$ 60,000 a year visit Harvard's financial aid website at: [http://
www.fao.fas.harvard.edu/](http://www.fao.fas.harvard.edu/) or call the school's financial aid office at (617) 495-1581.

Salute To Our Troops

An exclusive New York City welcome reception and the 76th celebration of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular will be celebrated Nov. 8.

Event details and official registration to come at a later date. For more information, please contact Thomas Triumph at (212) 695-5590 ext. 227

or ttri-

umph@osunyc.org. This event is sponsored by Microsoft in partnership with the USO.

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



WEST POINT

Hi all! It has been our tradition to do a THANK YOU POTLUCK in November for our Cadet volunteers to let them know how much we appreciate all the great work they do with our group and to give them a nice "home-cooked" (or home ordered in my case!) meal :-)

We will also have Thanksgiving crafts and a moon bounce at the youth center to help celebrate!

Our meeting will be on Saturday, November 15th from 5:30 until 7:30 pm at the youth center. Just pop me an email and let me know what dish you would like to bring!

This is always a fun filled night for all of us, can't wait to see you there!

Tea :-)

Galatea Badger, MSED Mobilization and Deployment/ AFTB Program Manager, Army Community Service

West Point, NY 10996

Ph: 845-938-5654

DSN: 688-5654

Fax: 845-938-3019

Email: Galatea.Badger@usma.edu

West Point Band

Since 1817



The United States
Military Academy
Concert Band
West Point, New York

LTC Timothy Holtan, conducting

SALUTE TO VETERANS



FREE CONCERT



Sunday, November 9th, 3:00 p.m.

Eisenhower Hall Theatre - West Point, New York

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



West Point.

The United States Military Academy

845-938-2617

WESTPOINT.EDU/BAND

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 and NEW MEXICO 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

Fax: 914-788-7407

Sign up today, Pen pals are waiting :)



Do you have school-aged children who play sports?

Or do they take dance, music or arts classes?

Maybe they would like to try something new... like Karate?

Could your child benefit from a tutor to stay at grade level?

If the answer is **YES** to any of these questions,
Our Military Kids grant program may be able to help.

Our Military Kids pays the fees for children of deployed Reserve and National Guard to participate in youth sports, fine arts, and tutor programs. This is a way of recognizing the sacrifices the entire family is making while the soldier is deployed overseas.

It is simple to apply to the program. . .

Just fill out the attached application. Send it in with a copy of the deployment orders and a flyer or other information that lists the activity and the fee for the activity. The child is limited to one grant for one activity. Grant will cover up to six months of instructions, lessons, tutoring with maximum award of \$500.00 per child.

If everything is in order and if funding is available, within two weeks a check will be sent to the organization and the child will be notified of the award.



6861 Elm Street, Suite 3F • McLean, VA 22101 • 703.734.6654 • www.ourmilitarykids.org

TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION PLEASE VISIT: www.ourmilitarykids.org

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? _____

PORJECT 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 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.)