

Since 2006, Ohio Military Kids has been organizing a week-long camp on Kelleys Island. OMK offers two simultaneous residential camps with over 70 youth counselors and 40 civilian and military adult staff members. This camping experience brings military youth from all over the state to participate in community service, build relationships with their peers who share similar experiences, learn resiliency, develop habits for healthy living, and instill pride in being a military kid.



*Two camp counselors are finishing up training the night before the campers arrive for OMK Camp Kelleys Island. The counselors arrive 2 days prior to the campers arrival to go through training and to bond as a team.*

### **CAMP KELLEYS ISLAND**

Are you ready to take your camp counseling skills to the next level? Meet new people from across the state? Give back to those who serve our country? Be part of something great? If the answer is yes, then you may have what it takes to serve as a counselor for Ohio Military Kids Camp Kelleys Island!



We recruit both military and nonmilitary youth to be volunteer counselors at OMK Camp Kelleys Island. The minimum age to be a counselor is 15 and we accept young adults up through college age. Camp counseling experience is not required, but it is strongly recommended.

Applications for Camp Kelleys Island goes live in January and are active through March. Once the applicant fills out the application, a member of the OMK team will reach out to schedule an interview and share any other paperwork that might be needed to be turned in before counselor selections happen in the first part of April.

 **THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

**Ohio Military Kids**  
Nationwide & Ohio Farm  
Bureau 4-H Center Room 321  
2201 Fred Taylor Dr.  
Columbus, OH 43210-1156  
Phone: 614-292-3758

[omk@osu.edu](mailto:omk@osu.edu)  
[go.osu.edu/OMK](http://go.osu.edu/OMK)

**CFAES**

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

# **VOLUNTEERING WITH OHIO MILITARY KIDS**



# REQUIREMENTS TO VOLUNTEER WITH OMK

Ohio Military Kids is conducted in cooperation between the Ohio State University Extension, Ohio 4-H program, and Ohio National Guard. OMK's goal is to connect military children and youth with local resources in order to achieve a sense of community support and enhance their well-being. The minimum age to volunteer is 15.

Some our events don't require you to have a background check (one-day events where you don't have direct supervision of kids) and some events do (one day events where you have direct supervision of kids or staying overnight at an event). Background checks consist of criminal check (National Sex Offender database) Ohio BCI (finger scan print) FBI (finger scan print). If you are interested in volunteering for a specific event, the volunteer coordinator will send you information regarding what type of paperwork is needed and any type of background check you might need. In order to be put on our list for volunteers, please fill out the application.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OMKNewVolunteer>



Each year, Ohio National Guard and Ohio 4-H Youth Development comes together to recognize OMK's volunteers for their outstanding work. Pictured is Major General Mark E. Bartman, The Adjutant General, Ohio National Guard along with Theresa M. Ferrari, PhD, Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development on the right, with one of OMK's volunteers.

## TYPE OF EVENTS

Ohio Military Kids organizes many different events throughout the year and throughout Ohio. These events can range from a few hours during a day, to a week long youth camp at Kelleys Island. Below is a more of a description of what each event is like.



**HERO Camps-** are one-day events for youth age 5-12 years of age. These events usually take place at a science center, equine facility, or a college or university.

**Family Overnight-** is an overnight stay at either a zoo, science center, or other educational facility where the family will enjoy programming taught by the facility staff.

**Family Camps-** is a weekend getaway for Ohio military families. They enjoy the outdoors, while doing camp-related activities.

**One Day Family Events-** is a one-day camaraderie event to bring our military families together for a day of fun.

**Camp Kelleys Island-** see the back for details about how you can volunteer for this event.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Administrative work-** this could include, but not limited to, check in/out, sorting or filing paperwork, etc.
- **Supervision of youth-** when parents aren't around, kids need to be accounted for their attendance and behavior. This could also include playing board games or talking to the youth before an event starts.
- **Photography-** take photos of the event to capture the fun that participants are having. Photography background isn't a must. Cameras are provided at each event.
- **Oversee stations-** such as crafts, food and beverage, STEM activities, etc.
- **Marketing-** even if you can't volunteer at events, you can spread the word to your community, civic organizations, or social media.
- **Medical-** there are times when OMK is in need of medical support at our events such as medics or nurses. In order to be considered as medical support, you must be licensed in Ohio and carry your own (*not through your employer*) professional liability insurance policy.

**Call to action**