

Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services

June 2015



CYSS CONNECTIONS

Easter Seals

Military and Veterans Services

Monthly Highlights:

National Child Vision Awareness Month



- June 14 Flag Day
- June 14 Army Birthday
- June 21 Father's Day

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Easter Seals has been providing services to help children and adults with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as support to their families for nearly 100 years. They assist more than one million individuals and their families annually at more than 550 Easter Seals service sites across the



MILITARY & VETERANS SERVICES

country, providing innovative, top-quality services. In addition to offering services specifically related to Autism Spectrum Disorder, children, adults, seniors, employment and training, medical rehabilitation, camping and recreation, and brain health, Easter Seals also offers resources and services tailored to meet the needs of veterans and military Families. Through the Easter Seals Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services, the organization seeks to break down barriers, drive a new conversation about the potential of veterans, engage organizations and communities, and connect veterans and military Families with what they need for meaningful employment, education and overall wellness. Easter Seals Dixon Center offers Camp Yellow Ribbon for Military Kids, which offers military Families a break by providing a week of summer fun for 50 military kids, ages 7-14, whose parents have been, are currently, or will be deployed. Camp Yellow Ribbon is offered to military Families of any service branch and provides children with emotional support through traditional summer fun camp activities, while connecting and sharing with other children who understand their military experience.



Easter Seals also offers Community OneSource to veterans and their Families. It can become very challenging for veterans to locate services and benefits, and Easter Seals wants to be able to assist those with challenges to learn, work, play and live within their communities. Community OneSource is available at no charge to all veterans, mobilized reservists and their Families and emphasis is placed on identifying local resources whenever they are available. Contact them at (866) 423-4981 or veterans@easterseals.com.

Compiled by Courtney Adams, CYSS Specialist, Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC

CYSS Mission: To support readiness and quality of life by reducing the conflict between military mission requirements and parental responsibilities



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www.ARFP.org/CYSS

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YMCA - DOD Military Outreach Initiative

The YMCA understands that military Families are under enormous strain, and that military life comes with unique challenges. Deployments can be a stressful and uncertain times for Soldiers and their Families. In partnership with the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA), the YMCA offers memberships and respite child care services to eligible military Families and personnel through the Department of Defense's (DoD) Military Outreach Initiative. The ASYMCA has partnered with YMCAs, as well as national and independent fitness centers nationwide, to offer Soldiers and their Families free access to fitness centers and respite child care services. The Military Outreach Initiative gives Soldiers and Families extra support and access to vital resources that promote youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. It's another way of giving back to those who dedicate themselves to serving our country. More than 1,500 Community YMCAs, and more than 1,400 national and independent fitness centers nationwide participate in the Military Outreach Initiative, and since 2008, more than 125,000 military children have been impacted by this program.

Memberships will be funded at participating YMCA's throughout the United States and Puerto Rico for individuals in the following groups and their Families.

1. Families of Guard/Reserve personnel who are deployed for a minimum of six months under Title 10 orders are eligible for YMCA membership not to exceed 18 months (which includes Service member three months pre and post deployment).

<http://www.asymca.org/programs/ymca-dod-military-outreach-initiative/families-of-guardreserve-personnel/>

2. Respite childcare is available for military children up to age 12 at participating locations for up to 16 hours of respite child care per month, per child, based on the requirements by the Department of Defense. For additional information, go to: <http://www.asymca.org/programs/ymca-dod-military-outreach-initiative/7371-2/>



Approved personnel may join any **participating** YMCA branch.



The initial membership is six months. In order to extend, the Soldier or a Family member must use the YMCA at least eight days each month. Soldiers who are TDY may make arrangements to log "away" visits while they are gone.

Typically, YMCA locations have a pool and most offer free child care while parents exercise. Some also offer a military discount on fee-based services like swim lessons and youth sports. The YMCA can be a great place to meet new friends, relieve stress, enjoy swimming and other activities with the family, and improve health and fitness.

For more information about Armed Services YMCA and the YMCA - DOD Outreach Initiative go to:

http://www.armymwr.com/recreation/sportsandfitness/ymca_memberships.aspx

Compiled by Harpa Magnúsdóttir and Virginia Brannan, CYSS Specialists, Contractors: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC



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National Military Family Association

The National Military Family Association (NMFA) was founded in 1969 by a small group of military wives to ensure widows were properly taken care of. The Survivor Benefit Plan became law 2 years later, and the Association has been hard at work ever since. Today, the NMFA is comprised mainly of military spouses and former military members. They are advocates and subject matter experts in the area of military family needs, issues, and benefits.



