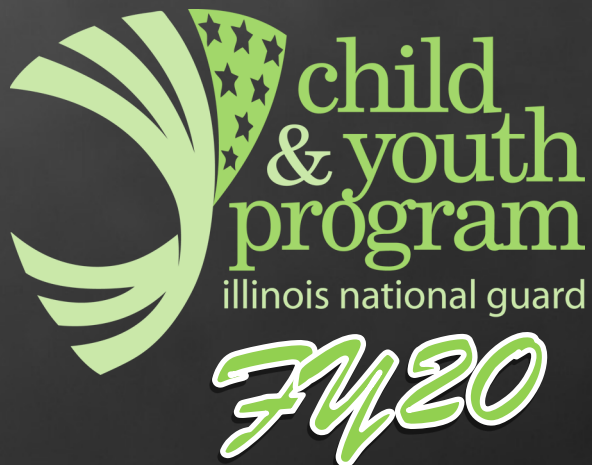


*"Bloom
where
you
are..."*



...planted"

The Bishop of Geneva,
Saint Francis de Sales

Illinois Army National Guard Youth Program

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.



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 vsector, 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.



FY20: Numbers in Review

TOTAL Served (ALL Categories)

0-5: 87
6-12: 936
13-18: 355
Adults: 268

Civilians & Others

6-12: 3
13-18: 208
Adults: 113

Army National Guard

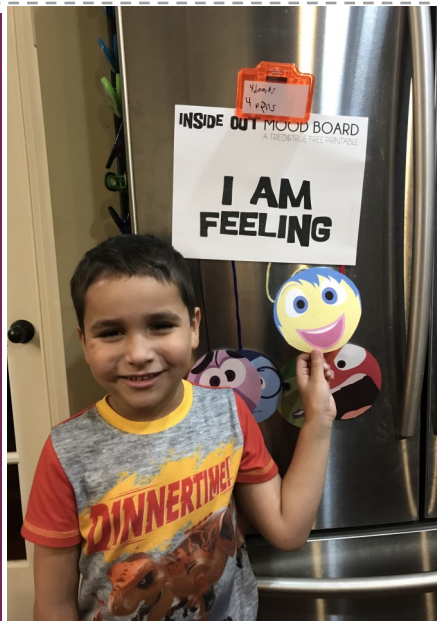
6-12: 921
13-18: 146
Adults: 143

Air National Guard

6-12: 12
13-18: 1
Adults: 10

"Javier truly enjoys working on these projects because it gets him doing something fun and getting out of the rut of watching TV all day while hubby and I work."

- MAJ Aleida Gonzalez, ILARNG



Best Practice: Camp in a Bag

Illinois Child and Youth Program provided Camp in a Bag and virtual programming during the summer of COVID-19. Since all of our summer programming had been cancelled Camp in a Bag was developed to keep youth engaged and learning through STREAM activities. Camp in a Bag was a nine week program that contained hands-on science, technology, resiliency, engineering, art and math (STREAM) activities, prizes, camper letter and an activity packet. Total we reached 794 ILARNG military kids from all parts of the state. Over half of the campers were new to the program! It was a great way to connect with a lot of kids that we would not have been able to do with an in-person camp due to distance.



"I particularly liked the Yoda activity and I've been using the Yoda vs Darth Vader references when Theo has a bad attitude and it's actually been helpful, so thank you! I must say, these bags are extremely well thought out and definitely keep Theo engaged, which isn't always easy."

- Laura T., Wife of CPT Theodore Tebbe, ILARNG





Teen Resiliency

Illinois Child and Youth Programs was able to conduct one Teen Resiliency Workshop right before COVID-19 started.

QUICK STATS:

- ⇒ 13 Teens
- ⇒ 1 Resiliency Workshop, 4 Modules (Overview: Defining Resilience, Hunt The Good Stuff, Goal Setting, Problem Solving)
- ⇒ Extra Activities focused on Self-Regulation.

Youth Advisory Council

This year Illinois Child and Youth Program successfully completed one in-person Youth Advisory Council/Teen Panel meeting and offered two virtual events. We worked out of the Big Life Resiliency Curriculum book, mind-mapping and video marketing on YAC. Local YAC members were able to volunteer their time to help put together Camp in Bag activities and boxes.



Best Practice: *StReam Camp*

Illinois Child and Youth Program developed a in-person program that combines STEAM concepts with Resiliency... We call it StReam. Illinois Child and Youth Program was able to successfully conduct one in-person StReam Camp called Little Monsters. 12 campers participated. Campers dissected a pumpkin, made a tornado, put together a tricycle, had a scavenger word hunt and learned about HTGS.



Volunteers

54 Adult and Youth Volunteers served 573 total volunteer hours at our annual Trunk or Treat, Camp in a Bag, Resiliency Workshop, and Back to School Event. We would not have been able to complete Camp in a Bag without our youth and adult volunteers! They are the TRUE foundation for successful events and could not have been conducted without their dedication and support to this program.

26 Events Held * 164 Program Hours

- ⇒ 3 Special Events :
 - * 1 Trunk or Treat
 - * 1 Builder Bonanza Virtual Workshop
 - * 1 Back to School (106 military youth)
- ⇒ 6 Yellow Ribbon Events (78 military youth)
- ⇒ 3 Education Outreach Briefs (256 people)
- ⇒ 12 Day Camps (806 military youth)
- ⇒ 1 overnight StReam Camp (12 military youth)
- ⇒ 2 MOMC Virtual campaigns/Photo Contests
- ⇒ 1 Teen Resiliency Workshop & Youth Advisory Council (Y.A.C.)/
Teen Council Meeting (7 teens)
- ⇒ 136 Resources and Referrals

ILLINOIS CHILD & YOUTH COORDINATORS



⇒ TSOETSY HARRIS – Lead Child & Youth Program Coordinator
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Illinois National Guard Youth Programs

21 Community Partners

- ♦ Illinois Girl Scouts
- ♦ Red Cross
- ♦ Project Y.E.S.
- ♦ Springfield Art Association
- ♦ Illinois Military Kids
- ♦ Heroes Care
- ♦ Operation Home Front
- ♦ Lincolns Challenge Academy
- ♦ 183rd Air Wing
- ♦ IL Military Academy
- ♦ Boys and Girls Club
- ♦ Military One Source
- ♦ USO of Illinois
- ♦ Transition Assistance Program
- ♦ Springfield Fire Department
- ♦ Family Readiness Support Assistance
- ♦ Family Assistance Specialists
- ♦ Kare-9
- ♦ Christian County Sheriffs Office
- ♦ BMO Harris Bank
- ♦ Illinois Boy Scouts

21

In 2020, USO of Illinois provided ILARNG families support and services by creating opportunities for families to be involved while at home during COVID-19. Through virtual learning workshops such as Lego Bonanza, the Illinois National Guard youth was able to participate and connect to a larger audience with military kids from across the state. 31 ILARNG military families participated! USO of

Illinois also provided cookies for our soldiers and families on National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day in conjunction with our Back to School event.



Operation Homefront partners with the Illinois National Guard Youth Program year after year to provide Back to School Kits. This is a great opportunity for families to receive Education Materials, resources and support. In 2020, approximately 100 youth received kits.

*Operation
Homefront*