

# Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services



## CYSS CONNECTIONS

January 2015

### THE BENEFITS OF MENTORING

#### Monthly Highlights:

National Mentoring Month



- 1 January New Year's Day
- 19 January Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 23 January National Reading Day

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Why should youth become involved in a mentoring program? A mentor is a caring adult who devotes time to a youth. All mentors have the same common goal: to assist youth in achieving their full potential and discovering strengths and interpersonal skills.

Military Youth face stressful situations when starting new schools, moving to unfamiliar areas, and developing brand new friendships. Military Mentoring Programs are a great asset to Military Families. One such program is provided by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. This agency has established the Military Mentoring Program (MMP) which supports Military children regardless of parent's deployment status, children of fallen, wounded, and disabled Soldiers.



The MMP engages Active Duty, Reserve, Retired Military personnel, and civilians to serve as volunteer mentors for youth. Big Brother Big Sisters of America staff match adult mentors and youth mentees in long-term, one-to-one friendships, and provide professional support for volunteers, children, and families during the process. The three goals of the MMP is:

- ◆ strengthening the youth's connection with his/her parent and respective community
- ◆ saluting the importance of Military values in youth development and
- ◆ assisting with youth's educational and life achievement goals.

To find a local Big Brothers Big Sisters location that offers the Military Mentoring Program, go to: <http://www.bbbs.org>. A list of mentoring opportunities is available on page 2. For assistance with local mentoring opportunities for youth contact a CYSS Specialist listed on the CYSS Contact page.

Mentoring is a wonderful program that is proven to help youth progress through life's transitions. Building a close, healthy relationship with a trusted adult can be integral in youth's success.

Article written by Amanda Nimocks, Odyssey TCI Contractor



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## MENTORING PROGRAMS/YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES



Organization Name	Web Link	Program Overview
4-H	<a href="http://www.4-h.org/youth-development-programs/kids-health/programming-resources/preventative-health-safety/national-mentoring-program/">http://www.4-h.org/youth-development-programs/kids-health/programming-resources/preventative-health-safety/national-mentoring-program/</a>	<p>The 4-H National Mentoring Program is recognized for implementing effective mentoring strategies with goals of improving family relationships, increasing social competencies, increasing school attendance, reducing juvenile delinquency, youth unemployment, and school failure</p>
Boys & Girls Clubs of America	<a href="http://www.bgca.org">www.bgca.org</a>	<p>Programs and services promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging, and influence.</p>
Boy Scouts of America	<a href="http://www.scouting.org/Volunteer.aspx">http://www.scouting.org/Volunteer.aspx</a>	<p>Boy Scouts of America provides a program for youth that builds character, recognizes citizenship, and develops personal fitness.</p>
The Steve Harvey Mentoring Program for Young Men	<a href="http://steveharveymentoring.com/camps/">http://steveharveymentoring.com/camps/</a>	<p>This National Mentoring Camp is held in Dallas, TX for four days and three nights. There are regional events in Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and New York. This interactive program teaches the principles of manhood and dream building to young men.</p>
YMCA	<a href="http://www.ymca.net/sites/default/files/news-media/Reach-and-Rise-Program-Locations.pdf">http://www.ymca.net/sites/default/files/news-media/Reach-and-Rise-Program-Locations.pdf</a>	<p>The YMCA's Reach &amp; Rise Program connects kids and teens with adult mentors for 12-18 months.</p>



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## CYSS FOCUSED ARTICLE

## Goal Setting for Children and Youth

Goals are intended to highlight an individual's strength and overcome weaknesses. Therefore, goals are unique to a person and when teaching children and youth the importance of goal setting, the following six tips make goal setting simpler:



**Tip #1: Start Small**—Initially, start with small short-term goals. Assist children and youth with keeping their goal. If it is a long-term goal, identify shorter sub-goals. **If you have toddlers, a short term goal is allowing children to pick out their clothes and utilize skills such as buttoning, zipping, and tying.**

**Tip #2: Get the idea across**— Connect youth goals to talents, values, and objectives. Help youth define their goal and review the goal on a daily basis. **School age youth might save money for a video game. Discuss with youth the steps and discipline involved in achieving the goal.**

**Tip #3: Let Youth Choose** — Goals are personal and individualized. Youth should set attainable benchmarks for meeting their goal instead of pleasing others. Ask your child for suggestions in setting goals. **A Teen may decide to improve overall academic performance. In the process of accomplishing this goal, the youth decides to set attainable benchmarks such as getting organized, take better notes, and improve study habits.**

**Tip #4: Be Alert to Possibilities** — Obstacles during the accomplishment of a goal are possible. Hurdles and setbacks can be a part of the goal setting process and serve as a learning experience to youth. Encourage children and teens to overcome obstacles, and continue with the accomplishment of the goal.

