

# ★ Keystone Courier ★



December 2016

## Newsletter

### Purpose

The Pennsylvania National Guard (PNG) Child and Youth program has been designed to serve and support the children of the dedicated Service Members of the PA National Guard. Unlike other children their age, military children face various life challenges such as relocations and parents missing out on important life events. The PNG Child and Youth Program assists military children by providing programs to help build creativity, resiliency, and opportunity in order to prepare children to be the best leaders they can be both now and for the future.

### Mission

Our mission is committed to providing programs and experiences for youth to thrive and connect with other youth in a similar situations. Our program focuses on teaching and providing military children with opportunities to become better leaders in their classrooms, sports teams, and in other areas of life.

### Appreciation

The PNG Child and Youth Program would like to thank all of its participants and families that attended our events in 2016. We are looking forward to creating more memories and experiences in 2017. We would like to encourage you to be part of the PA National Guard Child and Youth Program and to attend as many events as possible in the upcoming year!

### Future

Moving forward, the PNG Child and Youth newsletter will be published monthly. Please look for our next issue at the beginning of February 2017. This issue will include recaps from past events and information on upcoming events. If you or someone you know would like to be added to our newsletter list please contact us today!

#### **Cory Conrad**

Lead Child and Youth  
Coordinator

cory.m.conrad2.ctr@mail.mil  
717-861-6289

#### **Lauren Gerhart**

Child and Youth  
Coordinator

lauren.b.gerhart.ctr@mail.mil  
717-861-6269

## Family Camp



The Pennsylvania National Guard Child and Youth Program's summer ended with our annual weekend trip to the Pocono Mountains for Family Camp at YMCA Camp Speers. Family Camp was filled with various recreational activities and experiences for both children and adults to enjoy together. Families were able to have a weekend getaway with hiking, boating, fishing, swimming, horseback riding, and relaxing. In addition, families were able to come together and challenge themselves through competition in the weekend long Color Wars Game. Family teams could earn points for the Color Wars by participating in the family kickball game, Capture the Flag, canoe race, archery and rifle range, chalk mural contest, and campfire skits.

Throughout the whole weekend connections were made between people and relationships were strengthened. On behalf of the Pennsylvania National Guard Child and Youth Program we would like to thank all families for making Family Camp a weekend well remembered!

## Project Beacon

In early fall, the Pennsylvania National Guard Child and Youth Program partnered with Easter Seals to offer two camps for our children and teens. Camps were at Camp Soles in Rockwood, PA and Camp Victory in Millville, PA. During these weekend camps, kids were able to participate in outdoor activities to help build teamwork and leadership skills. Some of the most memorable activities included: playing Capture the Flag at night, shelter building, night hiking, completing a ropes course, and of course playing Gaga Ball.

During these weekend camps children and teens were able to relate and connect with other kids their age who share similar military life experiences. The Pennsylvania National Guard Child and Youth Program was happy and proud to see our kids forming new friendships as well as strengthen old friendships. Thank you to all the children and teens who joined us and for making these camps a blast!



# Christmas STEM Event

The Pennsylvania National Guard Child and Youth Program was pleased to have three Christmas Events this year for our children and families! With the help of the Crane Armory in Pittsburgh, the Scranton Army Reserve Center in Scranton, and the USO at Fort Indiantown Gap in Annville we were able to provide Christmas activities related to STEM!



What is STEM?! STEM is hands-on activities using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Activities required using creativity and unconventional materials such as sugar cubes, straws, play-doh, rubber bands, etc. to construct Christmas trees, snowflakes, Elsa's Ice Palace, Magic Reindeer Mix, and Grinch Slime. The event was interactive and educational for both parents and children of all ages.

Thank you to all who joined us at our Christmas STEM Events! We hope you had as much fun as we did! And on behalf of the PNG Child and Youth Program we wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## **Upcoming Child and Youth Events**

- **13-14 January - Teen Council College Weekend**  
*If interested please contact PNG Child & Youth Program*
- **27-29 January - Winter Teen Leadership Challenge**  
[www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/73M859](http://www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/73M859)
- **25-26 February - Franklin Institute Overnight Visit**  
[www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/54Q911](http://www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/54Q911)
- **15 April - MOMC Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt**  
[www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/97S594](http://www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/97S594)
- **22 April - Philadelphia Zoo Visit**  
[www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/82R257](http://www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/82R257)
- **13 May - Carnegie Science Center Tech Day**  
[www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/36W490](http://www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/36W490)
- **22-25 June - Camp Kidet**  
[www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/07H442](http://www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/07H442)
- **9-15 July - PNG CY Summer Camp**  
[www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/80H628](http://www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/80H628)
- **1-4 September - PNG Child and Youth Family Camp**  
[www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/15T871](http://www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/15T871)

