



Illinois Army National Guard

Child and Youth Program

Volunteers

- ⇒ **96** Adult and Youth Volunteers
- ⇒ **753** volunteers hours served
- ⇒ **14** events (Spring Family Event, Trunk or Treat, 2 Back to School Events, 3 Day Camps, and 7 STREAM Camps).

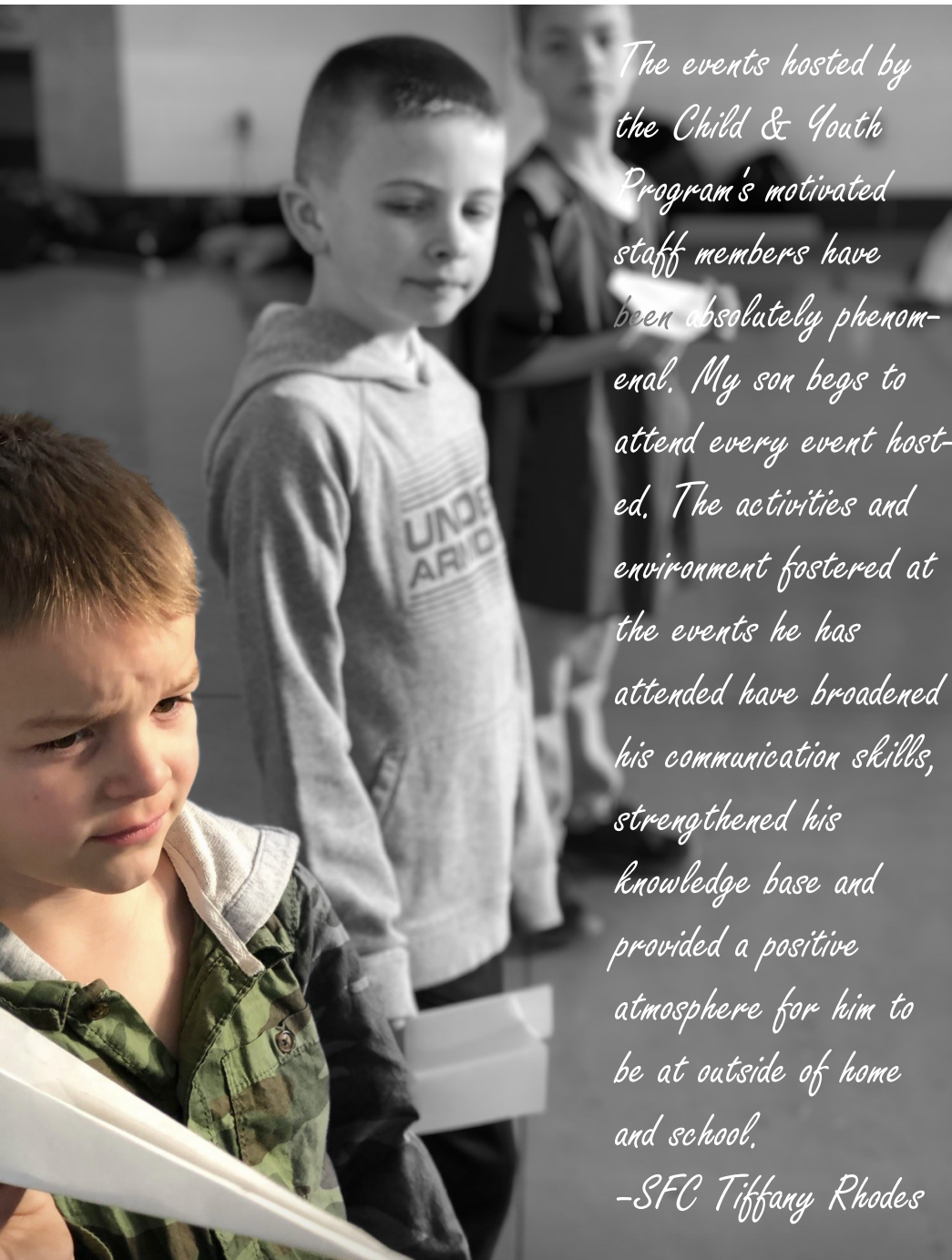
Our volunteers are the foundation for Illinois' successful events and could not have been conducted without their dedication and support to the Child and Youth Program.

* Data directly from monthly End of Month Reports.