**Tip #5: Showing Becomes Reality**—Establish the parameters in order to complete the goal. Ask youth, "How will you know when the goal is accomplished?" Help youth in establishing steps for goal completion. Share a childhood story of achievement.

**Tip #6: Applaud Effort** — Compliment youth on reaching the set goal. Equally important is recognizing the effort and steps accomplished for trying if the initial goal was not obtained.

Today's youth have a lot on their plate. School, planning for college, extra-curricular activities, voluntary service, family obligations, and faith-based obligations are just some of the activities many youth commit to weekly. Goal setting will help youth find success and help develop positive and lifelong habits. Goal setting helps youth develop purpose, increase self-esteem, develop responsibility, gives focus, and promotes organization.

Article Written by Dan Aukst and Sheena Caston, Odyssey TCI Contractors

Source: Parents.com



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## JANUARY CAMPS



January 2015 Military Youth Camping opportunities are listed below. Youth have the opportunity to participate in unique experiences at little or no cost. Winter Camping Opportunities are provided by Military Teen Adventure Camp grants, Operation Military Kids, and YMCA locations. These camps are open to Military-connected youth regardless of Branch of Service who have a parent/loved one in any phase of the deployment cycle; priority is given to children/youth from geographically dispersed families. Camps for youth with special needs (physical disabilities) are also listed. There are spaces still available. Register your youth today!

Name of Event	City	State	January Dates	Ages/Grades	POC Contact
White Mountain Adventure Camp (Youth with physical Disabilities)	Bretton Woods	New Hampshire	2-5	Ages 14-18	Charlotte Cross militaryteen.camp@unh.edu 603.862.0876 <a href="http://www.nhmilitarykids.org">www.nhmilitarykids.org</a> \$20 Registration Fee
Summer Camp Reunion	Sewickley	Pennsylvania	4	Ages 6-17	Baierl Family YMCA www.campsoles.org 814.352.7217
Military Kids Youth Summit	Sheboygan	Wisconsin	9-10	Ages 11-13	Shawna Wyman shawna.m.wyman2.ctr@mail.mil 608.242.3483
Super Science Saturday	Fort Wayne	Indiana	10	Grades 4-12	Heather Rosbrugh heather@starbasein.org 260.478.3712
Outdoor Winter Survival Camp	Croghan	New York	16-20	Ages 14-18	Lisa Vaughn lgv6@cornell.edu 315.788.8450, ext. 261 <a href="http://www.ccejefferson.org">www.ccejefferson.org</a> \$25 registration fee
Intense Winter Wilderness Survival Primitive Skills	Versailles	Kentucky	16-18	Parents and youth ages 14-18	Kerri Ashurst kgoodman@email.uky.edu 859.257.3032 Kelly Ulm Kelly@lifeadventurecenter.org 859.873.3271

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## JANUARY CAMPS CONTINUED

Name of Event	City	State	January Dates	Ages/ Grades	POC Contact
Winter Survival Adventure	TBD	Washington	16-18	Ages 14-18	Kevin Powers kcpowers@wsu.edu 509.667.6540 <a href="http://county.wsu.edu/chelan-douglas/youth/youth/mtac/Pages/index.aspx">http://county.wsu.edu/chelan-douglas/youth/youth/mtac/Pages/index.aspx</a>
OMK Winter Warrior Games Teen Retreat	Rockwood	Pennsylvania	16-18	Grades 7-12 DEERS Enrolled	Susan Smith sjs52@psu.edu 814.865.2264 <a href="http://www.cvent.com/events/omk-winter-warrior-games-teen-retreat/event-summary-6212519cddda44529327e85f42e9ef21.aspx">http://www.cvent.com/events/omk-winter-warrior-games-teen-retreat/event-summary-6212519cddda44529327e85f42e9ef21.aspx</a> Registration Ends JAN 5, 2015
SnoFest Military Ski and Ride Camp  FREE Event for Wounded Warriors	Keystone	Colorado	21-25	Injured Veterans  Family and Friends	David Schmid dave@adaptiveadventures.org <a href="http://adaptiveadventures.org/event/2015/snofest-military-ski-and-ride-camp">http://adaptiveadventures.org/event/2015/snofest-military-ski-and-ride-camp</a>
OMK "Lego Robotics" Camp	Lehi	Utah	24	Grades 6-8	Rachelle Greenhalgh Rachelle.greenhalgh@usu.edu 435.632.4608 <a href="http://utah4h.org/htm/omk">http://utah4h.org/htm/omk</a> Registration Ends JAN 21, 2015
4-H Fashion Camp	Pollack	Louisiana	24-25	TBD	Tanya Giror TAGiroir@agcenter.lsu.edu 225.578.6303
Art Lab at Upham Woods	Wisconsin Dells	Wisconsin	30-31	Grades 9-12	Sue Curtis Sue.curtis@ces.uwex.edu 608.342.1308 Registration Deadline—6 JAN \$10 registration fee



