

# Operation: **Military Kids**



**...military families in our own backyard**

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When National Guard, Army Reserve and other military parents living in civilian communities are mobilized, their children suddenly have unique needs for special support and services. Now they are “military kids” but they still “look the same” to teachers, friends and the rest of the community. Their lives are turned upside down!

Many of their usual support systems may no longer be adequate. Extensive media coverage of on-going military operations creates daily anxiety. These “suddenly” military kids need to connect with other youth in similar situations. They seek friends and adults who can empathize and can help them cope with their new world.

Schools, 4-H Programs, Boys and Girls Clubs, Veterans Organizations, Businesses, Child Care Providers, and other community groups are reaching out to military youth... **Before, During** and **After** their parents are deployed. This outreach effort is called Operation: **Military Kids**.

## Operation: **Military Kids**

- Creates state and local community support networks for military youth when Soldier parents are deployed.
- Uses state, community and military resources to connect children and youth and their families with helpful people and organizations in their hometown.
- Delivers a wide range of recreational, social and educational programs for military youth living in civilian communities.
- Acknowledges the strengths and sacrifices of military kids as everyday home front heroes through Hero Packs and special recognition events.
- Supports military kids coping with the stress of knowing their deployed parents may be in harm’s way.
- Educates the public on the impact of the deployment cycle on Soldiers, families, kids and the community as a whole.

Visit [www.operationmilitarykids.org](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org)  
for more information about  
Operation: **Military Kids**.

