



Annual Report FY20

NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



New York National
Guard Youth Program



NYNG Youth Program



NYNGCYP

MISSION STATEMENT



OUR MISSION & VISION

Our mission is to prepare our diverse population for success in a dynamic global society by providing leadership, resources, services, and education and to ensure that the structures, programs and services of the child and youth program reflect the unique needs of all military youth.

PROGRAM GOALS

- To provide intellectual, physical, social, emotional, and educational experiences for military children and youth
- To collaborate with school professionals in order to provide "best practice" and resources that will assist in meeting the needs of military children and youth
- To continually seek and build community support networks for military children and youth
- To provide trainings to civilian and non-civilian professionals and organizations about military culture and the effects on military children and youth



"This year has been different but the boxes were a wonderful distraction. Through the boxes I got new ideas for my 6 year old. She loved the bear painting. She was so happy to paint inside the lines. She kept saying she was an artist. My son created a new way to use the coding bracelets, and he used his fine motor skills. The kids want to thank the National Guard for thinking of them. You gave me new ideas of things to try with them. Thank you!"

*-Brennan Orlando, Wife of Major Orlando, NYRNG
42nd Infantry Division*

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

10 Community and Partner Trainings or Meetings

4 Community Outreach, Briefings and Events

1 Day Camp

3 Family Days and Military Appreciation Events

2 MOMC Events

5 Command/Unit/FRG Briefings

1 MRT/Teen Resilience Event

4 Teen Council Meetings or Trainings

6 Yellow Ribbon Briefings and Trainings



PARTICIPATION

	ARNG	ANG	ARMY RESERVE	AF ACTIVE	AF RESERVE	NAVY ACTIVE	GOLD STAR	OTHER
Adult	1294	185	3	1	0	1	0	1004
13-18 Years	239	12	0	0	3	0	2	127
6-12 Years	437	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
Total	1,970	197	3	1	3	1	2	1,191

TEEN COUNCIL & MRT



TEEN COUNCIL

We knew that upon entering FY20, we'd have some hurdles to overcome, as most of our Teen Council would be graduating in the Spring. We held three bi-monthly conference calls in the first half of FY20, where we discussed upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and reviewed Teen Council expectations. As always, the highlight of these calls was the planning of the next group outing. This year's annual Winter Resiliency Retreat took us to Lake Placid, New York, where the town was celebrating the 20 year anniversary of the Winter Olympics. We began the trip by baking desserts for the Lake Placid Fire Department and taking a tour of their fire station. An engaging discussion with the Fire Chief brought to light similarities between volunteer fire fighters and national guardsmen, including sacrifice and resiliency. The teens had a chance to try on some gear, as we talked about the qualities a fire department looks for when recruiting volunteer fire fighters. Integrity, a desire to serve, ethics, dedication, and great communication skills, all came up as key characteristics of an effective fire fighter. The teens noted that all of these qualities were also necessary in order to be successful serving in the military. After saying our goodbyes, we headed to snow-covered main street to share a meal together and later check out the Lake Placid Olympic Museum. With most of our current Teen Council graduating, they knew this trip was bittersweet. But part of being a military child means you are no stranger to long distance relationships. On our last day of the Winter Resiliency Retreat, our teens participated in a two-hour Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) that was modified for youth. During our debrief, the teens applied SELF-AWARENESS, OPTIMISM, and CONNECTION, to the ASIST model, and spoke about their importance in supporting loved ones through tough situations. How to have delicate conversations with peers and loved ones about suicide was a topic that the teens requested to discuss. Little did they know, their willingness to dive into something uncomfortable and be able to persevere, would prepare them for difficulties right around the corner.

MASTER RESILIENCY TRAINING [MRT]

The COVID-19 epidemic has challenged our ARNG families to adapt and stay flexible while information and directives coming down from the chain of command has changed daily. Now, more than ever before, their resiliency skills have been put to the test. While the epidemic has certainly decreased our opportunities to give formal MRT training, we were still able to provide shorter lessons with our teens during conference calls and at the Winter Resiliency Retreat. While also relying on past formal trainings, these lessons prepared them for all the changes that have occurred so far, and all the changes that are still to come.

"I am so grateful for Teen Council. They have welcomed my children in and have become a family to them. They educate the children on real life issues and teach them responsibility with volunteering. My children are better people because of Teen Council."

