

MANG Child & Youth Program

Spring Issue
April 2013

MY National Guard News

Created especially for Massachusetts Youth

Inside this Issue:

Benefits	2
Jokes	3
Events Calendar	3
Youth Only Fun	4
Teen Page	5
Resources	5, 7
MoMC Calendar	6



MoMC: Military Children in Action

April, the Month of the Military Child, offers all Americans a special opportunity to acknowledge and honor the service of our younger heroes, our military children. That is, YOU! The Month of the Military Child recognizes the important role military children play in our communities.

- Worldwide, there are approximately **1.9 million U.S. Military Children** from newborn to 18 years old. **1.3 million** of you are school-aged.
- Approximately **225,000** have a parent who is currently deployed.
- More than **700,000 Military Children** have experienced the deployment of one or more parents since 2001.

Our military children are resilient and proud of their service, and they deserve our support. The Department of Defense, each branch of our Armed Services, Cabinet Agencies, the White House Joining Forces Initiative, as well as non-profits, businesses and communities throughout the country recognize this and have stepped up to provide a variety of special programs, initiatives and activities for our military kids.

Military Children: Proud, Ready, and Resilient!



Message from MA Child & Youth Coordinators

Are you glad that spring is here? So are we! Debbie and Susan have now been on the job for about a year, and we want to share some photos and successes of the program since we have been on board. Check this page and throughout the issue, and look for evidence that you have interacted with us!

Sincerely,
Debbie and Susan
Child & Youth Program Coordinators



Highlighted Resource



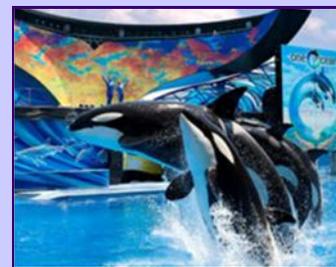
Doctors, nurse practitioners, and other medical professionals incorporate Reach Out

and Read's evidence-based model into regular pediatric checkups, by advising parents about the importance of reading aloud and giving developmentally-appropriate books to children. The program begins at the 6-month checkup and continues through age 5. Families served by the Reach Out and Read program read together more often, and their children enter kindergarten with larger vocabularies, stronger language skills, and a 6-month developmental edge. Visit www.reachoutandread.org for more information.



Free Admission to Anheuser-Busch Parks!

SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment is proud to salute the men and women of our armed forces and their families. Throughout 2013, any active duty, activated or drilling reservist or National Guardsman is entitled to a free one time admission at either SeaWorld®, Busch Gardens®, Adventure Island®, Water Country USA®, or Sesame Place® for military personnel and as many as three direct dependents.



To register online, [click here](#) and submit your information. Dependents may take advantage of the offer without their service member, though an adult must accompany minor dependents, and dependent ages 10 and over must present valid dependent identification. Busch Gardens Williamsburg, SeaWorld San Antonio, and Sesame Place are seasonal operations that will remain closed until spring 2013. Military personnel interested in visiting those parks should check operating schedules. [Click here](#) for Busch Gardens Williamsburg. [Click here](#) for SeaWorld San Antonio. [Click here](#) for Sesame Place. The remaining parks, SeaWorld Orlando, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay and SeaWorld San Diego are open year round.

Disclaimer: Valid military identification reflecting active status and dependent ID(s) required for offer. Non-transferable. Non-refundable. Not valid at Discovery Cove® or Aquatica™ parks. Offer not valid for separate ticketed events including Christmas Town at Busch Gardens Williamsburg and Tampa, Howl-O-Scream® at Busch Gardens Tampa and A Very Furry Christmas at Sesame Place. Not valid with any other discounts or offers. Subject to change or cancellation. Limit one complimentary admission per person. Offer expires December 31, 2013.

Youth Benefits

FREE TUTORING & HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

- Available to ALL Military affiliated Families (Military, Civilian & Contractor), regardless of deployment status
- 24/7, real-time, individualized, one-to-one tutoring and homework assistance with a qualified and screened tutor
- Spanish speaking tutors available (2pm-

1am EST daily)

- K-12 assistance in Math, Science, Writing, Social Studies and English
- Adult assistance for college coursework and resume/job search/citizenship/standardized testing

For more information, check out the website: www.tutor.com/MILITARY



\$500 Grants for Extra Curricular Activities!

Our Military Kids offers grants to the children of our deployed Service Members for a number of extra curricular activities.

