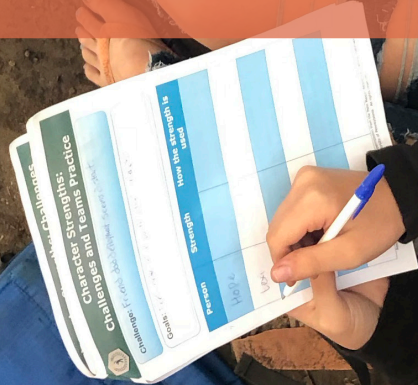




Vermont Army National Guard Child & Youth Services FY 2018 Annual Report



Note: All Photos and Quotes have been authorized for use by parent/legal guardian.

MISSION

The mission of the Army National Guard Child & Youth Services program is to positively impact Soldier and family readiness, resilience, and retention by providing secure, timely, flexible, and high-quality youth development opportunities and resources which promote the overall well-being of ARNG children and youth.



Provide life-skills and peer-to-peer connections to increase overall Soldier & family readiness

Build community capacity by developing partnerships with education & community resources that support geographically dispersed military youth & families

Expand access to and awareness of Federal, State, and community benefits that support military youth

Utilize leadership and service learning opportunities in ARNG children & youth

Utilize research based curriculum as a means of increasing the resilience skills in ARNG youth to promote soldier and family readiness & retention

GOALS



CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Army 377 (6-12yo)
National 294 (13-18yo)
Guard 435 (adults)
1,106 Total

Air 248 (6-12yo)
National 128 (13-18yo)
Guard 314 (adults)
690 Total

Army 12 (6-12yo)
Reserves 12 (13-18yo)
25 (adults)
49 Total

Air 14 (6-12yo)
Force 6 (13-18yo)
21 (adults)
41 Total

Marine 5 (6-12yo)
Corps 2 (13-18yo)
6 (adults)
13 Total

Army 17 (6-12yo)
10 (13-18yo)
23 (adults)
50 Total

Navy 5 (6-12yo)
Reserve 4 (13-18yo)
6 (adults)
15 Total

1,205
Total US Army

1,964
Total US Armed Forces



- Yellow Ribbon Event = 1
- Family Readiness Group Events = 4
- 8th Annual "Operation Polar Express" = 1
- Community Outreach Briefings/Events = 12
- Month of the Military Child Events = 3
- Day Camp & Youth Development Workshops = 6
- 9th Annual VTNG Family Camp = 2
- Overnight/Residential Camp experiences = 6
- Regional Youth Symposium = 1
- State Youth Symposium = 1

539.75 Total Programming Hours

EVENT SUMMARY

WHAT'S BEING SAID

“The Vermont National Guard Child & Youth Services program has really helped my children become more resilient through their day to day activities. And make it through those long school breaks and drill weekends. They’ve made that connection with other children, that also go through these same challenges with their day to day lives.”
~SSG Margaret (Molly) LaBonte, VTARNG

“The Child & Youth Program that put on camp this week, it’s a real awesome opportunity. After the first day my daughter came home, and, just that tremendous growth in confidence and resilience. This is a real benefit to have this camp for military families.”
~ MAJ Justin Quiet, VTARNG



Vermont has 0.2379 Military dependents per square mile. Knowing that and understanding societal support of military service is waning. We chose to focus on providing our teens with tools enabling them to maintain their identity as a proud Military Teen. This year we were able to dive deep into several Full Curriculum Units: Strengths of Character, Self Regulation, Optimism, Mental Agility & Self Awareness. Both youth and families have reported improved self-perception & management.

2 x Two-hour

2 x Character Strengths

2 x Mental Games/Real Time Resilience

2 x Detecting Icebergs/Problem Solving/Put It In Perspective

8 Trainings to 54 Teens

Volunteers have become a critical component of our Educator and Community Outreach Briefings & Events, Military Appreciation Events, and Unit Family Days throughout Vermont. Their dedicated efforts have had a force multiplying effect in our attempt to engage new Military youth & families, as well as inform our community about the added challenges of being a Military dependent.

71 Volunteers gave 618.5 Hours

VOLUNTEERS

TEEN RESILIENCE

TEEN COUNCIL

They chose to focus on **Replacement Value**, and increasing **Community Engagement**. **Replacement Value** was chosen because four (4) will be graduating in June 2019. Throughout this past year they were charged with finding an emerging ARNG teen leader to take their seat on the Council. This was accomplished through conversations with and observations of peer participants at our trainings and programs. **Community Engagement** was decided upon due to their noted decline in community understanding of military children. Throughout the past 12 months they supported 3 (three) “Educate the Educator” Briefings, one (1) YRRP event, two(2) VTARNG Aviation Youth Deployment Support Events, three (3) Unit Family Days, and spent 5 days on a canoe experience with hours of embedded Resilience Training.



Expansion to areas in Southern Vermont was a focal point during this past year, after receiving feedback from youth & families. In November of this past year we were granted office space, for two days a week, in the VTNG White River Junction Armory. These efforts have been rewarded with new Military dependents participating in our programs, as well as the development with new Community Partners. We intend to continue the strengthening of our program in Southern Vermont.

“**Educating the Educator**” briefings were brought to the forefront. This is due to the VT Army National Guard’s Deployment Cycle being on the upswing, and the need to inform state educators about the special challenges and emotions our Military dependents are faced with during a deployment. This campaign has led to training at schools and with VT Regional Prevention Partnerships.

BEST PRACTICES

6 Trainings to 154 Educators

PARTNERS



Hosmer Point Camp is one of our newer community partners. We have partnered with them for the past two (2) years. They facilitate our Teen Adventure Camp, and hosted our State Youth Symposium.

Vermont Youth Development Corps has been involved in our day camps for many years. They implement quality activities that encourage healthy, active lifestyles; discourage unhealthy behavior such as opioid and other substance use; bolster success in school; provide job readiness; support struggling youth.

Additional Thanks: UVM Extension 4H, Greater Burlington YMCA, Vermont Lake Monsters, metroRock Vermont, VTNG Regional Training Institute, General Dynamics, VT Children Trust Foundation, VTNG Charitable Foundation



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888-607-8773



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Online**
www.ngfamily.vt.gov

Brian Stoudnour
Lead Child & Youth Program Coordinator
O: 802-338-3369 I M: 802-310-6745
F: 802-338-3115
brian.r.stoudnour.ctr@mail.mil