**NATIONAL
MILITARY FAMILY
ASSOCIATION**

Together we're stronger

NMFA has worked hard advocating for the Families of the men and women who serve. They offer a wide variety of information and resources through their website that includes helpful topics such as health care, deployment, special needs, survivors, and more. NMFA also offers many programs and camps for Army Reserve youth and their Families.

Operation Purple Camps are unique and memorable summer camps for military kids age 7 to 17 with the goal of helping kids deal with the stresses that result with their parent(s) being deployed. Operation Purple Camps Fact Sheet, <http://www.militaryfamily.org/assets/pdfs/fact-sheets/operation-purple-camps-fact-sheet.pdf>



Operation Purple Family Retreats provide Families with the opportunity to reconnect by offering fun family-oriented activities and the ability to spend quality time together. Operation Purple Family Retreats brings families from all uniformed services, including National Guard and Reserves, to beautiful outdoor locations to spend quality time reconnecting after a deployment. With other military families there to share the experience, it's the perfect environment to meet and bond with others in the same phase of military life. Operation Purple Family Retreat Fact Sheet, <http://www.militaryfamily.org/assets/pdfs/fact-sheets/family-retreas-fact-sheet.pdf>



Operation Purple Healing Adventure is a special retreat program that is designed to support wounded service members and their Families. Operation Purple Healing Adventures Fact Sheet, <http://www.militaryfamily.org/assets/pdfs/fact-sheets/healing-adventures-fact-sheet.pdf>

MyMilitaryLife APP is a smartphone app that is a trusted one-stop-shop providing Families with credible information tailored to a specific situation. MyMilitaryLife App Fact Sheet, <http://www.militaryfamily.org/assets/pdfs/fact-sheets/mymilitarylife-fact-sheet.pdf>

For more information on the National Military Family Association and their programs and services visit, <http://www.militaryfamily.org/>

Compiled by Daniel Aukst, CYSS Specialist, Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC

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Youth Leadership, Education and Development (YLEAD): Summer 2015 Dates & Cities

Youth Leadership, Education and Development (YLEAD) trainings support CYSS' mission, and provides an opportunity for Army Reserve teens to come together, learn new skills and build new connections.

At YLEAD, Army Reserve youth:

- ◆ Connect with one another
- ◆ Participate in activities that promote success at home, in school, and within the community
- ◆ Learn more about the Army Reserve
- ◆ Find out how to make a difference in the lives of Army Reserve Families
- ◆ Discover ways to become involved through partnerships with teens, adults, and community-based programs.



YLEAD participants engage in several sessions that promote resilience and leadership skills such as communication, decision making, exploring interests, and youth-adult partnerships. Team building activities help youth make connections and learn to work together. A service learning project is also conducted, and past YLEAD participants have done beach clean-ups, sorted and packed food at a food bank, and helped paint The Fisher House. Youth have the opportunity to visit the city where YLEAD is held through educational and fun outings.

YLEAD is open to Army Reserve teens ages 14*-17, who are entered in DEERS, and who reside in the states indicated for each region.

*must be 14 **and** entering the 9th grade

YLEAD is offered at no cost, as youth are placed on travel orders which cover transportation, lodging and meals. The youth then becomes a volunteer for the Command, and is able to apply lessons learned at the next Family Day, FRG meeting, Yellow Ribbon event or other Family Programs-approved event.

To register, visit <http://arfp.org/cyssstatecamps.php>

Region	Date/Location*	Contact CYSS Specialist Contractor, Odyssey-TCI	Phone
<i>Southeast</i> AL, AR, TX, MS, FL, GA, LA, SC, NC, TN	July 6-10 Dallas, TX	Andretta Smith andretta.j.smith.ctr@mail.mil	832-380-7341
<i>West Coast</i> CA, WA, OR, NV, AZ, ID, MT, UT, NM, CO,	July 13-17 Dallas, TX	Danielle Peschon danielle.s.peschon.ctr@mail.mil	910-396-8562
<i>Atlantic</i> Puerto Rico	July 20-24 Fajardo, PR	Barbara Rodriguez barbara.i.rodriguez.ctr@mail.mil	787-931-2132
<i>Midwest</i> WY, NE, MN, WI, IN, IL, IA, MI, KY, MO, ND, SD, KS, OK, OH	August 3-7 Bloomington, MN	Valerie Morgan valerie.m.morgan5.ctr@mail.mil	504-558-5603
<i>Northeast</i> MA, NH, VT, ME, DE, RI, CT, NY, NJ, MD, VA, DC, PA, WV	August 10-14 Bloomington, MN	Joyce Hall joyce.m.hall.ctr@mail.mil	502-624-2450

* Note: AR CYSS is awaiting USARC HQ final approval for the YLEADs

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Command/Unit Updates



Fit Families: Family Fun Day

The Fit Families: Family Fun Day event was hosted during the month of May.