To see the full list of eligible activities and to apply, please visit:

www.ourmilitarykids.org

Schedule of Events

as of March 26, 2013

APRIL

April 1: Deadline to apply for OMK Horse Camp

April 6: Volunteer to clean up Camp Spencer

April 13: Glow Bowling with OMK.

April 15: Purple up for Military Kids! Wear purple today to show the world that you understand. Also, today is Patriots Day and the deadline to apply to ANG Teen Leadership Summits this summer.

April 15-19: OMK Horse Camp. Advance registration required.

April 19: Deadline for SAME Camp

April 20: Teen Up for the Challenge Event at the Central Rock Gym in Worcester

April 21: National Volunteer Appreciation Week begins!

April 22: Earth Day

April 26-27: Ice Stars for Wounded Warriors. Free tickets for Military Youth!

April 26: Operation Megaphone Teen Lock In at Hanscom AFB

April 30: Hanscom Red Sox Trip. Also, deadline for both Tiger Woods Camp and Veterans United Scholarship.

MAY

May 1: Deadline for Otis Civilian Advisory Council Scholarship.

May 4: Teens are invited to join the Teen Council volunteering for the day at the Run/Walk to Home Base. After the race, we will take part in the festivities at Fenway. The day begins at 6:00 a.m. in Boston. Contact us by April 1 for details or to register.

May 10: National Military Spouse Appreciation Day

May 12: Mothers Day

May 18: Armed Forces Day

May 18: Taunton Armory Open House from 10:00 am— 2:00 pm. Join the 772 MPs and see what drill life is like at the Taunton Armory. A fun day planned with loads of events planned for youth of all ages!

May 27: Memorial Day. Check for ceremonies and flag placement activities in your town.

JUNE

June 14: Flag Day

June 15: Teen Leadership Training and Boston Duck tour

June 16: Fathers Day

June 29: OMK Family Day at Camp Marshall

June 29-30: RI Air Show!



Always check with your Unit Youth Coordinator for the most up-to-date calendar!



Laugh Factory

*Where did the music
teacher leave her keys?
In the Piano!*

*What is a computer's
favorite music?
Disc-o!*

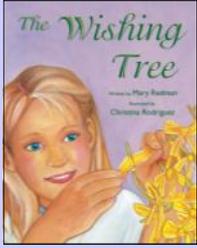
*How do you make a
bandstand?
Take their chairs away!*

*What do you call a
musical automobile?
A cartoon!*

www.bestfamilyadvice.com

GUARD KIDS PAGE!

Featured Reading



Amanda understands that her dad is making the world a better place, but it doesn't make his deployment any easier. After mulling over ways she can support her dad, Amanda creates a small wishing tree in her room, writing her hopes and prayers on yellow ribbons that she ties onto the branches. As Amanda wishes for her dad to enjoy good meals, make new friends, and return safely, the little tree comes to life with yellow ribbons of hope.

www.amazon.com

Everyone:

Check out the Military Youth in action seen throughout this issue. We have included lots of photos so we can celebrate all 5,000+ Massachusetts National Guard Youth during April, the Month of the Military Child! It was difficult to select from so many awesome images from so many different events. Debbie and Susan are heading into our second year with the program with just as much energy and enthusiasm as we began!

A Challenge for our younger readers:

How many gold stars can you find in this issue?

Children's Activities



Flag Day Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters in each word or phrase below to make a list of words related to Flag Day.

1. DRE, WIHET, DAN UEBL

2. SRASST NAD TEIPRSS

3. ASRT-LSAENGDP NBNERA

4. ALGF

5. LOD OGRLY

6. TCOIETALNNN OSSCNGRE

7. TSYB RSSO

8. ASTLEU

9. EPDLEG FO GANCELLEIA

10. NEJU

11. TISTRIONPA

12. NALNATIO THEANM



School Family. Your go-to guide for school success. Visit SchoolFamily.com

- 1. BESSY BOSS
- 2. SATELLITE
- 3. STARS AND STRIPES
- 4. SATELLITE
- 5. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
- 6. STATUE OF LIBERTY
- 7. BESSY BOSS
- 8. STATUE OF LIBERTY
- 9. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
- 10. SATELLITE
- 11. BESSY BOSS
- 12. STATUE OF LIBERTY

Easter Connect the Dots



School Family. Your go-to guide for school success. Visit SchoolFamily.com

Join us!

BE A PART OF SOMETHING GREAT!

Join the MA National Guard Teen Council!

