

West Virginia National Guard Family Programs

Child & Youth Program

What is the Child & Youth Program?

The West Virginia National Guard Child & Youth Program works together with military members & families, community leaders, organizations & citizens to address the needs & interests of Guard youth within our state. The Child & Youth Program provides & promotes activities for children & youth that:

- Promote positive attitudes that reinforce core National Guard values.
- Help in the development of life skills.
- Create a community support network.
- Provides safe, healthy, educational & recreational activities.
- Provide opportunities to pursue sports & recreational activities.
- Enhance & reinforce educational skills & provide opportunities to acquire career-oriented skills.
- Educates the public on the impact of the deployment cycle on Soldiers, families, kids & communities as a whole.
- Minimize parental concerns during times of deployment by reducing the likelihood that youth will engage in risky behaviors.

Who is eligible to receive services through ?

All military members & their families are eligible to receive assistance with or participate in the Child & Youth Program.

Some of Our Favorite Resources:

- Military One Source
 - Elmo DVD Series
 - Academic Library of Books & Services
 - College Application Consultants
 - Special Needs and Parenting Information
 - More info, contact: www.militaryonesource.com
- National Association of Child Care Resource & Referrals
 - Assistance with location & paying for portion of child care cost
 - Service Members on Active Duty Orders
 - www.naccrra.org/MilitaryPrograms/army/fee-assistance-programs
- National Guard Joint Services Support
 - Website to get you connected with your Family Program office
 - Listing of most current resources
 - Training opportunities & Outreach activities
 - www.jointservicesupport.org

- Operation Military Kids
 - RSG Training, SOMK Training, Babysitting Training
 - Mobile Technology Lab
 - www.operationmilitarykids.org
- Our Military Kids
 - \$500 grants available for children of a deployed parent ages 3 & up
 - Every 6 months of deployment
 - Contact www.ourmilitarykids.org
- Zero to Three
 - 20% (561,941) Guard/Reserve dependents in this age group
 - Operation Parenting Edge & Coming Together Around Military Families
 - Articles & materials for military families of small children
 - www.zerotothree.org Search: Military

Some of Our Favorite Connection Ideas:

- Flat Daddy and Mommy
-www.flatdaddies.com
- Build a Bear
- Sweet Notes Jars
- Memory Boxes
- Scrapbooking
- Paper chain countdowns
- Webcams & Emails
- Edline, School Counselors & Teachers

Some of Our Favorite Readings:

- Night Catch by Brenda Ehrmantraut
- I'm Already Home by Elaine Gray Dumler
- A Paper Hug by Stephanie Skolmoski
- H is for Honor: A Military Family Alphabet by Devin Scillian & Victor Juhasz
- We Serve Too and We Serve Too 2 by Kathleen Edick & Paula Johnso

Your Points of Contact:

Susan Izzo,
State Youth Coordinator
1703 Coonskin Drive,
Chas., WV 25311
Direct: 304-561-6821,
Fax: 304-561-6821
Toll Free: 1-866-986-4326
Susan.izzo@us.army.mil

Richard Switzer,
Youth Program Specialist
1703 Coonskin Drive,
Chas., WV 25311
Direct: 304-561-6828,
Fax: 304-561-6821
Toll Free: 1-866-986-4326
Richard.Switzer4@us.army.mil

Donna Truman,
State Youth Coordinator of
the Eastern Panhandle
2096 Kelly Island Road,
Martinsburg, WV 25311
Direct: 304-201-3754,
Fax: 304-201-3759
Donna.Truman1@us.army.mil