Mission

Promote and sustain the quality of life and resilience of military children and youth by providing secure, timely, flexible, high-quality support services and enrichment programs.



The events hosted by the Child & Youth Program's motivated staff members have been absolutely phenomenal. My son begs to attend every event hosted. The activities and environment fostered at the events he has attended have broadened his communication skills, strengthened his knowledge base and provided a positive atmosphere for him to be at outside of home and school.

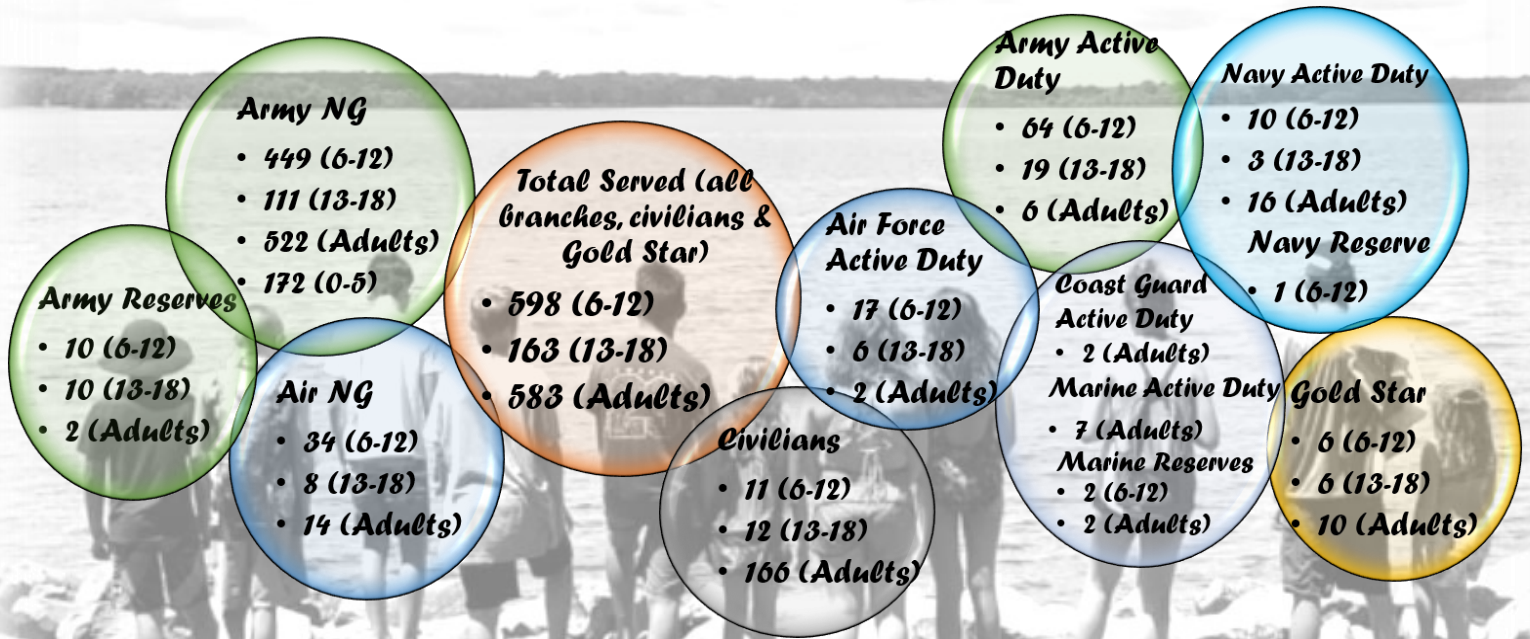
-SFC Tiffany Rhodes



Program Highlights

- ◆ 3 Yellow Ribbon Events
- ◆ 4 Education Outreach Briefs
- ◆ 7 Day Camps
- ◆ 15 Overnight Camps
 - ◆ 9 STREAM Camps
 - ◆ 1 Adventure Camp
 - ◆ 4 Teen Resiliency Trainings & Youth Advisory Council Meetings
 - ◆ 1 RGN V Teen Summit—Ohio
- ◆ 8 Special Events :
 - ◆ 1 Trunk or Treat
 - ◆ 1 Spring Family Event
 - ◆ 5 Back to School
 - ◆ 1 Military Day (173 military Kids)
- ◆ 37 total events
- ◆ 476 program hours
- ◆ 182 youth resources and referrals
- ◆ 6069 Holiday toys distributed
- ◆ 109 cases of diapers distributed
- ◆ 55 bikes from USO distributed

FY 19 Numbers in Review



* Data taken directly from monthly CYP End of Month Reports.

