KEEP CALM AND CAMP ON

2013
MISSION & GOALS

Our mission is to support the youth of military families throughout the deployment cycle.

Youth Development • Awareness • Partner Engagement

- Develop regional community networks to support military youth affected by deployment.
- Educate the public on the impact of deployment on service members’ children, families, and communities.
- Offer recreational, social, and educational programs for military youth who are geographically dispersed throughout the state in civilian communities.

VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS

Since 2005, Ohio OMK has continued to grow by building win-win relationships. These important connections result in quality programs for military youth and families, increased financial support, and demonstrated impact. We wouldn’t be able to offer half of our programming without the help of our volunteers and partners.

- Involved over 220 volunteers who contributed 11,500 hours – a $34,000 value.
- Involved 50 organizations and businesses as funding and program partners.
- Leveraged $500,000 worth of in-kind support in goods, services, personnel.

2013 HIGHLIGHTS

This was another memorable year for Ohio’s OMK! We hope the pictures help reflect the memories made and hope these numbers portray just how much we are accomplishing with your help!

- Reached over 3,000 youth and adult program participants.
- Organized 15 Yellow Ribbon events and 8 camaraderie events around the state.
- Supported 18 camps totaling 886 program hours.
- Provided 48 informational training opportunities for camp counselors, volunteers, corporate and community partners, educators, and parents.

“Meeting other kids who were going through the same thing I was felt amazing and made me feel I wasn’t alone. When I became old enough I became a counselor and I love it; I have grown up with OMK and it has become my second family.” (Counselor)
TROOP & FAMILY CAMPS

Troop & Family Camps welcomed entire families from babies to grandparents and everyone in between! Families had a chance to get away from it all and enjoy the thrills of flying on a giant swing, sailing on Lake Erie, playing ga-ga ball, making a family photo frame, and roasting marshmallows over a campfire. Here’s the highlights:

- Hosted **5 weekend residential camps**.
- Served **97 military families** with **432 family members**.
- Developed **resiliency and team building skills** to ease coping with military life stressors.
- Promoted **stronger family bonds** and better communication.

HERO CAMPS

This year our military youth had opportunities to sleep with manatees, squirm from the inside of a megalodon’s skeleton, whisper secrets from the depths of a clammy cave, and jump hurdles with OSU athletes! Hero Camps offered short-term experiences for 6-to 12-year-olds, each with a specific focus, such as science or healthy living. Concurrent Strong Family Workshops shared tips and tools for raising healthy resilient kids. A total of **212 youth** and **143 adults** participated in one of these fun experiences:

- Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens
- Cleveland Museum of Natural History
- OSU Sports Sampler
- Hocking Hills Ash Cave

CAMP KELLEYS ISLAND

For 9 years now Kelleys Island has been “home” for hundreds of military youth for a week of camp on the shores of Lake Erie. Campers learned how to “**Keep Calm & Camp On**” with this year’s focus on flexibility, composure, and of course resiliency. A mix of counselors, campers, campfires, competitions, and crafts built an OMK family on Kelleys Island! Campers and parents alike claim that the best part of camp is that for most, CKI is the one time a year our military kids have to create unforgettable memories with other military youth.

A quick recap includes:

- **266 campers** ages 9 to 15 years old.
- **70 camp counselors**, with 50% from military families.
- **48 military service** members from 3 branches, staff, and volunteers supporting operations, programs, and wellness.

“I’ve been to these military kid camps since I was 7 years old and back then I never realized how much these camps have help shape me into who I am today.” (Camper)
April was an exciting month for OMK. Around the state people celebrated Ohio’s military kids! Purple donuts, purple shirts, purple pins, purple everything! We even had an opportunity to head to the State House and speak to the Ohio House of Representatives. Several OMK youth shared their stories and OMK received an official proclamation that April was Month of the Military Child. While there OMK honored our 2013 Military Child of the Year, Joel Rieck, an outstanding OMK camper, camp counselor, and friend. Joel models the type of grit, positive attitude, and leadership we hope all OMK youth can have, not in spite of being the child of a service member, but because they are.

“I have gained leadership skills I never thought possible, and have really learned what it means to give back to the military community.” (Volunteer)

This year OMK co-hosted events with several local programs and organizations around Ohio and it was awesome! This new model for offering events to military families helps better serve our families by:

• Connecting military families to other local military families, which increases the likelihood for long-term encouraging relationships
• Allowing the local community to better demonstrate their appreciation and understanding for the area’s military families.
• Increasing the number of events OMK can offer each year!

This means more families are involved, more resources are shared, and more military families become stronger.

Through hands-on activities our teens explored what it takes to be a strong leader no matter what the setting. We scrutinized past and present historical and pop-culture leaders for their good and bad attributes, and identified what it takes to create change. We talked about the power of influence for good or bad impact. And, with the help of mouse traps, marble tubes, and miles of trails, we improved our communication and problem solving skills, and challenged our assumptions, perceptions, and habits.

Mud Fights • Rain Storms • Cave Adventures
Raised $268,000 in grants and $100,000 in donations to support our programs

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MARINE CORPS FAMILY SUPPORT COMMUNITY
U.S. ARMY CHILD, YOUTH & SCHOOL SERVICES
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Plus donations from many generous individuals!
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DONATE NOW!
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The Ohio Operation: Military Kids partnership is a shared initiative of the U.S. Army Child, Youth & School (CYS) Services and funded by the Army National Guard and Army Reserve in collaboration with Ohio State University Extension.

Graphic Design by
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