



# WISCONSIN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAM

2019  
ANNUAL REPORT



# MISSION

To support the social, emotional, physical, and academic well being of WI Military Youth by providing secure, timely, flexible, high-quality support services and enrichment programs.

“The WI National Guard Child and Youth Program has allowed me to volunteer with a familiar group. As the son of a sailor, I connect with the kids and volunteers better than I would anywhere else so I am able to be myself. I am grateful for the experiences I have had working with the WI National Guard Child and Youth Program.”

–Volunteer Grant Latham, ROTC, Marquette, MI

# GOALS

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Provide customized, integrated, and sustainable curriculum to enhance youth performance through achievement of behavioral and physical skills.

## PROGRAM ACCESS

Increase support of simultaneous programs throughout the regionally dispersed population of Wisconsin to impact the maximum amount of youth.

## MISSION AWARENESS

Expand the ability to reach youth across the state to bring awareness of education, resilience, connection, and resource opportunities.



# VOLUNTEERS

In FY19 the Wisconsin Army National Guard Child and Youth Program, WIARNG CYP, had **96** tremendous volunteers, which many are previous service members or military youth, step up and answer the call. This team of dedicated men and women not only provided their time of **2,248 total hours** and energy to enhance the states CYP, but some went above and beyond. They took their role to the next level and became a mentor to the military connected youth by engaging in many different programs like: residential overnight camps, military family connection events, and Yellow Ribbon programs. Their continued support allows them an opportunity to give back to something more than themselves.



# MASTER RESILIENCE TRAINING

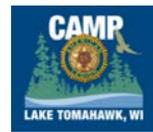
In FY19, a total of **96** youth participated in Master Resilience Training throughout various operations and camps. In August during Wisconsin Military Kids Camp, Master Resilience Training (MRT) skills and competencies were taught and tested through a series of complex, military simulated, field training exercises. During this week long camp, **45** military connected youth had the opportunity to engage in a variety of outdoor activities that allowed the young people to learn and practice specific MRT skills. These young people formed their own squads and were given a mission brief (that read like a military story) for the week and along the way they would be required to complete various objectives and way-points that tracked their progress for a successful MRT Mission. Some of the specific way-points that were completed are as follows; sound mapping, awareness patrol hike, and the game of camouflage. These types of way-points enhanced the objectives of connection, energy management, optimism, mental agility, self-regulation, self-awareness, and strength of character. This type of military simulated complex mission programming was so successful, it is our goal to deploy this in our Yellow Ribbon Programming and the rest of our residential overnight programming.



# COMMUNITY

Utilizing local and statewide assets to enhance the program reach is a vital component of the success in the state of Wisconsin. To enhance the impact of positive youth development, WING CYP teamed up with many community and youth organizations to provide a large variety of programs that benefit the military connected youth. In June of 2019, Dane County Big Brother and Big Sisters joined forces with WING CYP to host and deliver "Safety Day", a military family day camp that offered local youth the opportunity to learn the basics of total concept awareness like self, social, and environmental and how to bounce back when faced with adversity.

- Turning Rivers
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- WI USO
- UW Extension 4H
- Camp American Legion
- Camp Phillips
- Camp Tesomas
- Camp Lakotah
- Camp Corral
- Camp Hometown Heroes
- Upham Woods



# BEST PRACTICES

## YELLOW RIBBON CURRICULUM

In FY19, there was an uptick of Wisconsin Yellow Ribbon youth events. With the increase of events, it was crucial to assemble updated curriculum for each phase of Yellow Ribbon to impart sustained congruent skills. In order to do this, a method called curriculum mapping was used. This method is a way to improve the overall coherence of a program by diagramming the overall process. The repeatable nature of this curriculum expanded on appropriate skills throughout all phases of deployment. This allowed the WI Child and Youth Program to effectively train volunteers to support multiple events throughout Wisconsin.

"It is crucial to have the WI CYP curriculum at Yellow Ribbon events because it brings military children together and teaches them how to cope with some pretty difficult emotions."  
-Volunteer Lilly Burmesch, Fredonia, WI

## SOCIAL MEDIA

There are many avenues down the communication highway to share programs and resources for youth connected to the Wisconsin National Guard (WIARNG). When using all open lanes on the highway it allows for information to continue towards its source, even when one slows down.

A new initiative was started in FY19 to expand outreach in Wisconsin by opening a new lane of communication, social media. Since starting the WING Child and Youth Facebook page, on 17 April 2019, there has been an increase in resources and outreach among military families. The program's communication and visibility throughout the state has also grown. This allows for more families to utilize available programs. Throughout FY20 various forms of distributing information will be a priority to reach as many youth as possible.

| Resources and Referrals |             |                 |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| FY 2018                 | 6,825       |                 |
| FY 2019                 | 12,416      | 81.92% Increase |
| Facebook Page           |             |                 |
| FY 2019                 | 209 Follows | 5,433 Reached   |

# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## 17 YELLOW RIBBONS

245 youth were taught social and emotional learning, and resilience based skills. 1,585 family members, and soldiers were provided resources to help their dependents during deployment. There were 313 volunteer hours given to support youth through the Yellow Ribbon youth curriculum.