Best Practice: ST"R"eam Camps

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) activities are all the rage these days. In FY19 IL Child and Youth Programs conducted several STEAM based camps and incorporated Resiliency themed activities for National Guard youth between the ages of 6-12 years old. We call it StReam (STEAM plus Resiliency = "StReam"! Past themes included Jedi Training Academy, Secret Agent Training, Superhero School, Snooze at the Zoo, Wizard Prep School and Avatar the Last Air Bender (Elements camp).

—> 8 Overnight Camps

—> 29 volunteers (teen and adult)

—> 102 Army National Guard Youth

—> 246 volunteer hours

—> 14 Air National Guard Youth

—> 79 program hours



Youth Advisory Council

This past year the Youth Advisory Council completed two community service projects; Stockings for Soldiers' and Trail Clean-up at Touch of Nature. Nine Christmas stockings were put together to be donated to a local organization that sends the stockings to deployed soldiers'. Youth Advisory Council members spent three hours on a clean-up project to clear out a new trail at Touch of Nature Environmental Education Center. Four Youth Advisory Council members attended the Region V Summit in Ohio and brought back new ideas to implement in Illinois. On top of the learning, resiliency training and community service projects, many Youth Advisory Council members volunteered at our ST"R"EAM Camps and Day Camps. They have been a huge part in providing team building activities and being a mentor to our younger kids. In these cases, Youth Advisory Council members get the opportunity to teach back what they have learned during the face to face meetings.



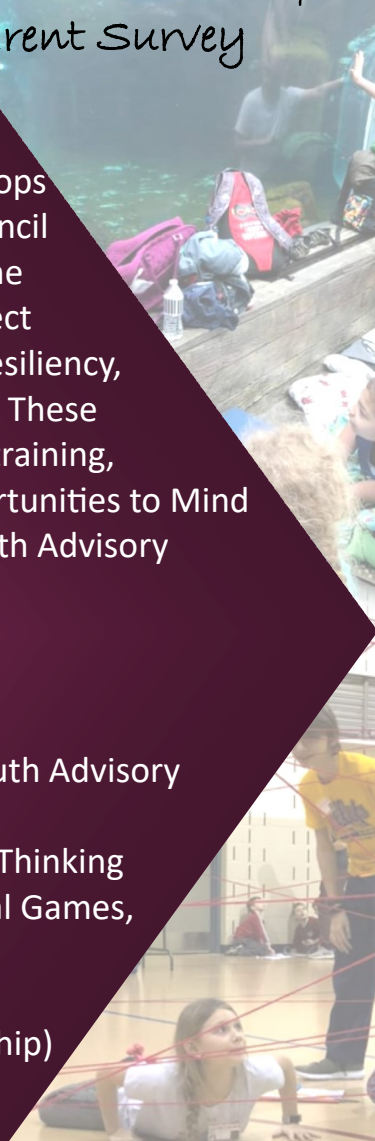
"By attending the teen group, my daughter has developed new leadership skills, self-confidence and gained independence." -Parent Survey

Teen Resiliency

This year Illinois Child and Youth Program continued with the Teen Resiliency Workshops in conjunction with the Youth Advisory Council face to face meetings. They learned Hunt the Good Stuff, ATC, Avoid Thinking Traps, Detect Icebergs, PIIP, Mental Games, Real-Time Resiliency, Character Strengths and Shadow Strengths. These workshops provided a forum for resiliency training, community service as well as provide opportunities to Mind Map different ideas for RGN V & future Youth Advisory Council meetings.

