



Beyond the Yellow Ribbon...
your Fort Minnesota.

Deployment Resources For Children and Youth

Resources for Parent Support

- *Respite Childcare:* Minnesota Child Care Resource and Referral. State Licensed childcare providers volunteer 4 hours of free childcare twice a month or two consecutive days of fee reimbursement to State Licensed Providers who provide respite care. See www.mnchildcare.org and click “Surge Respite Care” for instructions or call your regional Minnesota Child Care Resource and Referral Coordinator.
- *Minnesota Parents Know:* From the Minnesota Department of Education; trusted parenting information, resources and activities to help your children grow, develop, and learn from birth through high school. www.parentsknow.state.mn.us
- *Military One Source:* Free resources covering topics from Deployment to finances, communication, parenting and more. www.militaryonesource.com or 800.342.9647.
- *Zero to Three:* A Military Program for military children birth to three. Includes parenting resources and activities for children. www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=key_military
- *HOOAH 4 Health:* Health information for you and your family members of all ages. www.hooah4health.com/4Life/hooah4family/default.htm
- *Battlemind:* Soldier and family resources for all phases of the deployment cycle. www.battlemind.army.mil
- *Parents as Teachers:* General information on how parents can be their child’s first teacher. www.ParentAsTeachers.org or call 314.432.4330
- *Minnesota Kinship Caregiver’s Association:* A not-for-profit organization that advocates for, supports, and provides information and resources to people raising their grandchildren or children of other kin and friends. www.mkca.org

Resources for Financial/Wellness Support

- *DoD/NACCRRRA Childcare Subsidies:* Assists Military Families with finding affordable childcare and offers payment assistance for families using licensed childcare. (www.naccrra.org)
- National Guard Bureau has established an advocacy team to ease the families application process. To apply for the subsidy, search for quality childcare in your area, or accredit your provider, contact the National Guard Childcare Program at 888.642.2799
- *Project Backpack:* register for free backpack with school supplies for your child. www.mnveteranfamilysupport.org
- *Our Military Kids:* grants supporting out-of-school activities for children ages 3 through 12th grade. Up to \$500 will be given to support education, recreation or fine arts activities. Grants may be applied for twice during a 365 day deployment with 6 months between applications and more than 60 days remaining on orders. www.ourmilitarykids.org
- *YMCA:* Free family membership while service member is deployed. Membership applications are on the Military One Source website www.militaryonesource.com, www.ymca.net, or visit your nearest YMCA.
- *Boys and Girls Clubs:* Free membership nationwide. Educational, cultural, and social activities for youth ages 5 – 18. www.bgcmn.org

Operation Military Kids

- U.S. Army’s collaborative initiative that connects community support to military children. Life skills are coached through quality retreats (Speak Out for Military Kids), day camps, and support to military events. Track Minnesota’s OMK activities at www.operationmilitarykids.org; click on Minnesota and calendar.

Resources for Teachers

- *Minnesota Department of Education*: A link at the bottom of the MDE homepage will lead educators to a multitude of downloadable resources to support their military students. www.education.state.mn.us.
- *Washington State Department of Education and Operation*: Military Kids: <http://www.k12.wa.us/OperationMilitaryKids/Resources.aspx>
- *Military Child Education Coalition*: a non-profit education foundation to support the military child. www.militarychild.org
- [Tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com), free on-line tutoring for Military Youth through www.myarmyonesource.com

Camps for Military Kids

- *National Guard Youth Camp*: National Guard youth ages 10 – 15 experience the military environment and leadership activities at Camp Ripley. There is a fee but scholarships are available for those in need. Registration is open for the 2009 Camp: www.mngyc.com.
- *Operation: Purple Camp*: A free camp offered by the National Military Family Association at various sites across the nation and around the world. Camp St. Croix in Hudson, WI has offered Purple Camp the past 3 years and has applied for an 2009 grant. Ages 7 – 17 enjoy a quality YMCA camp experience that incorporates deployment support. Registration opens in April at www.nmfa.org.
- *More Camps To be Announced*: many other camps become available for military youth. These will be announced as they are confirmed. Announcements are through the FRG email chain.

Resources for Comfort

- *Daddy Doll*: a soft pillow with loved one's image that a child can sleep with and even carry in their backpack. Other products available. www.hugahero.com
- *Dog Tags for Kids*: A VFW endorsed program that allows the deployed service member an opportunity to send a free message of love engraved on dog tags to their child. www.dogtagsforkids.com
- *Flat Daddy*: A life size poster of the deployed loved one. www.flatdaddies.com
- *Little Patriots Embraced*: www.littlepatriotsembraced.org sends care packages to the families of deployed soldiers. Also assists military spouses with employment scholarships and more.
- *Operation Voices and Love*: www.operationvoicesandlove.com provides children of deployed troops a teddy bear with parent's voice message inside to provide extra comfort.
- *We Serve Too*: www.weservetoo.com resources for military parents and children
- *Deployment Kids*: www.deploymentkids.com has information, games and craft ideas for children that have deployed service members.
- *Mentors for Youth*: www.mentoringworks.org. The Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota connects more youth with quality mentoring experiences.

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