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## Camp planned for kids of deployed military

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Children with a parent who has deployed or is awaiting deployment in the U.S. military service have a summer camp designed just for them.

A Georgia 4-H military partnership provides a week of activities for children whose parents serve in any military branch. The camp will be held in north Georgia near Dahlonega at the Wahsega 4-H Center.

Held from July 11-15, campers can participate in high-ropes courses, river tubing and mountain hiking programs, 4-H state coordinator Mandy Marable said. This is the first year of the program designed to help improve communication to children about military deployment.

"We are thrilled for the University of Georgia College Agricultural and Environmental Science to be doing this," Marable said of the camp.

In addition to UGA, partners include the National 4-H Headquarters, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Child and Youth Services and U.S. Air Force family member programs.

Marable said she is hoping for 120 children to participate in this year's program.

Royce James, a Bibb County extension agent, said the program is designed to offer support to military families. The program helps young children deal with media images of war and allows them to discuss problems they may not feel comfortable talking about at home.

"It's a program with joint efforts from national programs," James said. "It tries to be a buffer for families where kids are involved in parents being deployed."

James, coordinator of 4-H youth in Bibb County, said applications for the camp are available at the Macon office at 736 Riverside Drive. Residents in other counties can contact their respective cooperative extension service for applications or visit the Web site [www.georgia4h.org](http://www.georgia4h.org).

Applicants' birth date must be between July 15, 1989, and July 11, 1992. The deadline is July 1 with a \$25 application fee.

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