



Operation: Military Kids

How Minnesota is Supporting Military Youth

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Introduction

Operation: Military Kids (OMK) teams and partners support children and youth, from all branches of service, during the deployment of their Service Member.

• University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development Staff were selected to write the OMK Deployment Cycle Support Yellow Ribbon Youth Outreach Curriculum.

Purpose of the Curriculum:

OMK Youth Activity Guide & Volunteer Training Guide meet the needs of working with military youth

- Identification of issues that occur during deployment cycle
- Target life skills to support youth during the deployment

Volunteer Guide supports the knowledge needed about deployment, key military terms, and youth development

Contributors

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Process

- Idea generated at 4-H Military Liaisons Conference
- Office of Secretary of Defense approves, financial support given
- MN 4-H YD Educators submitted for writing team
- Educators attend a 4 day writing retreat
- Military partners gave overview of deployment cycle needs
- Educators examined curriculum layout and lesson format
- Matrix of lessons developed to support age of youth, stage of development and time frame (below)
- Educators identified life skills to be addressed in lessons
- Educators developed lesson plans – editor made changes
- Submitted for peer review by State 4-H Military Liaisons and OMK Project Coordinators
- Office of Secretary of Defense reviewed materials
- Editor made final revisions and submitted for printing
- Printed materials distributed to states January....
- Materials available on www.4-Hmilitarypartnerships.org website

Proposal for 60 Lesson Plans

	Mixed		Elementary		Grade		Elementary		Grade		Elementary	
	Age 1	Age 2	al	s	K-5	s	K-5	al	s	6-12	s	6-12
Pre-deployment 2 hr												
Pre-deployment 4 hr												
Mobilized 2 hr												
Mobilized 4 hr												
Reintegration 30 day 2 hr												
Reintegration 30 day 4 hr												
Reintegration 60 day 2 hr												
Reintegration 60 day 4 hr												

Curriculum

Targets identified phases of the Deployment Cycle:

- Pre-Deployment
- Mobilization
- 30 Day Reintegration
- 60 Day Reintegration

Age Groups Identified for this Curriculum:

- K-5
- 6-12
- K-12

Each lesson is geared toward either a 2 hour or 4 hour format

Each lesson plan is laid out the same and includes:

- Project/Life Skills
- Activity Overview
- Get Ready
 - Roles for Uniformed Service Member, Peer Volunteer, Volunteer Activity, Orientation for Volunteer, Prep Time, Space Needed
- Background
- Set Up Your Space
- What To Do
- Ice Breaker
- Activities
- Talk It Over
- Enhancement
- Closing
- Parent Letter

Volunteer Training Guide

Content is developed for either a 2 hour or 4 hour training session.

- Welcome, Introduction, Overview, Background
- Military Culture
- Emotional Cycle of Deployment
- Stress and Coping Strategies
- Fostering Resilience in Youth & Children
- Developmental Stages of Children & Youth
- Experiencing the Youth Activity Curriculum
- Organizing the Activity Session

Distribution

Total Numbers:

- 1,184 copies of each Youth Activity Guide printed
- 922 copies of the Volunteer Training Guide printed
- 350 toolkits were made
- Distributed curriculum to each state to the 4-H Military Liaison, including the American Samoa, D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands in January 2010
- Each state received 16 copies of the printed material
- Each state received an average of 5 toolkits
- Curriculum is available for download on the 4-H/Military Partnership website at: <http://www.4-hmilitarypartnerships.org>

