



2020 Annual Report

Contents

- 4 ◀ *Youth Development Projects and 4-H Military Clubs*
- 5 ◀ *Air Force Report*
- 9 ◀ *Army Report*
- 11 ◀ *Navy Report*
- 13 ◀ *State Efforts – Beyond Sub-Awards*
- 15 ◀ *Professional Development and Technical Assistance*
- 16 ◀ *4-H Conferences*
- 16 ◀ *Continuing the Connection*

Introduction

Beginning in 1995, the United States Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture partnered with the Army, Navy, and Air Force to create 4-H clubs and opportunities on and off installations to bring positive youth development experiences to youth wherever the military takes them.

This mission-focused project aims to cultivate collaborations with educational institutions, non-governmental and community-based organizations, and other groups with expertise in early childhood education, youth development, or related fields to support the family support programs, workforce development, and child care and youth development expansion needs of the Department of Defense.

Through this partnership between NIFA and Military Community & Family Policy (MC&FP) at DoD, programs and training support military youth, families, and communities as well as non-military audiences. NIFA engages with land-grant university and Cooperative Extension faculty and staff to:

- Increase and strengthen community capacity in support of military families
- Increase professional development and workforce development opportunities
- Expand and strengthen family, child care, & youth development programs

The partnership consists of multi-faceted efforts supported by collaborations. These efforts include:

- ★ The **4-H Military Partnership Outreach and Support Program** is funded through the Army, Navy, and Air Force in partnership with USDA-NIFA and 4-H. Kansas State University administers this effort through 4-H Military Liaisons and other land-grant partners in each state. 4-H clubs and experiences allow youth on installations and in communities worldwide to participate in:
 - ★ 4-H projects including civic engagement, healthy living, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and focus on leadership and community service activities in a safe and fun environment. As military-connected youth transfer from installation to installation, they can easily make connections through local 4-H club programs in their new communities.
 - ★ 4-H and land-grant university extension professionals provide military partners with professional development training and positive youth development curricula to help youth engage in 4-H projects.



4-H Military Partnership

For More Information Contact:
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington DC
<https://nifa.usda.gov/program/4-h-positive-youth-development>



This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and K-State Research and Extension, Kansas State University, under special project number 2016-41520-25892.



Some photos used in the Annual Report were taken before the COVID-19 global pandemic and before face coverings and physical distancing became common practices. In all photos that have been taken during the pandemic, people are wearing face coverings and practicing social distancing.

◀ *On the cover: Through the 4-H Military Partnership, military-connected youth have the opportunity to attend camps where they can participate in outdoor challenge adventures, leadership courses, and team-building initiatives.*

★ **Military Teen Adventure Camps** result from a partnership funded by the Department of Defense between the Office of Military Community and Family Policy and USDA-NIFA through a grant/cooperative agreement with Purdue University. Land-grant institutions across the country utilize this funding to offer adventure camp opportunities to youth from military families representing all branches. These experiences build the teens' leadership, self-confidence, and teamwork skills while engaging with the outdoors. Current camp offerings are available at: <https://ag.purdue.edu/extension/adventurecamps/Pages/default.aspx>

★ **Project YES!** (Youth Extension Service) is a national internship program designed to meet the unique needs of National Guard and Reserve Component military youth impacted by deployment. Administered by North Carolina State University and supported by a partnership between USDA-NIFA and the DoD Office of Employer Programs and Policy, Project YES combines the needs of military-connected youth impacted by deployments with college interns looking to deepen their knowledge and gain real-world experience working with youth and teens. Read more at <https://www.projectyouthextension.com>.

★ **Military CYFAR** — Professional Development and Technical Assistance is funded by USDA-NIFA and administered by North Carolina State University. The purpose of this project is to support the implementation and capacity of the 4-H Military Partnership Outreach and Support Program in addition to supporting capacity-building and network enhancement for Extension programs in all fifty states. By working with Extension professionals and military direct service workers and training coordinators in child and youth programs on installations worldwide and with guard and reserve partners, these resources allow for leveraging of existing assets to design and implement innovative approaches to support military families.