*The Pennsylvania National Guard Child and Youth Program is always looking for volunteers to enhance our events and programs throughout the year. Please let us know today if you are interested!*



*Are you interested in joining and being part of the Pennsylvania National Guard Child and Youth Program Teen Council?! Please see attached information and forms!*

### **Contact Us**

#### **Cory Conrad**

Lead Child and Youth Coordinator  
cory.m.conrad2.ctr@mail.mil  
717-861-6289

#### **Lauren Gerhart**

Child and Youth Coordinator  
lauren.b.gerhart.ctr@mail.mil  
717-861-6269

#### **Office**

BLDG 14-109 Hospital Road Fort Indiantown Gap Annville, PA 17003



Pennsylvania National Guard  
Child & Youth Program

# Winter Teen Leadership Challenge

❄️ **Who:** Military Teens (7th grade - 12th grade)

❄️ **When:** 27-29 January 2017— Registration 1800

❄️ **Where:** Poconos Mountains

❄️ **Why:** To bring together military youth from around the state for leadership training that focuses on resilience and life skill building activities.

In addition to preparing youth how to better cope with being a military child and reduce risk-taking behaviors.



**Register**

[www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/73M859](http://www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/73M859)



For additional information or questions please contact  
Cory Conrad ([cory.m.conrad2.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:cory.m.conrad2.ctr@mail.mil)) or  
Lauren Gerhart ([lauren.b.gerhart.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:lauren.b.gerhart.ctr@mail.mil))  
Phone: 717-861-6289/6269



# Franklin Institute Camp



**Who:** Military Teens (ages 6-13)

**When:** 25-26 February 2017

**What Time:** 1800

**Where:** Franklin Institute (Philadelphia, PA)

**Why:** This is an overnight trip to promote military community connection within teens and to discover concepts of STEM (Science Technology Engineering, and Math) related activities that are offered at the museum.

**Register**

[www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/54Q911](http://www.jointservicessupport.org/Info/54Q911)

**\*For additional information or questions please contact**

**Cory Conrad (cory.m.conrad2.ctr@mail.mil) or**

**Lauren Gerhart (lauren.b.gerhart.ctr@mail.mil)**

**Phone: 717-861-6289/6269**



## ★Teen Council Application 2016-2017★

Dear Potential 2017 Teen Council Member:

Thank you for your interest in Student Council for the 2017 year. Teen Council is a group of teens who care about others and genuinely want to have an important leadership role in the Army/Army Reserve Community. The information that is provided is a brief description of Teen Council, responsibilities of membership, guidelines for acceptance, and the requirements for the application.

In Teen Council, one is responsible for working with both the staff of the PA National Guard Child & Youth Program and the members of the Teen Council. Please read the information below for a basic understanding of what it takes to be a Teen Council member:

The following are responsibilities for Teen Council members:

- Must attend all meetings.
- Participate in all Teen Council activities/events.
- Be available to help with Teen Council activities and sometimes help before/after events.
- Solve issues that fellow Army teens currently face.
- Support and raise awareness about Teen Council with others.

The following are guidelines for acceptance in Teen Council:

- Display leadership qualities.
- The ability to work with others.
- Have a positive attitude.
- Possess the desire to make a difference!

# ★Teen Council Application & Questionnaire★

## 2016-2017

Instructions: Please complete the following application and submit it. Applications can be returned via email to [cory.m.conrad2.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:cory.m.conrad2.ctr@mail.mil) or brought to the Child & Youth Program Office (BLDG 14-109). For additional questions, please call (717) 861-6289.

Teen's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in 2016-2017: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Member's Name/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Years in Teen Council: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**TEEN SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# ★Teen Council Application & Questionnaire★

## 2016-2017

Were you a member of Teen Council last year?    YES    NO

Would you like to run for an Officer position?    YES    NO

If YES, what position (President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer)?

---

**Please answer the following questions:**

★ Why are you a top candidate for Teen Council leadership?

---

---

---

---

---

★ Explain 3 reasons you are applying to be a member of Teen Council:

---

---

---

---

---

★ If you ever have a disagreement with another Teen Council member how would you handle it?

---

---

---

---

---

★ If you could create an activity or an event, what would it be and why?

---

---

---

---

---



## ★Teen Council Meetings 2017★

★27-29 January 2017

Teen Leadership Challenge

★12 February 2017

Teleconference

★11 March 2017

FTIG BLDG TBD

★15 April 2017

MOMC Celebration & Easter Egg Hunt

★Times TBD★

**Please note that travel expenses will be reimbursed to the service member through DTS**



## ARMY FEE ASSISTANCE

### ARMY FEE ASSISTANCE (AFA) PROGRAMS

AFA is an initiative that assists eligible Army Families to reduce the costs of off-post child care when on-post options are not available or accessible.