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## COMMAND/UNIT UPDATES

# THE SPOTLIGHT



## 84th Training Command Welcomes new CYSS School Services Specialist Mrs. Shante Ellis and Family

Greetings and Salutations to all! My name is Shante Ellis and I am extremely excited to work with the 84th Training Command as the new School Services Specialist. Originally from Brooklyn, NY; my family and I transitioned to Fort Knox, KY a year and half ago from Newport, Rhode Island. I am the devoted wife of SFC Donald Ellis who serves as an AGR Soldier for the 1-411th REGT BN at Fort Knox and proud mother of three wonderful children.

Professionally, I have worked in different capacities in the field of education for over 15 years. Throughout those years, I've worked as a classroom teacher for children grades Pre-k to J.H.S, and served as Director of the Child Care Center for the Federal Aviation Administration. In addition, I have worked as a Resource Coordinator for public school Families and served as an Admissions Representative at Martinsburg College.

As the School Services Specialist with Child, Youth & School Services, I assist 84th TNG CMD Families with school and student transition, scholarships, and parent resources. I am available for guidance on schooling options for youth: public, private, charter, and homeschooling. In addition, I will function as an intermediary between parents, youth, and school administrators in assessing academic needs and services for Families. I plan on working closely in supporting and maintaining a positive relationship with our Partners in Education School, as well as provide School Support resources for Soldiers and Families. Feel free to stop by the Family Programs office or give me a call any time, I'm happy to provide School Support Services.



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## COMMUNITY EVENTS January 2015

Please note that events listed in this newsletter, with the exception of AR CYSS events, are not endorsed by the Army Reserve and are provided only for community awareness.

# What's Happening in Your Neck of the Woods...

### Ohio:

January 10 @ 2—6 pm

Skate and Take

Military Families will enjoy an afternoon of crafts and ice skating. For more information contact, Candie Glover, [glover.94@osu.edu](mailto:glover.94@osu.edu) 614-292-3758

### Pennsylvania:

January 16 –18

Military Teens 7th—12th grade

Winter Warrior Games Teen Retreat

The weekend will be loaded with snow activities, unexpected challenges, fun competition for Military teens in grades 7-12. Lodging, meals and activities are included. Parents are responsible for youth transportation. Check-in begins at 4 pm on Friday and pickup on 1 pm on Sunday. Registration fee of \$10 per family. Register through Penn State Extension: <http://agsci.psu.edu/omk>, 1-877-489-1398

### Utah:

January 17th @ 9:00 - 11:30 AM for Military Families

OMK "Hardware Ranch" Family Day

Bundle up and bring the whole family for a fun morning at Hardware Ranch! Enjoy a horse-drawn sleigh ride together through a herd of elk and learn all about their habitat. Hot chocolate and doughnuts will top off the fun! Come dressed in warm layers and be prepared to be outdoors. Date and time are subject to change due to weather. Contact: [Rachelle.greenhalgh@usu.edu](mailto:Rachelle.greenhalgh@usu.edu) or 435-632-4608 <http://utah4h.org/htm/omk>

### Indiana:

January 10 @ 9 am—4 pm

Military Youth Grades 4-12

Super Science Saturday!