These programs focus on providing opportunities for military-connected youth and professionals to engage in intentional learning experiences. Military-connected youth are at risk from various stressors, including repeated and lengthy deployments of immediate family members, frequent relocations, and other military life challenges. As military families experience deployment and reintegration difficulties, opportunities such as these efforts can provide predictable programming and a safe and nurturing environment.

While all states are working hard to provide programs and opportunities to military-connected youth, this annual report contains information on 4-H Military Partnership Outreach and Support efforts and only includes a few examples of the great work happening across the Project. The collaborative efforts of the Land-Grant University System and the military service branches provide positive youth development opportunities for our military-connected youth and make it possible for our men and women of the Armed Forces to remain mission ready.

Thank you to all for your commitment to our nation's military and our military-connected youth.



Meredith Butler
4-H Military Partnership, Project Director
Kansas State University



Youth Development Projects and 4-H Military Clubs — 4-H Military Partnership Outreach and Support

By the numbers

Outreach and support

28 STATES

Provided service

\$670,000+

Awarded to provide services and opportunities within the states and abroad

1,580+

Volunteers that contributed their time (estimated value at more than \$437,000)

Through the support of Outreach and Support Project funding made available by military service branches, 4-H Extension educators nationwide expand and refine their expertise in engaging with military culture. Because of the 4-H Military Partnership, military youth benefit by participating in 4-H programming on installations and in local communities, wherever they may live. When military service members know their children are in quality programs, they can focus on mission readiness.

In Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20), the Project awarded more than \$670K to twenty-eight states to provide services and opportunities for military-connected youth in the states and abroad. More than 27,500 military-connected youth participated in 4-H opportunities through this funding. More than 1,240 military child and youth professionals increased their capacity to help youth develop life skills through 4-H positive youth development training. More than 1,580 volunteers contributed their time and attention, valued at over \$437K, to ensure the project's success.

During FY20, the COVID-19 pandemic forced Project partners to rethink and reshape efforts in many ways. The pandemic required new and innovative approaches for how 4-H Extension professionals supported the Partnership's mission. Despite the pandemic, 4-H Extension professionals and volunteers:

- ★ Created opportunities for military-connected youth to participate in 4-H opportunities.
- ★ Provided professional development and training for military child and youth professionals to increase their capacity to help youth develop life skills through 4-H positive youth development.
- ★ Contributed their time and attention to ensure the success of the Project.

This annual report includes examples of how 4-H Extension professionals worked to meet the social, emotional, and mental well-being of military-connected youth while sheltering at home or during state and installation restrictions.

While all states work to provide 4-H programming and opportunities to military-connected youth, data included in this Annual Report reflects only the states that received sub-awards through Outreach and Support funding. There is currently no standard way of reporting military-connected youth involvement in 4-H programs in every state. However, the 4-H Military Partnership Working Group is working on this effort for future reporting needs.



▲ Idaho youth during an Air Force camp witness a C-5 Galaxy in operation.



CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

AIR FORCE

In a year that looked like no other, the Air Force 4-H Partnership continued to provide opportunities for youth to engage in meaningful educational experiences, develop life skills, and contribute to their community. When virtual platforms replaced in-person events and programs, 4-H was still only one click away. Air Force youth participated in virtual 4-H clubs and camps, teens attended the virtual 4-H National STEM Summit, and Child and Youth Programs staff joined several online professional development sessions offered by 4-H Cooperative Extension.

The Air Force 4-H Partnership continued to support state grants and Air Force 4-H camps to expand program options and enhance 4-H programming on installations and in communities to serve Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard families. This year the Air Force 4-H Partnership reached more youth — in part due to virtual offerings and the creative programming of 4-H Educators and Child and Youth Programs professionals. Military-connected youth engaged in 4-H online activities to connect with others, learn new skills, and become part of the 4-H community.

No matter the challenge, the Air Force 4-H Partnership is committed to providing positive learning experiences to help military-connected youth grow and thrive in any situation. Air Force Child and Youth Programs is proud of the long-standing partnership with 4-H and looks forward to continued collaboration in the future.