#### Who is eligible to receive AFA?

- Active Duty Army
- Department of the Army Civilians
- Active Army Reserves
- Active Army National Guard

Fee Assistance will vary depending upon Total Family Income, geographic location, DOD Child Care Policies and available funding.

#### What does AFA help Families pay for?

- Annual Child Care Registration Fees  
(up to \$150 per child annually)
- Full Time Day Care (25+ hours per week)
- Part Time Care (16-25 hours per week)
- Before and After School/Summer Care
- Respite Child Care  
(must meet eligibility requirements)

#### What do I need to enroll for AFA?

Families and Community Care providers must complete the AFA application. Supporting documents must be submitted with the application to demonstrate eligibility and Total Family Income.



#### How do I enroll in Army Fee Assistance?

**Phone: 1-800-424-2246**

**Email: [msp@usa.childcareaware.org](mailto:msp@usa.childcareaware.org)**

**Website: <http://usa.childcareaware.org/military-programs/military-families/army/>**



Are you looking to learn a second language?  
NOW is the time to begin! As of October 1st, the  
DOD has renewed it's contract with ROSETTA  
STONE® encompassing 30 different languages for  
military members and their dependents.

To access the webpage hosted by EBSCO Host go to:  
<https://mylibraryus.armybiznet.com/search>

Once there click on the "Online resources" tab on the top left  
hand corner of the screen. Once the new webpage loads scroll  
down until you find Rosetta Stone. Click the banner and the  
Rosetta Stone login will open.

If you have any issues accessing the webpage please email:  
[usarmy.mwr.library@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.mwr.library@mail.mil) to resolve those issues.



English

First time user?

- 1.) Enter your e-mail address.
- 2.) Choose a password (must be at least 6 letters plus at least one number)

Username

Password

Italian



SIGN IN

# Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families

## Fact Sheet

### Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families Program Overview

The Department of Defense and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance provide online tutoring and homework help from Tutor.com at no cost to eligible grades K-12 students in National Guard, Reserve and active duty Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard families. Some adults—including adults in active duty Coast Guard and traditional part-time Guard and Reserve families—are also eligible for college and career transition help. Tutor.com for Military Families allows students to connect to a live tutor online at any time for one-to-one help with homework, studying, test prep, proofreading and more. Eligible students can create an account and log in at [www.tutor.com/military](http://www.tutor.com/military).

### Free Around-the-Clock Help

Access to Tutor.com for Military Families is free 24 hours a day, seven days a week—no appointment needed. Regardless of where they attend school, students worldwide can access the online service using any internet-enabled device, including smart phones.

### 40+ Subjects, All Skill Levels

<b>Math:</b>	Elementary, Mid-Level, Algebra I and II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, AP level
<b>English:</b>	Essay Writing, Grammar, Literature, AP level
<b>Science:</b>	Elementary, Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy, AP level
<b>Social Studies:</b>	U.S. History, World History, AP level
<b>World Languages:</b>	Spanish, French, German



Students go to [www.tutor.com/military](http://www.tutor.com/military) and click on their service to get a tutor.

### Expert Tutors

Every Tutor.com tutor is a carefully screened expert. Our team of more than 3,000 tutors includes certified teachers, college professors, graduate students, select undergraduates from accredited universities and other professionals. We employ military spouses, and approximately 9% of our Tutors are affiliated with the military. Tutor.com tutors are primarily based in the U.S. and Canada, with some bilingual specialists located internationally.

### Safe, Secure, Anonymous

Our commitment to safety starts with our rigorous tutor application process, an extensive background check, and a probationary period before an applicant becomes a certified Tutor.com tutor. Students and tutors always work anonymously and no personal information is shared during sessions. Ongoing session review and mentoring ensures that our tutors maintain the highest standards of quality and safety at all times.

### Eligibility

Go to [www.tutor.com/military/eligibility](http://www.tutor.com/military/eligibility) to see who is eligible to access Tutor.com for Military Families.

### More information

If you have questions about the Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families program, email [militarysupport@tutor.com](mailto:militarysupport@tutor.com). Connect with us on social media: [facebook.com/TutordotcomforMilitary](https://www.facebook.com/TutordotcomforMilitary), [twitter.com/tutordotcom](https://twitter.com/tutordotcom) and [blog.tutor.com](http://blog.tutor.com).

Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families is funded by the DoD MWR Library Program, the Navy General Library Program, the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA).



# OPSEC AND SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

**SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES (SNS)**, like Facebook® and Twitter®, are software applications that connect people and information in spontaneous, interactive ways. While SNS can be useful and fun, they can provide adversaries, such as terrorists, spies and criminals, with critical information needed to harm you or disrupt your mission. Practicing Operations Security (OPSEC) will help you to recognize your critical information and protect it from an adversary. Here are a few safety tips to get you started.

