

New York Army National Guard Child and Youth Program

ANNUAL REPORT FY23



Mission Statement

The mission of Army National Guard (ARNG) Child & Youth Services (CYS) is to promote and sustain the quality of life and resilience of Army National Guard dependent children and youth by providing secure, timely, flexible, high-quality support services and enrichment programs.

Program Goals

Education:

Provide developmentally-appropriate life skills education to National Guard youth

Access:

Provide information on access to Federal and State/Territory benefits that support National Guard children and Families, including: counseling, education, child care, and other resources needed to foster a healthy, stable and secure family environment

Opportunity:

Create partnerships for opportunities to participate in programs, events, and activities geared toward the behavioral and physical health and welfare of children and youth that are available across the spectrum of Government, community, and private sector

Communication:

Build a sense of belonging to the Army National Guard Community by creating secure opportunities to network with other youth, parents/legal guardians, and ARNG CYS Coordinators in one's community, state/territory, and across the nation

Resilience:

Infuse resiliency and leadership skills and techniques into all Army National Guard child and youth programming

Outreach:

Build and sustain contact with parents/legal guardians, and children of the National Guard in order to create awareness of available support services and programs, while being mindful of age, location, military and civilian mindsets

Program Highlights

- 3 Community and Partner Trainings or Meetings
- 4 Family Days and Military Appreciation Days
- 15 Virtual Day Camps
- 3 MOMC Events
- 1 Regional Youth Symposium
- 1 Teen Council Meetings or Trainings
- 19 Yellow Ribbon Briefings and Trainings



“My children enjoyed their deployment care packages. We especially loved the camo bears with the voice recordings. I had their father send me voice clips for each of our children while he was on deployment and surprised them! The boys also had a lot of fun with the activities from the monthly activity packets.”

Taylor Cross, NYARNG Spouse

Participation

FY 23 Child & Youth Program Totals Reported:

Adult Participants: 2441 Total

2296 Army NG	14 Air NG	1 Navy Reserve	12 Army Active	1 Marine Active	117 Other
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Youth Ages 6-12: 1371 Total

979 Army NG	87 Air NG	143 AF Active	6 Navy Reserve	18 Marine Active	138 Army Active
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Youth Ages 13-18: 374 Total

251 Army NG	17 Air NG	39 Army Active	55 AF Active	6 Marine Active	6 Navy Reserve
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Ages 0-5: 999 Total

Programing Hours: 101.25

Community Partners



United Heroes League: Offers free sports equipment, game tickets, cash grants, skill development camps, and special experiences to military families across the US.



United Through Reading has been generous to supply books for our pre and post deployment care packages. They promote shared story time with families and even have an app that is accessible anytime and anywhere.



Child Care Aware: Offers coverage of childcare fees at accredited child care providers throughout the state.

Teen Council

Our Teen Council Members have shown great resilience in adapting to the rebuild of our Teen Council. Currently, we have 3 members affiliated with the New York Army and Air National Guard. Recently, our Teen Council President attended the first Region 2 Regional Symposium in Puerto Rico. The theme for this year's event was "Knowing your Strength:

Developing Resilience and Leadership Skills during Difficult Times". Teens learned valuable resiliency skills and achieved personal growth by overcoming fears and setting goals. They also created a five-year plan for upcoming Regional Symposiums, with New York set to host the Regional Symposium in 2025.

Teen Resilience Training

In FY23, we provided our Teen Council Youth with valuable lessons on resiliency skills. These included Hunt the Good Stuff, Goal Setting, and a range of other useful techniques. Almost 17 kids have gained knowledge about the importance of goal setting and hunting the good stuff to stay resilient. Going forward, we are committed to finding new opportunities to educate our NYARNG Youth on resiliency and additional life skills.

Best Practices



MOMC Events

This year, we hosted three MOMC virtual events, which were all well-attended. From the April Activity packet, we had an impressive request of 136 participant packets. Our MOMC Purple up Zoom event, featuring the accomplished motivational speaker Patrick Perez, had six attendees. Additionally, provided Month of the Military Child Recognition Kits received by 50 children and youth. Overall, our MOMC events were a huge success, with a total of 192 participants.

In-Person Programming

In September, we participated in a family day event that offered a diverse range of activities from arts and crafts to yard games. Our team also had the opportunity to set up a provider table and speak with families about available resources for the Army National Guard. Moving forward, New York Child and Youth are excited to host several in-person events throughout the year. These include a celebration for the month of the military child, a summer event, and a Teen Council Retreat. We look forward to launching these events and making them a success!

Youth Deployment Guide

Our Youth Deployment Guide is a valuable resource for military families that provides access to various resources throughout the deployment cycle. This guide covers topics such as deployment-specific resources, emotional health, school, state-specific and regional-specific resources, teen council applications, air national guard contacts, survivor outreach services, and a Child and Youth Family Checklist for emergencies. Our goal is to assist families in navigating the challenges of deployment by providing them with the necessary information and resources. The Youth Deployment Guide is available online through our link tree and in our youth deployment care packages. In FY23, we distributed 79 of these packets to families experiencing deployment.



"The NY Child and Youth Program has been such an invaluable resource for our 5 kids. Our younger children loved interacting with other military kids during the Military Kids Club events, where they did a variety of things like having a dance party, making pasta, tie dying shirts, or escaping virtual escape rooms. Our older children have benefited by being given leadership opportunities in the NY National Guard's Teen Council, allowing them to give back to the military community. The Purple Up event with Patrick Perez during the Month of the Military Child really helped the kids feel special. The monthly activity packets have been fun for the whole family and helped us to put a positive spin on some of the most challenging of subjects, like deployments, mental health, and wellness. The programs that the Child & Youth Program have created helped our kids feel connected to other military kids and families, despite being so geographically separated. Thank you!"

Mackayla Burke, NYARNG Spouse

My children absolutely love when the Monthly Activity packet comes in the mail! They really loved Octobers. We appreciate everything you do to help make their dads deployment go faster for us! Thank you so much!

Megan Odell, NYARNG Spouse



LinkTree

<https://linktr.ee/NYARNGCYS>



DMNA Family Programs Main Page

<https://dmna.ny.gov/family/>



NY ARNG CYS Facebook Page

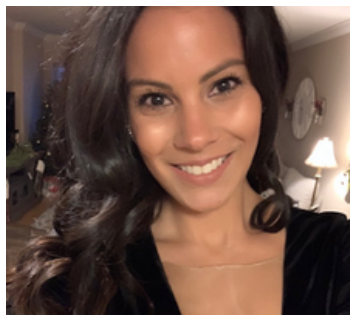
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Connect with Us!



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