FY20 FOCUS AREAS

Air Force Child and Youth Program (CYP) leaders identify focus areas for programming efforts both on and off installations annually. For FY20, these focus areas included STEM, Leadership/Civic Engagement, Healthy Living, and College/ Career Preparation. 4-H Military Liaisons and 4-H County Educators work to meet these focus areas in many different ways, including traditional 4-H clubs, special 4-H projects, professional development opportunities for Air Force CYP professionals, and 4-H exposure events.

FY20 Air Force 4-H Camps

In addition to camps operated through several states under Project Outreach efforts, the Air Force 4-H Partnership funded twelve 4-H camps in eleven states for Air Force, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve youth and families. Despite challenges faced with closures due to the worldwide pandemic, two camps were able to move forward with plans during FY20. Oklahoma State University 4-H hosted a Family STEM camp, and the University of Idaho 4-H offered several weeks of educational day camps at Gowen Field Air National Guard Base. These two camps reached **ninety-nine** Air Force connected participants, provided unique learning experiences, and encouraged continued growth and development in communication, self-efficacy, competence, relationship development, critical thinking, goal setting, and responsibility.

By the numbers

Data details

27,597

Total number of Air Force youth served (does not include Camps)

★ **16,875** On installations
11 States increased the number served in FY20 from previous year

★ **10,722** Off installations
21 States increased the number served in FY20 from previous year

1,262

Total AFCYP professionals reached through 4-HMPOS training events

★ **919** CYP staff on installations
★ **343** Guard/Research staff off installations

These numbers do not include training events supported or offered through Partnership CYFAR dollars (see page XX for more details)

\$437,593

Estimated value of volunteer hours from 1,518 adult and youth volunteers providing more than 16,000 hours of service to the project



“With everything our country is experiencing and our family navigating a deployment together, we felt as a family we needed the opportunity to connect with other military families. We needed a reset button and we needed to step outside our usual routine to experience something new together. The AF 4-H STEM Camp provided an opportunity for our family to connect.”

▲ Campers shared reasons they choose to attend Oklahoma 4-H’s Family STEM Camp

Other camps initially funded for FY20 were either redesigned as virtual options or will be offered as previously planned once it is safe to do so in Fiscal Year 2021.

Air Force CYP is proud of the long-standing partnership with 4-H and appreciates the work of dedicated Extension professionals around the country who provide 4-H camp opportunities for military youth.

Air Force 4-H Youth Development Specialist: 2020

North Carolina State University supports the Air Force 4-H Partnership efforts and connects Child and Youth Programs professionals with 4-H resources and opportunities. In 2020, online resources and virtual programs became paramount to support Air Force youth and CYP professionals. Air Force teens attended the virtual 4-H National Youth STEM Summit, participated in virtual 4-H camps, and utilized 4-H at Home and other digital materials to expand learning opportunities. CYP professionals engaged in virtual 4-H training, including the Staying Connected, Advancing Together forum, the National 4-H Volunteer Conference, and many other professional offerings developed by Land-grant universities. Throughout the tumultuous year, 4-H continued to create opportunities for youth to gain a sense of belonging, master new skills, give back to the community, and grow more resilient and confident. The Air Force 4-H Partnership is readily available to meet the diverse needs of Air Force youth, teens, and CYP professionals.



Air Force 4-H Partnership in Action — State Efforts at a Glance

Colorado State University Extension 4-H: 2020 and Beyond — Integrating 4-H Mission Mandates into Air Force Child and Youth Programs

America faces a future of intense global competition with a startling shortage of scientists, suggesting a great need for science and technology professionals. Air Force Child and Youth Programs (CYP) and 4-H have both prioritized science/STEM education to help youth and our society meet the needs of the 21st century. In FY20, **fifty-five** Air Force CYP professionals participated in an all-day 4-H STEM training. Training post-survey results showed that staff who attended the training increased the confidence needed to successfully implement the 4-H Energy initiative in their Air Force school-age programs. An "Imagine Science" grant from National 4-H Council to Colorado State University 4-H also contributed to support this event.