Military Youth in grades 4-12 won't want to miss an exciting event with their fellow Military kids. STARBASE and OMK are partnering to offer a day of excitement in the world of science. This event coincides with drill for the local Air Wing but ALL Military Youth are invited. Youth can arrive with their Service Member as early as 6 am with the actual Super Science Saturday beginning at 9 am. Lunch will be served and the event ends at 4 pm. Youth must pre-register to gain access to the base, <http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/omk/> Contact Ryan Wynkoop, 765-494-9516, Fort Wayne, Indiana

**YOU MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN CHECKING THE FOLLOWING LINKS REGULARLY FOR EVENTS IN YOUR AREA:**

**CYSS Events:** <https://www.arfp.org/index.php/programs/child-youth-a-school-services>

**4-H:** [www.4-h.org](http://www.4-h.org)

**YMCA:** [www.ymca.net](http://www.ymca.net)

**Operation Military Kids calendar for your state:** [www.operationmilitarykids.org/public/states.aspx](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org/public/states.aspx)



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## RESOURCES AND WEB LINKS

# For Deployed, AGR, Wounded, Ill, Injured or Fallen Soldiers

**Army Fee Assistance** will be provided by General Services Administration (GSA) working with those who serve in the military find and afford child care that suits their unique needs. Through the fee assistance program, families are eligible to receive monthly fee assistance to help offset the cost of child care in their communities. For more information visit, [http://financeweb.gsa.gov/childcare\\_portal](http://financeweb.gsa.gov/childcare_portal).

**Army Respite Care** The Army Respite Child Care will provide the family between 8 to 16 hours of hourly child care each month for each of the eligible children. Parents can use this time to run errands, attend appointments, or just take some well-deserved time out for themselves. The Army recognizes the challenges and extraordinary stress the parents and their families may be experiencing, and wants to help support them in meeting their unique child care needs. Eligibility: Deployed; Temporary Change of Station; Unaccompanied Permanent Change of Station; Temporary Duty; Wounded, Ill or Injured Status; Survivors of Fallen Warriors.

## For Various Duty Statuses

**Boys and Girls Clubs of America's (BGCA)** is a network of safe, neighborhood-based facilities, for children/teens to come together. Visit: [www.bgca.org](http://www.bgca.org)

**Military Kids Connect (MKC)** is an online community of military children (ages 6-17 yr old) that provides access to age-appropriate resources to support children from pre-deployment, through a parent's or caregiver's return. Visit: [www.militarykidsconnect.org](http://www.militarykidsconnect.org)

**Military Mentoring: Operation Bigs** is a new mentoring program created by Big Brothers Big Sisters that is specifically for military kids. The Big Brothers Big Sisters MMP supports children of the deployed and non-deployed, children of the fallen and children of the wounded and disabled. The program serves children of veterans at selected locations. The MMP also engages Active Duty, Reserve or Retired/Separated Military personnel, as well as civilians as volunteer mentors. Visit: [www.bbbs.org](http://www.bbbs.org)

**Operation: Military Kids (OMK)** provides support and resources to military youth before, during, and after parents are deployed. Visit: [www.operationmilitarykids.org](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org)

**Sittercity** Welcomes Military Families! Sittercity membership at no cost for military families and offer access to a database of local babysitters, nannies, pet sitters, elder caregivers, etc. Memberships are funded by the DoD to help you find local sitters and military subsidized child care providers, and are available to Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force families, including Active Duty, Reserve, and Guard. Activate your membership today! Visit: [www.sittercity.com/dod](http://www.sittercity.com/dod)

**Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)** is a non-profit organization focusing on academic and school-related needs of military-connected youth. Visit: [www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org)

**SOAR** is designed for military families, and is easily accessible worldwide. Students take an assessment aligned to state standards, and SOAR directs them to individualized tutorials to improve skills where needed. Visit: <http://www.soarathome.org/> or [www.militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org](http://www.militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org)

**Tutor.com** for U.S. Military Families - Get help from a professional tutor anytime you need it. FREE for Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve members in the Army, Marines, Navy or Air Force and their dependents. Tutors are online 24/7 and available to help in more than 16 subjects. Visit: [www.tutor.com/military](http://www.tutor.com/military)



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**Youth Services Specialist (YSS)**

Joyce Hall  
 Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC  
 (84thTC, KY, OH)  
 230 Old Ironsides Blvd  
 Bldg. 203 Room 212  
 Fort Knox, KY 40121  
 Phone: 502-624-2450  
 Email: joyce.m.hall.ctr@mail.mil

Contact Ms. Hall for assistance with:

- Command/Unit Support
- Weekend Events and Activities
- Child Care Resources
- Youth Programming
- Teen Council



**School Services Specialist (SSS)**

Shante Ellis  
 Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC  
 (84thTC, KY, OH)  
 230 Old Ironsides Blvd  
 Bldg. 203 Room 212  
 Fort Knox, KY 40121  
 Phone: 502-624-2091  
 Email: shante.ellis.ctr@mail.mil

Contact Mrs. Ellis for assistance with:

- Command/Unit Support
- Educational Events and Activities
- Scholarship Information
- College Prep
- Academic/Tutoring Resources
- School Support Services



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