If you are between the ages of 13 and 18 and are interested in meeting other youth who have a loved one in the military, whether they are deployed or not, join the Teen Council!

For more information about the TC, contact us at MassNGYouth@aol.com



TEEN COUNCIL CONNECTION

Join the Teen Council in volunteering at military events and more!

Early 2013 activities included a send-off ceremony at Faneuil Hall in February to help the 188 EN Youth say farewell to their soldiers. Resiliency was the order of the day while everyone battled the blizzard aftermath to get to downtown Boston. Teen Council member Jarod was on hand to help youth eagerly pass time reading, making posters, constructing puzzles, and more.

In March, Teen Council member Stephanie organized activities in the youth rooms at the 125th Quarter Master Resource Fair. The youth at the event could participate in either a lively toddler area and a separate school-age room filled with a variety of challenges and games.

We look forward to new projects and would love for any interested teens to join us. Be sure to check the schedule of events on page 3

for some exciting opportunities!



Top Ten: What Military Teens Want People to Know

Each summer, the National Military Family Association's Operation Purple® program provides a free week of camp for thousands of Military Youth who have a parent serving in the Uniformed Services. They are asked to share the best and hardest parts about military life in a popular activity called the Top Ten list. Here's what they said:

1. We serve too.
2. We value diversity and new experiences.
3. We live in the community.
4. We are proud of our parents.
5. We move. A lot.
6. We appreciate recognition of our families' service.
7. We are just like most teens in a lot of ways.
8. We take on a lot of responsibility.
9. We miss our parents.
10. We think about war, and we know what it means.

Do you agree? Does this top ten list align with National Guard Youth concerns? Let us know. To see the full article, visit the National Military Family Association's website and choose the Military Teens Toolkit or click [here](#). Feel free to share this article with your class for the Month of the Military Child.

Free SAT/ACT Preparation Tools

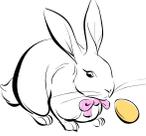


The PowerPrep for Military Families through eKnowledge project has donations to waive 100% of the \$199.99 retail cost for all Standard Version Programs, with a fee for streaming, mailing & support—\$13.84 for DVD and \$19.99 for Internet Cloud (applies only to Standard Program). The Project waives 75% to 90% of the retail prices (\$300—\$1,575) for all other products. [Learn more!](#)



