OUR MISSION

When a military officer was asked what he needed in Iraq, he said, “Please don’t send cookies, care packages, or socks. Just help take care of our children.” Our Military Kids is heeding his plea.

Our Military Kids supports the children of deployed National Guard and Reserve personnel who are serving our country overseas. The grants pay for participation in sports, fine arts, tutoring and enrichment programs that help to nurture and sustain the children while a parent is away in service to our country. Activities help children cope with stress, anxiety, and additional challenges that may arise while a parent is absent during deployment. The grants also serve to honor the sacrifices that children make during this time.

HOW TO APPLY

Eligible families complete and submit a simple, one-page application along with the following documents:

1. A copy of the deployment orders (Title 10 Individual Mobilization Orders, or CED orders for Air components)
2. A copy of the child’s birth certificate, or a copy of the DD form 1172 form or a copy of MilConnect Service Member profile page with child listed as dependent
3. A brochure, flyer, or other documentation from the organization providing the program description and pricing information

CFC Combined Federal Campaign
12357

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation
CWF

Our Military Kids
6861 Elm St, Suite 2A, McLean, Virginia 22101
www.ourmilitarykids.org
703-734-6654
703-734-6503

OUR MILITARY KIDS

Supporting Our Military Children

ourmilitarykids.org

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

In order for a child to receive a grant from Our Military Kids:

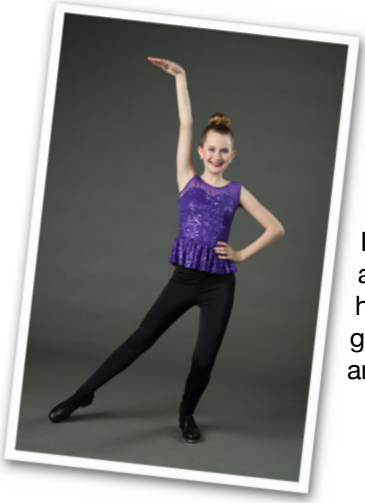
1. The service member must be deployed overseas (OCONUS)
2. The deployment must be at least 180 days (or 120 days for Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve)
3. There must be at least 60 days remaining on the orders at the time of application (or 30 days for Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve)
4. The child must be at least 3 years old, but no older than 18/19 (children become ineligible once they have graduated high school)
5. The child must be a dependent of the service member

OUR FAMILIES

There are thousands of children who have a Reserve or National Guard parent in active service overseas. Our Military Kids recognizes the enormous sacrifices these children and their families make for our country, and it is dedicated to helping them through a difficult time.

Sarah was just seven years old when her father deployed overseas, causing her to go into a depression. No matter what was going on in her daily life, she couldn't help but focus on her father's absence. But when the dance season started, she received a grant to take classes, and all that changed.

"[Our Military Kids] was a major factor in helping me overcome my depression," Sarah said.



"I look back on it and can't help but think how extraordinary it was that dance had such a major impact on my life. I learned to survive and believe in myself, have confidence to go after my dreams, and not to give up."

At age 11, Trey was diagnosed with dyslexia just weeks before his father was scheduled to deploy. While he needed tutoring, he had tested too high to receive any assistance from the school. A grant from Our Military Kids gave him the help he needed and allowed him to focus on his studies while his dad served our country. Because of the grant for tutoring, Trey's reading comprehension is on par with his grade level.

"Even at a young age, knowing that an organization was willing to give $500 because his dad is a soldier meant a lot to Trey," his mom said. "His continued academic achievements are the proof that Our Military Kids helped him when he needed it the most."

OUR STORY

All children need comfort, stability, and fun to thrive – especially those who have a parent serving our great country overseas. Our Military Kids was founded in 2004 to support deployed National Guard and Reserve families. It later expanded to include families of wounded service members from all branches of service who have sustained severe injuries during combat.

Many of these families are financially stretched during deployments – a reduction in family income can occur when a service member transitions from civilian to military pay. The result is many cannot afford the fees for sports, fine arts, and tutoring programs, all of which are crucial to a child's sense of well-being. The grants from Our Military Kids allow the children to pursue their passions and help them through a difficult time in their lives.

Our Military Kids' grants have a limit of $500 per award and can cover up to six months of participation in a single activity. The organization sends a check directly to the service provider of your choice, paying for an activity that helps renew your child's spirits and relieve the anxiety and worry they can experience while a parent serves in a war zone.

The Our Military Kids grant program is made possible by the generosity of foundations, corporations, and hundreds of individuals.