



NEW YORK
National Guard
Child and Youth Program
2015 Annual Report



“I have met many cool people; I have learned a lot and helped a lot of people. It is so much fun! I love the Teen Council and all that it has taught me and shown me.” - Blythe T. (Teen Council Member)

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide our geographically dispersed children and youth with leadership, resources, services and education. The Child and Youth Program ensures that the structures and services reflect the unique needs of all military youth.

Goals

- Provide fun, physical, social, and educational opportunities for dispersed military youth
 - Collaborate with school professionals in order to provide “best practices” and resources that will assist in meeting the needs of military children
 - Continually seek and build community support networks for military youth
- Provide trainings to civilian and non-civilian professionals and organizations about military culture and the effects on military youth
- Continue to grow and expand our Teen Council throughout NYS
 - Increase Volunteers



Teen Council:

In Fiscal Year 2015, the NYNG Teen Council had 42 military affiliated teens before High School Graduation at the end of June. Combined, they volunteered over 685 hours at more than 25 events including Stars for Our Troops, the Veteran’s Miracle Center Donation Drive, Yellow Ribbons, the Memorial Day Flag Project, Wreaths Across America, and the Run to Honor 5k. Additionally, the teens participated in Volunteer and Youth Council Regional Trainings across the state where they received education in teambuilding, ice breaker activities, leadership training, briefing and elevator talk preparation.

From June 29th to July 2nd, The New York National Guard Teen Council assembled for the Annual Teen Council Forum trip. This year, the Teen Council Forum Trip was centered around learning, volunteering, and discovering the historical background of New York State. The Child and Youth Program took 20 teens and 6 chaperones to the Capital District in NY (Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga & Troy). The teens visited Lake George, Fort William Henry, volunteered at the Veterans Miracle Center, participated in team building exercises, were honorary guests that threw the first pitch at the Valley Cats Baseball Game, and took a guided tour of the Battle of Saratoga. This trip highlights the Teen Council’s aspirations to achieve more through their group activities.

2015 Highlights:

- 18 Volunteer Events with Teen Council
- 10 Yellow Ribbon Events
- 7 Week Long Summer Camps
- 7 Month of the Military Child Events
- 7 Partnered Community Organization Events
- 4 Volunteer and Youth Regional Trainings
- 4 Military Family Holiday Events
- 3 Teen Council Conference Calls
- 3 Armed Forces Appreciation Days
- 2 Teen Lock-In's
- 2 Winter Survival Camps
- 3rd Annual Teen Council Trip in the Capital District
- Family Strong Bonds Event with 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens and Kids.

Youth, Teens, & Adults Served

COMPONENT	6 – 12	13-18	Adults
	Years Old	Years Old	
Army National Guard	339	228	1058
Air Force National Guard	220	116	320
Army Active	120	68	59
Army Reserve	2	1	6
Air Force Active	44	16	0
Air Force Reserve	4	9	4
Navy Active	16	7	1
Navy Reserve	11	11	3
Marine Active	21	9	0
Other	6	10	873
TOTAL	783	475	2324

Volunteers

155 adult and youth volunteers worked a combined 1,185 documented hours to bolster over 60 events in support of military youth and families. Volunteers worked to sustain Yellow Ribbons, Month of the Military Child Events, Summer Camps, Community Events and the Teen Council Forum.

“Isaac thought it was the best camp ever. It was too short though. Thanks for your hard work preparing and overseeing it. The timing could not have been better for our family.” - Lisa H. (Teen Council Parent)



**Total Served in
FY 2015 = 3582**



Month of the Military Child Celebration Event

During the Month of the Military Child the Youth Program held its first ever Month of the Military Child Celebration Event. The event was held at the Division of Military and Naval Affairs (State Headquarters) in Latham, NY. The day camp allowed children to enjoy a full day of free activities including The Brain Show, a Rock Wall, Stars for Our Troops, International Therapy Dogs, Ice Cream Sundaes, and a dance party. They also participated in volunteerism with Stars for Our Troops and the FRC. The day camp gave children the opportunity to meet and form relationships with other military children in their area and every child went home with a medal and a certificate of appreciation. The event demonstrated a level of support for military children and showed them that their sacrifices are understood, acknowledged, and appreciated. The day was a huge success with the children, parents and military leadership. The CYPC's look forward to the 2nd annual MOMC Event in Fiscal Year 16.

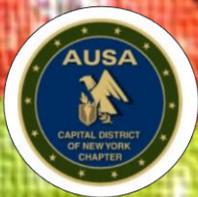
Survivor Outreach Services

During FY 15 the Child and Youth Program developed a closer working relationship with the Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) Program in New York State. The Child and Youth Program Coordinators worked seamlessly with the SOS Coordinators to plan and execute the 2nd Annual Operation Gold Star Camp, held at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center. We were excited, to be able to bring Mike Murburg from The Biggest Loser (Season 16) to Operation Gold Star Camp. Mike is a Gold Star parent, and spent the whole week with the kids, talking to them, doing the activities they did and getting to know them. Mike shared his story with the kids, as the kids were able to share their stories if they chose to. Mike was also able to spend time with the kids discussing about healthy lifestyles and staying active. The two programs came together to reach out to community organizations in order to extend the opportunities for National Guard Survivors and Families. The Child and Youth Program and SOS Program have many different goals and plans for the upcoming FY.

"I see great success in the Youth Program regarding their activities promoting social interaction with other military dependents, increasing self-esteem and self-actualization, as well as ability to transcend change." - 2015 Family Survey Response



"It is great to see the young members of the community comfortable and confident enough to approach an adult and say 'Hi, nice to see you. How have you been?' Teen Council has been a great opportunity for Gabe to meet people - thanks for everything you do!" - Holly C. (Teen Council Parent)



- Capital District AUSA helped to fund the Ice Cream and materials for Make Your Own Sundaes during the Month of the Military Child Celebration Event and the Purple Up Day Celebration.
- The Family Readiness Council provided the funds for all the meals, drinks, and snacks throughout the Annual Teen Council Forum trip in the Capital District.
- Operation Homefront and Dollar Tree stores provided more than 2,800 toys at Christmas and over 300 bags of school supplies.
- The YMCA provides dedicated, professional child-care and use their facilities for Yellow Ribbon Events.
- HOPE provides comfort and encouragement through animal-assisted support to individuals affected by crises and disasters.
- Therapy Dogs International (TDI) is a volunteer organization dedicated to regulating, testing and registration of therapy dogs and their handler for purpose of visiting nursing homes, hospitals, institutions, and wherever else therapy dogs are needed.
- The Youth Program is continuously building partnerships throughout New York State totaling over 35 new community partners.
- Cornell Cooperative Extensions supports Military Family Day Camps, Teen Lock-In's, Summer Camps, Yellow Ribbons and many Community Collaboration events.
- Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, Inc. located in Western NY rests of 75 acres of lakefront property that includes their very own beach on Lake Erie. Pioneer hosts Operation Gold Star Camp, OPC, Teen Lock-Ins and many community events.
- Survivor Outreach Services supports Survivors and Families of our Fallen Soldiers. Embracing those children in the SOS and Child and Youth Program to work together in order to enable them to remain an important part of the National Guard as long as they desire.
- A Soldiers Child Foundation serves the children of fallen military personnel who have given their lives on active duty while defending the USA. They have three points of service for the children, to celebrate each child's birthday till the age of 18, sponsor ASC Journey Camp each summer and to facilitate in college scholarships.



NEW YORK National Guard Child and Youth Program

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