APRIL 2013: The Month of the Military Child



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
EASTER SUNDAY  1 LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR OMK HORSE CAMP KID IDEA: Let your teachers know that April is Month of the Military Child! Share a picture of your Service Member with your class.	2 EVERYONE: With your parents, be sure to click on the Child and Youth Program Facebook page for great information and fun ideas this month.	3 MoMC FACT: Month of the Military Child began in 1986 as a way to recognize the sacrifices and to applaud the courage of military children.	4 VISIT: www.militaryonesource.mil and create a free account to gain access to tons of free resources for military families!	5 FAMILY IDEA: Turn off the television and have a card or board game night!	6 FAMILY IDEA: Make some popcorn and choose a movie for the whole family to watch- no texting, Facebook, or phone calls!	7 KID IDEA: Earth Day is coming up, remember the 3 "R's <i>Everyday</i> : REDUCE, REUSE, and RECYCLE. Talk to your family about ways to use the 3 "R's in your home. Tips from PBS - Click here
8 MoMC FACT: More than 1.7 million American children under the age of 18 have at least one parent serving in the military.	9 VISIT: Visit your local library for books about military families. Bring one to school and share the story with your classmates. Ask us for book suggestions if you get stuck.	10 FAMILY IDEA: Enjoy a family dinner together at least once this week. No electronic devices allowed!	11 VISIT: Operation: Military Kids at www.operationmilitarykids.org to find out what OMK is doing in Massachusetts!	12 FAMILY IDEA: Make homemade pizza for dinner as a family; let everyone choose their favorite toppings!	13 KID IDEA: With a parent or trusted adult, visit www.militarykidsconnect.org and make a FREE account to connect with other military kids!	14 VISIT: www.bbbsmb.org/ to find out how you can participate in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bay State!
15 Patriots Day OMK HORSE CAMP EVERYONE: <i>Purple UP! For Military Kids</i> Wear PURPLE today to show your support for Military Kids!	16 OMK HORSE CAMP EVERYONE: It's school vacation and Earth Day is next week! Take a hike together. You can add a treasure hunt by trying letterboxing! Click here	17 OMK HORSE CAMP EVERYONE: Plan a garden today! Gardening is a great way to eat healthy, spend time together as a family, and care for the planet.	18 OMK HORSE CAMP VISIT: Visit the animals at the zoo, aquarium, or animal parks together. Click here for a list we found in MA. You can also visit your local farm animals!	19 OMK HORSE CAMP KID IDEA: Visit your local library for books about recycling. Ask about an Earth Day event in your local community.	20 TEENS: Join the teen council at the Central Rock Gym in Worcester for indoor rock climbing! For more info contact us at MASSNGYouth@aol.com	21 KID IDEA: Today is the first day of National Volunteer Appreciation Week. If your unit has a Youth Coordinator, thank that person or persons!
22 Earth Day EVERYONE: Taking care of the earth is everyone's job. Find great activities the whole family can participate in while helping our planet. Click here	23 KID IDEA: Volunteer within your local community with a family member or some friends.	24 MoMC FACT: In Massachusetts, there are over 13,000 Military Children under age 18.	25 VISIT: Visit the Joint Services Support Youth page for great resources available to National Guard youth. http://www.jointservicesupport.org/FP/Youth.aspx	26 FAMILY IDEA: Free admission for Military Children today and tomorrow at Ice Stars for Wounded Warriors http://icestarsforwoundedwarriors.weebly.com/	27 FAMILY IDEA: Start a weekend tradition. The possibilities are endless: going to the park on Saturday, chocolate-chip pancakes every Sunday morning, anything!	28 FAMILY IDEA: Check out the local parks and trails, and go on a family bike ride! To find trails, click here .
29 MoMC FACT: Every county in Massachusetts has at least one Military Family representing the National Guard.	30 REMINDER: The Run/Walk to Home Base will be held this coming Saturday. Many Service Members participate, and your Teen Council and friends will too!	Questions? We are here to Help! MASSNGYouth@aol.com MA National Guard Child & Youth Program Coordinators: Debbie Wilder, 508-233-7290 & Susan LaFlame, 508-233-7952 MA Operation: Military Kids Program Coordinator: Gretchen May, 413-577-0332 Military and Family Life Consultant: Barbara Cox, 508-233-7708				For a larger version of this calendar, please contact your Unit Youth Coordinator.

Kids Serve, Too!

APRIL

Month of the Military Child

Show a Military Child you are proud of them!
Recognize the sacrifices made by Military Families!

Military children are unique. They share their parents with the world in order to defend our way of life. They sometimes sacrifice their normal family life so that we may all benefit. Their strength shows that they are true patriots. Do something special for YOUR Guard child.

Contact the Massachusetts National Guard Youth Program Coordinator to request a special thank you certificate for your child.

Email: MASSNGYouth@aol.com Phone: (888) 301-3103 x7290 or 7952

Guard Kids  **Our National Treasure**

THANK YOU!



TO OUR
 EVERYDAY HEROES,
 OUR MILITARY YOUTH,
 FOR YOUR COURAGE AND
 SACRIFICES. YOU ARE
 GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Resources

Military OneSource:

1-800-342-9647

www.militaryonesource.com



Military Support Program

1-866-251-2913

24/7 Counselor Assistance!

Military & Family Life Consultant

Barbara Cox

Cell- 508-641-0730

Office- 508-233-7708

Barbara.l.cox@healthnet.com

Providing confidential, non-medical, short-term, solution focused counseling to Service Members and their Families.



AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summits are week-long camps for 14-18 year old dependent teens of current Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard family members. Teens will focus on leadership development and self-confidence, learn about programs and services available to Air Force dependents, and build an appreciation for and sense of belonging to the Air Force community. To learn more or apply, visit

<http://www.georgia4h.org/afrangteensummit/>

If you no longer wish to receive this publication, please contact MassNGYouth@aol.com



Find us on Facebook

Search "Youth Program
Massachusetts National Guard"



Check out our new logo for the National Child & Youth Program!



NG Child & Youth Program

Debbie Wilder, Susan LaFlame
State Youth Coordinators
14 Minuteman Lane
Wellesley, MA 02481

Toll Free: 1-888-301-3103
X 7290 or 7952

Desk: 508-233-7290 or 7952
MassNGYouth@aol.com

*Our Youth, Our Lives,
Our Future*

Website:

www.jointservicessupport.org

National Guard Youth Website



Join the National Guard Online Community! By registering as a member, you will gain access to a wide range of National Guard Child and Youth Program resources, information, and tools.

To register, go to:

www.jointservicessupport.org