The day focused on the importance of children and youth being active and practicing healthy habits starting from the inside out.

School-aged Army Reserve children, youth and Family members were provided an opportunity to participate in various group game rotations and learn the basics of incorporating healthy habits while having fun!



Families learning Zumba

SGT Ely assists during mock PT test



In collaboration with various community organizations and resources, participants rotated through several hands-on sports activities to include an obstacle course and a game of kickball.

In partnership with the local American Legion, the youth created a healthy snack and learned about the harmful effects of sugar and caffeine.

The activities were designed to promote Family teamwork and family fun. Families learned Zumba and even endured a mock PT test.

Overall, the event focused on getting Families active and providing Army Reserve youth an opportunity to develop connections with their peers.



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Community Events JUNE 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...

Name of Event	City	State	Dates	Age Group	POC/Website
Military Kids University	Madison	WI	June 12-14	Ages 8-15	Laura Suprenand: 608-317-9129 lmatysik@gmail.com Sue Curtis: 608-342-1308 Sue.curtis@ces.uwex.edu
Camp Gratitude—Military Family Camp	St. Croix	MN	June 19-26	All Ages	http://campgratitude.com/
MN Military Teen Summit: Welcome to the Jungle	Minneapolis	MN	June 26-28	Ages 13-18	http://www.beyondtheyellowribbon.org/events-a-deals
Military Family Week at the Zoo	Apple Valley	MN	July 1-7	All Ages	http://mnzoo.org/plan-your-visit/special-events/
Summer Camp—Voyageur Environmental Center	Mound	MN	July 10-13	Ages 8-14	http://www.campvec.org/Summer_Camp.html
Purple Camp—Catholic Youth Camp	McGregor	MN	July 12-17	Ages 8-14	Natalie King natalie@cycamp.org 651-636-1645 http://www.militaryfamily.org/kids-operation-purple/camps/?age=&state=MN
Super Summer Camp Spectacular	Wisconsin Dells	WI	August 16-19	Ages 9-15	http://wisconsinmilitary.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Summer-Spectacular-Camp-2015.pdf
Adventures Abound	Wisconsin Dells	WI	August 16-19	Ages 15-18	http://wisconsinmilitary.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Adventures-Abound-Camp-2015.pdf

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

CYSS Events: www.arfp.org/cysssstatecamps.php

4-H: www.4-h.org

YMCA: www.ymca.net/



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Resources and Web Links

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



Army Fee Assistance is 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.

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.



Our Military Kids provides grants for K-12 youth dependents of overseas deployed National Guard and Reserve personnel or severely injured Service Members . Visit www.ourmilitarykids.org/

For Various Duty Statuses



Army Reserve Family Programs provides programs, training, services, resources, youth programming and camping opportunities to Army Reserve Families. Visit www.arfp.org/



Military OneSource provides an online library, web resources, and non-medical counseling to Military Families. Visit: www.militaryonesource.mil/



Military Kids Connect (MKC) is an online community of military children (ages 6-17 yr. olds) that provides access to age-appropriate resources to support children from pre-deployment, through a parent's or caregiver's return. Visit: <http://militarykidsconnect.t2.health.mil>



Zero to Three has information and resources for parents of infants and toddlers. A new phone app, Babies on the HomeFront, provides Military and veteran parents with strategies for enhancing everyday moments with their child. Visit: <http://zerotothree.org/>



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



National Military Family Association has programs that provide Military Families with camps, family retreats, and healing adventures during deployment, reintegration, and coming together after an injury. Visit <http://www.militaryfamily.org/>



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The mission of Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services is to support readiness and quality of life by reducing the conflict between Military Mission requirements and parental responsibilities.



Family Programs Director

Dr. Rochelle Wheeler
88th RSC
Fort McCoy, WI
Phone: 608.388.0447
Email: rochelle.c.wheeler.civ@mail.mil

Contact **Dr. Wheeler** for assistance with:

- Family Support Services
- Family Programs Training
- Family Readiness



Youth Services Specialist (YSS)

Hayley Strand
Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC
88th RSC, WI, MN
Phone: 608.388.9363
Email: hayley.m.strand.ctr@mail.mil

Contact **Ms. Strand** for assistance with:

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



School Services Specialist (SSS)

Blythe Newburg
Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC
88th RSC, WI, MN
Phone: 608.388.0446
Email: blythe.j.newburg.ctr@mail.mil

Contact **Ms. Newburg** for assistance with:

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



Stay connected with the 88th RSC!



<https://www.facebook.com/88RSC>

If you are not part of the 88th RSC or do not reside in WI or MN, contact one of the CYSS Staff members above and we will connect you with the YSS or SSS in your area.



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