## SAFETY CHECKLIST

### Personal Information

Do you:

- Keep sensitive, work-related information OFF your profile?
- Keep your plans, schedules and location data to yourself?
- Protect the names and information of coworkers, friends, and family members?
- Tell friends to be careful when posting photos and information about you and your family?

### Posted Data

Before posting, did you:

- Check all photos for indicators in the background or reflective surfaces?
- Check filenames and file tags for sensitive data (your name, organization or other details)?

### Passwords

Are they:

- Unique from your other online passwords?
- Sufficiently hard to guess?
- Adequately protected (not shared or given away)?

### Settings and Privacy

Did you:

- Carefully look for and set all your privacy and security options?
- Determine both your profile and search visibility?
- Sort “friends” into groups and networks, and set access permissions accordingly?
- Verify through other channels that a “friend” request was actually from your friend?
- Add “untrusted” people to the group with the lowest permissions and accesses?

### Security

Remember to:

- Keep your anti-virus software updated.
- Beware of links, downloads, and attachments just as you would in e-mails.
- Beware of “apps” or plugins, which are often written by unknown third parties who might use them to access your data and friends.
- Look for HTTPS and the lock icon that indicate active transmission security before logging in or entering sensitive data (especially when using wi-fi hotspots).

**THINK BEFORE YOU POST!** Remember, your information could become public at any time due to hacking, configuration errors, social engineering or the business practice of selling or sharing user data. For more information, visit the Interagency OPSEC Support Staff’s website.

**Think. Protect. OPSEC.**  
**[www.ioss.gov](http://www.ioss.gov)**



# **Answers to Frequently Asked Questions**

## **Who can receive a grant?**

Children ages 3 through 12th grade of a) National Guard or Reserve military personnel who are deployed overseas, or b) severely injured service members from any branch of service may apply.

## **What documentation is required to apply?**

A copy of the military parent's deployment orders is needed to show that the parent is deployed overseas. For children of severely injured soldiers, a referral letter from a case manager is required. Applicants must also submit one of the following to establish the child's dependency on the military parent: a photocopy of the child's military dependent ID card OR a copy of Form 1172 Application for Uniformed Services Identification (DEERS), OR a copy of the child's birth certificate if the deployed service member is the biological parent of the child. Lastly, the application must be accompanied by a copy of a brochure, flyer, webpage printout, or letter from the organization providing the activity or service. Please circle or highlight the registration fee that applies to the program in which the child is enrolling, as well as any information regarding to whom the check should be made payable.

## **Does the family have to meet income qualifications before a child can receive a grant?**

No. Family income is not a consideration in determining whether a child is eligible to receive a grant.

## **Are there any restrictions on the types of activities for which grants are awarded?**

Yes. Our Military Kids does not award grants for daycare, school tuition reimbursement, or mission trips. Only those activities listed in the "Eligible Program Activities" section of the website will be eligible for grants from Our Military Kids. If you do not see the activity your child has selected, please call our office to inquire about the activity.

## **What tutoring services qualify under this program and what documentation is required?**

Grants will be considered for services provided by companies or organizations in the following subjects: reading, writing, math, or study skills to assist children in maintaining academic performance at grade level. Grants paid to individual tutors will only be provided if he/she is a certified teacher who can show documentation (teacher's license, teaching degree, etc.) and is not a family member of the child.

## **What documentation is needed to support the grant amount requested for the child?**

The application must be accompanied by a copy of a brochure, flyer, webpage printout, or letter from the organization providing the activity or service. Please circle or highlight the registration fee, rental fee, or instructional fee that applies to the program in which the child is enrolling.

## **Will I receive a check in the mail?**

No. If your request for a grant is approved, a check will be sent and made payable to the organization indicated on the grant application form. The applicant will receive formal written notification of acceptance or rejection of an application by mail within two weeks of receipt of the application by Our Military Kids.

## **Does the family have to repay the grant?**

No. The grant does not have to be paid back unless the child does not participate in the activity indicated on the application.

## **May the same child apply for more than one grant?**

No. Children are eligible for one grant per deployment.

## **May more than one child per family apply for a grant?**

Yes. All children in a family may apply for a grant as long as the child meets all the criteria for eligibility. The \$500 limit applies to each child, not each family.

## **How does Our Military Kids determine which children receive grants?**

The mission of our organization is to provide a grant to each child who meets all established guidelines and submits a complete application package. We will review each request and consider the applications in the order in which they are received by our office. We will award grants to all qualified applicants as long as funds are available.

## **What are the sources of grant funding?**

Grants from Our Military Kids are made possible by generous contributions from corporations, charitable foundations, and individuals. A full list of donors can be found on the "Our Supporters" page on our website.

## **Can we make a donation to Our Military Kids through the Combined Federal Campaign?**

Yes. Our Military Kids meets the Combined Federal Campaign's (CFC) rigorous standards. As a member of the National Guard or Reserves, you are able to select Our Military Kids (#12357) each fall.