-Jaime PapaGeorgio, Wife of Retired Air Force TSgt Damon PapaGeorgio

BEST PRACTICES

VIRTUAL MOMC



NYARNG Child and Youth Program spent several months planning for Month of The Military Child (MOMC) celebrations to take place across the State. We were disappointed to have to cancel these opportunities, but it was necessary due to the

safety concerns that surround COVID-19. With a few short weeks of planning we were able to transform our disappointment into excitement by developing virtual opportunities to make sure our youngest heroes were recognized and celebrated. We used our already established Facebook page, email distribution lists and a virtual meeting program to ensure we had the widest dissemination of our information. We had used these platforms in the past as supplemental avenues for sharing information, but really honed in on all they had to offer as they became our primary way to contact our families. Our adapted MOMC celebration consisted of a virtual spirit week, with each week of April highlighting a character trait military children possess. These traits were: RESILIENT, STRONG, BRAVE and FLEXIBLE. We asked those that participated in each week to share a photo of themselves demonstrating this trait and with permission we shared these on our Facebook page. Along with the MOMC spirit week we coordinated a "KIDS TAKEOVER" virtual meeting. This virtual meeting was geared towards the 42nd ID families that saw over 600 soldiers deploy in January 2020. We partnered with the FRSA team to allow for the children of these families to participate in this call and to be honored for their service. All those who participated in our Virtual MOMC programing were mailed NYARNG CYP MOMC Swag bags. The final piece to our virtual MOMC was to provide Recognition certificates to our military children. These virtual events afforded us the opportunity to reach a larger percentage of our geographically dispersed population. Flexibility and creativity were key to ensure we met our goal, to make our military children feel special, especially during this uncertain time.

SUMMER CAMP-IN-A-BOX

This year proved to be a great test of our Master Resiliency Training (MRT) skills. We channeled the 6 Core Competencies to develop and execute our first ever NYARNG Summer Camp in a Box. Using SELF-AWARENESS, we realized we were disappointed that our in-person summer camp was canceled, however motivated to support our families. We used SELF-REGULATION to make sure we kept our emotions and feelings about the uncertain world around us in check so we could focus on our goal. OPTIMISM was key as we had a positive, but realistic outlook on overcoming this new challenge. Our MENTAL AGILITY was working over-time and helped us conceive the best way to engage our military children. We wanted to reach as many of our children as possible using the resources we had available to us. Tapping into our self-identified STRENGTHS of CHARACTER we were able to develop and execute a plan that we thought would be most effective. It was imperative that we used our already established community CONNECTIONS and developed more along the way.

With service and community in mind we used local small business to help us with this project. We produced 200 boxes that contained a STEM based curriculum and all of the supplies needed to implement this curriculum. Each box contained a version of the following: Art project, Music activity, Binary coding, Physical activity, Financial fitness materials and best of all-a children's book. These books added a special touch as each one was written by a local military family. One of the greatest benefits of this project was that it allowed us to reach a larger number of our geographically dispersed families. The feedback from our families was incredibly positive and they are looking forward to our FY21 Camp in a Box!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS

Our program volunteers are valued members of our team. We look to them and their innate sense of service to successfully run our program each year. FY20 started off no differently. With four key volunteers and a total of 10 hours we enhanced our Yellow Ribbon programing and Service Member and Family Holiday celebrations. We look forward to utilizing the strengths our volunteers in FY21 as we provide innovative programming in our unique, fluid environment.



ROSIE RIVETERS

Rosie Riveters is a woman-owned non-profit organization that provides hands-on and interactive STEM programs for girls ages 4-14. We paired up for our Camp-in-a-Box initiative, where they provided our youth with binary coding kits. We hope to work with them again in the future, as they are working to partner with Blue Star Families to engage with military families.

ART IN MIND

Art in Mind is local Capital Region art studio who provided us with canvas paint kits for our Camp-in-a-Box participants. We also paired with them to provide a virtual paint class for our virtual Teen Council Summer Symposium. Because the Symposium was canceled, we will be offering the virtual paint class to the 42nd Infantry Division families as a morale booster while their soldiers finish up their deployment.

MILITARY ONESOURCE

Our Military OneSource consultant, Jody Ankabrant, has been one of our biggest assets during the COVID-19 epidemic. Jody has been our portal to the virtual world, allowing us to use her online platform to conduct our virtual events. Military OneSource has also been our one stop shop for helpful COVID resources for our families.



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