QUICK STATS:

- ⇒ 27 Teens
- ⇒ 4 Resiliency Workshops & 4 Youth Advisory Council meetings
- ⇒ 11 Modules (HTGS, ATC, Avoid Thinking Traps, Detect Icebergs, PIIP, Mental Games, Real-Time Resilience, Character Strengths, Character Shadow Strengths & Challenges in Leadership)



21 Community Partners & Partnerships

- ♦ Illinois Girl Scouts
- ♦ Red Cross
- ♦ Project Y.E.S.
- ♦ UIS Springfield
- ♦ IL Military Kids
- ♦ Heroes Care
- ♦ Operation Home Front
- ♦ Lincolns Challenge Academy
- ♦ U of I Extension
- ♦ 183rd Air Wing
- ♦ IL Military Academy
- ♦ USO of Illinois
- ♦ BCBS Military Support Volunteers
- ♦ Military One Source
- ♦ Family Assistance
- ♦ Family Readiness
- ♦ Survivor Outreach
- ♦ Transition Assistance
- ♦ Operation Support Our Troops
- ♦ Substance Abuse



The USO of Illinois continues to support the Illinois National Guard families and youth. USO of Illinois donated 55 bikes to our soldiers' families and were distributed during the holidays. USO of Illinois hosts semi-annual Leadership meetings that allow us to strengthen our partnership with USO of Illinois and develop partnerships with other organizations. As a result of that partnership the USO was able to provide a direct connection at Shedd Aquarium which allowed us to host an event for our military kids. USO of Illinois is always looking out for our

Operation Homefront partners with Back 2 School Illinois to provide school kits to our military kids within the National Guard. This year 1000 kits were distributed in five locations (Springfield, Joliet, Marion, Milan and Mt. Vernon). Operation Homefront also coordinated with local Dollar Tree Stores to provide toys for the Holiday season. This past year approximately 3000 toys were donated to the Illinois National Guard Youth Program. It was a great opportunity for families to make connections, receive Education Materials, resources and support.



H.E.R.O.E.S. Care provided the Youth Programs Office with toy donations for the Holiday Season and diapers for soldiers in need. The support they provide to military

families is outstanding and is a critical resource for all services members in need. This past season 109 cases of diapers were distributed and over 3000 toys were given to Illinois Army and Air National Guard units for their annual Holiday Parties. Numerous Service Members in need have benefited from these donations.

National Goals

1. **EDUCATION:** Provide life-skill education to the child and youth of the National Guard, their caregivers and community supporters.
2. **ACCESS:** Provide equal access to Federal and State benefits that support children and families, counseling, education, child care and other resources needed to foster a healthy, stable and secure environment.
3. **OPPORTUNITY:** To create opportunities for participation in programs, events, and activities available across the spectrum of government, community, and the private sector, geared towards the behavioral health, physical health and welfare of children and youth.
4. **COMMUNICATION:** To build a sense of belonging to the National Guard community by creating secure opportunities to network with other youth, parents/guardians, and youth program facilitators in one's community, state, and across the nation.
5. **RESILIENCE:** To infuse resilience standards into all National Guard children and youth programs.
6. **OUTREACH:** To build and sustain contact with parents/guardians and children of the National Guard in order to create awareness of available support services and programs, while being mindful of age, location, military and civilian mindsets.

"R" is For Rock Day Camp



The Child and Youth Program sponsored "R" is for Rock in the afternoons on Camp Lincoln from June 17-21, 2019. This camp was held after our annual Volleyball and Basketball Camp. 16 Illinois Army and Air National Guard dependents participated in this week-long half-day camp. Youth had the opportunity to learn about the different types of rocks, the rock cycle, team building games and experiment with yummy sediments. Campers made new connections and fostered their resiliency by learning HTGS. Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) activities were also incorporated into this week long camp.



***B
e
s
t

P
r
a
c
t
i
c
e
s***

Power of Nature Day Camp



The Child and Youth Program hosted their first full day camp at Camp Lincoln from July 22-26, 2019. 16 youth ages 6-12 years, two CYPs and two volunteers attended this event. Each day covered a specific element in nature and an ancient Asian mythology lesson. Activities were all STEAM based with an additional resiliency component (ST"R"EAM). Each activity is meant to challenge each youth so they can keep their minds engaged and strengthen their resiliency.



ILLINOIS CHILD & YOUTH COORDINATORS



⇒ TSOETSY HARRIS - Lead Child & Youth Program Coordinator
Office: 217-761-3395 email: Tsoetsyaluht.harris.ctr@mail.mil
⇒ AMY ENT – Child & Youth Program Coordinator
Office: 217-761-3842 email: amelia.l.ent.ctr@mail.mil

STAY CONNECTED!

- Like us on Facebook! *Illinois National Guard Youth Programs*
- Email Our Team! ng.il.ilarng.list.youth-programs@mail.mil
- Sign Up for Text Notices through our Remind! text the # 81010 with the message @fhgh7k