## 4 MOMC CELEBRATIONS

In April, 157 youth and 75 adults attended 4 Month of the Military Child events. Youth, parents, family readiness volunteers, and Adjutant General Dunbar gathered to honor military connected youth at the Upham Woods Purple Up event, in Wisconsin Dells, WI.

### PROGRAM HOURS

FY18: 330 Hours

FY19: 502 Hours 52% Increase

## 4 MILITARY FAMILY DAY CAMPS

Throughout 2018 and 2019, 528 youth and 644 adults participated in 5 Military Family Day Camps. On 01 June 2019, the first Safety Day took place with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Dane County to increase family bonds, build life-skills, and grow community engagement.

## 6 PARTNERED CAMPS

A total of 473 youth participated during 6 camps. Each camp is unique, from the focus on outdoor science at Military Kids Camp, to the focus on leadership at the Wisconsin 4H and Youth Conference.



## 3 SEASONAL CAMPS

Seasonal camps continue to be a core part of the program during different times of the year. A total of 239 youth participated in 3 camps. Camps included: Winter Camp, in Northern Wisconsin, Spring Camp in West-Central Wisconsin, and Summer Camp, in Eastern Wisconsin.

On 26 to 28 July 2019, Badger Youth Camp was held. At this summer camp the activities were revamped to teach life skills and simulate military activities with a youth appropriate focus. One example is turning what used to be the Olympics, to the Warrior Games. Water gun target practice was one leg of the games which taught focus and awareness to campers. Their goal was to hit silhouettes held by their counselors.

"I would like to thank the Child and Youth Program and the volunteers. My son had a wonderful time and has new friends."

-SGT Theresa O'Brien, 829th DET Vertical CO, Ashland, WI

## # YOUTH SERVED AT EVENTS

|                | 6-12        | 13-18      | ADULTS      |
|----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| ARNG           | 883         | 365        | 2972        |
| ANG            | 57          | 31         | 113         |
| ARMY           | 7           | 6          | 15          |
| AR RESERVE     | 8           | 4          | 0           |
| AIR FORCE      | 4           | 2          | 14          |
| AF RESERVE     | 1           | 0          | 0           |
| NAVY           | 3           | 0          | 18          |
| NAVY RESERVE   | 0           | 2          | 0           |
| MARINE         | 3           | 6          | 6           |
| MARINE RESERVE | 1           | 2          | 0           |
| COAST GUARD    | 6           | 4          | 0           |
| CG RESERVE     | 1           | 0          | 0           |
| GOLD STAR      | 82          | 137        | 52          |
| OTHER          | 59          | 76         | 248         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>1133</b> | <b>644</b> | <b>3438</b> |

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# STATE TEEN PANEL

This past year for The Wisconsin State Teen Panel (WI STP) was eventful. The members attended various Wisconsin military youth camps where they were provided with the unique experience of serving as youth leaders. The panel also sent representatives to the Region 5 State Teen Panel Symposium in Ohio this past summer. In all of the events that they attended, the members improved their mindfulness, leadership, and resilience skills. They were able to serve as mentors to other military youth while building connections that will last a lifetime.

In November of 2018, the panel also planned, and hosted their Inaugural Veterans Day food drive. This was a fantastic accomplishment for the members as they collected food for military personnel and their families. The celebration of military families continued in the month of April as members of the panel were recognized at Wisconsin's Month of the Military Child Celebration. Overall, The Wisconsin State Teen Panel provides a unique opportunity for military teenagers as they are able to make connections with other military youth that they wouldn't have otherwise been able to make.

Written by Mileana Burmesch, President, WI STP.



"What a fantastic opportunity the April Adventure Camp was for my daughter! My husband travels quite a bit which is challenging for any child. And dealing with bullying at her school regularly certainly hasn't helped. She was in need of a confidence booster and change of environment to meet new friends. The camp gave her the chance to be immersed in a welcoming outdoor environment with other military youth while being engaged in thought-provoking and challenging activities. The only downside, according to her, was that it ended."  
-Paula DeTemple, Parent, Jackson, WI

STAY CONNECTED



**Name:** Cameron Campbell  
**Title:** Lead Child and Youth Coordinator  
**Email:** Cameron.L.Campbell6.ctr@mail.mil  
**Office:** 608.301.8246  
**Cell:** 608.658.6358

**Name:** Nick Harnish  
**Title:** Child and Youth Coordinator  
**Email:** Nicholas.B.Harnish.ctr@mail.mil  
**Office:** 608.301.8248  
**Cell:** 608.658.6368

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