



2015

Indiana National Guard  
Child and Youth Program

# Annual Report



# Impact

## Mission

- Provide support to children, youth, and families of the Indiana National Guard during times of deployment, extended separation, and normal day-to-day operations.



## Goals

- Increase opportunities that foster personal growth, lifelong learning, citizenship, and leadership for military kids
- Advocate for and raise awareness of military connected youth within state programs and partnering agencies
- Activate statewide networks that can better serve geographically dispersed populations.
- Provide youth and families with deployment related training and support.

## Youth and Families Served

- 687 ARNG Youth 6-12 / 390 ARNG Youth 13-18
- 386 ANG Youth 6-12 / 66 ANG Youth 13-18
- 8 Active Army Youth 6-12
- 3 Army Reserve Youth 13-18
- 72 Other Youth 6-12 / 49 Other Youth 13-18
- 1176 ARNG Adults
- 608 ANG Adults
- 3 Reserve Adults
- 1599 Other Adults

# Volunteers



89 Volunteers completed 6,046 hours of service to support Youth Programs by serving as camp counselors, chaperones, and Yellow Ribbon assistants. Our volunteers are what makes our program great!





# Highlights

9 Briefs and Yellow Ribbon Events serving 139 youth

9 teens trained in Resilience Pilot Program

2 week-long summer camps attended by 195 campers

12 teens traveled to Great Smoky Mtns for Spring Break Camp

56 youth attend State Youth Symposium

2 schools participate in MKISS (Military Kids in School Support)

17 teens attend 2nd annual Teen Summit

Governor Pence declares April Month of the Military Child

599 youth attend Christmas at the Zoo

4 teens attend Regional Teen Summit in Springfield, IL

## Teen Council

In FY2015, the State Teen Council had 9 members, 8 ARNG teens and one Gold Star youth. Throughout the year, council members visited 4 state universities and met with Veterans Organizations to discuss life after high school with military college students. The central project of the council was the 2nd annual Teen Summit, hosted at the state FFA conference center. Council members designed the entire weekend from picking a theme, developing educational workshops, and marketing their weekend. The Teen Summit continued to grow in FY2015, with 17 teens in attendance. In addition to Resilience Pilot, the teen council was trained in Real Colors and the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers.



## Resilience Pilot

The State Teen Council members were the primary audience for the Resilience Training Pilot. All teens were trained on the entire curriculum throughout the year. Resilience Training was so popular among the teens, they decided to make it part of their annual Teen Summit where 17 teens were trained in a 2-hour workshop.







## BEST PRACTICE: Salvation Army Co-Hosts Youth Camp

In 2015, Youth Programs moved our annual youth camp from Camp Atterbury (National Guard training site) to the Salvation Army's Hidden Falls Camp. We developed military centric programming and brought volunteer counselors, workshop facilitators, medical staff, and supplies, while Hidden Falls provided food and access to their 300 acre camp. The partnership was an incredible success! 139 campers attended and 41 military volunteers. Campers enjoyed sleeping outdoors, zip lining, and military workshops on land navigation and combatives. Campers are broken into platoon groups, marched in formation signing cadences throughout the day, and won daily distinctions such as cleanest barracks and most spirit.



“Our kids are closer to each other and their dad. There is greater appreciation and understanding of his absence.

- ARNG Parent via annual survey

## BEST PRACTICE: Spring Break

### Teen Excursion

In FY2015, Youth Programs combined efforts with Operation Military Kids, and a local non-profit, Camptown, to host the first ever, Spring Break Teen Hiking Excursion to the Great Smokey Mountains National Park. 12 National Guard teens, 2 Army Reserve teens, and 2 volunteers travelled to North Carolina, hiked the National Park's trails, visited cultural sites, and built leadership skills. The teens made memories that will last a lifetime. And learned concrete leadership skills by taking turns leading the group's daily hikes and excursions.





# Community Partners

## Building Community Capacity

- Partnered events with 21 community organizations
- Community Service Projects completed to Paws and Think throughout the year
- State organizations briefed on the effects of deployment on military families including 3 ISDs, Indiana School Counselor Association, and state Child Advocates Initiative
- Collaborated with Project YES and MFRI for Yellow Ribbon youth deployment support
- Hosted 5 camps with partnering organizations



It has brought my children into a world where there are other kids with military parents, which is something they don't see in their daily lives. It has also gotten them more involved in community service and volunteering efforts.

- ARNG Parent via annual survey





## Find us on the Internet at:



INNG Youth Program



[www.indianamomc.weebly.com](http://www.indianamomc.weebly.com)



[http://www.in.ng.mil/FamilyPrograms/  
tabid/1107/Default.aspx](http://www.in.ng.mil/FamilyPrograms/tabid/1107/Default.aspx)



“ AT is by far the best program in the world and my children plan for it all year round.

- ARNG Parent via annual survey

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