University of Delaware Extension 4-H: Nutrition, Cooking, and Fitness

Overweight and obesity lead to chronic health conditions such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, orthopedic problems, and liver disease — even among youth. Delaware 4-H continues to teach healthy living, nutrition and cooking, and fitness skills to military-connected school-aged youth. During FY20, cooking classes were held weekly on Dover Air Force Base (pre-COVID-19) for multiple age groups. During post-COVID-19 restrictions, **twenty-three** youth received supplies and instruction from Delaware 4-H Extension professionals through Zoom while remaining safe at home. During these lessons, youth engaged in physical activity to demonstrate the importance and interconnection of nutrition and fitness. Lessons also included being mindful while eating versus simply eating without awareness out of boredom or stress relief.

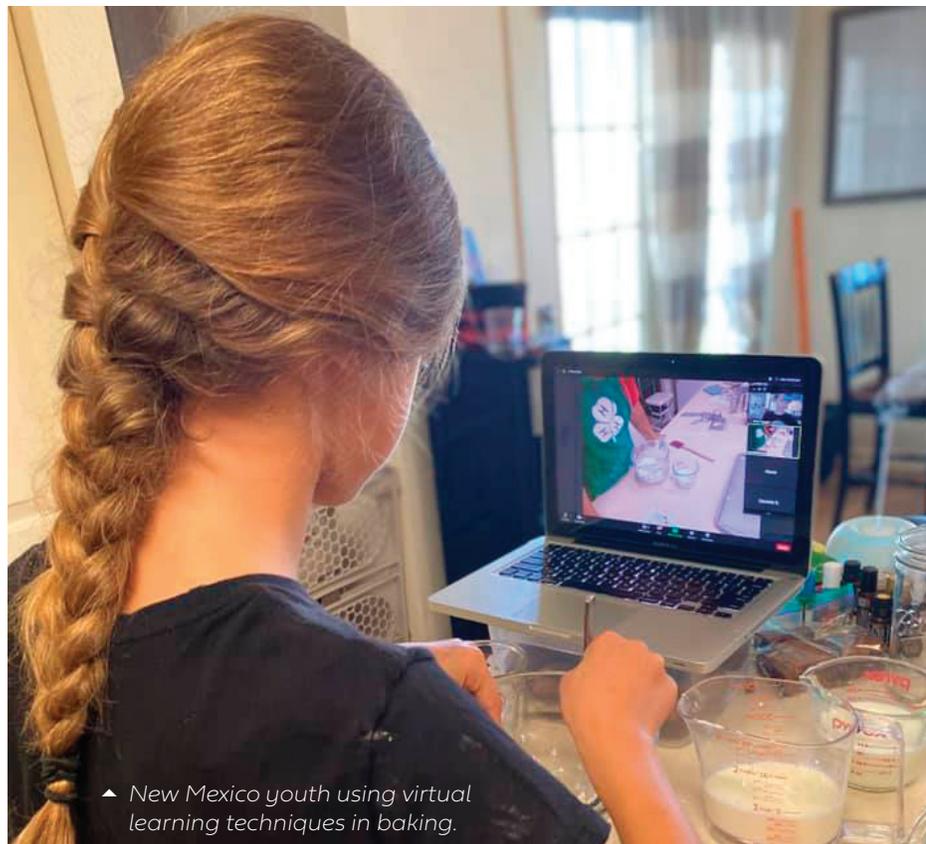
New Mexico State University Extension 4-H: International Night

In February of 2020, **eight** teens from Kirtland Air Force Base participated in the Bernalillo County 4-H International Night. This educational event allows 4-H clubs from around the county to select different countries to explore and then display their newfound knowledge to other members and the public. Each club decorates an eight-by-eight-foot booth with culturally appropriate visuals, including pictures of the landscape, artifacts, and other decorations significant to their selected country. To prepare for International Night, **twenty** teens from Kirtland Air Force Base Youth Programs held an international showcase during their club meeting. Each teen selected a country of interest and displayed it to the club at the following meeting. Once all of the members had showcased their country, the teens voted on which country they would like to showcase at the International Night event. More than four hundred people attended

the main event. Clubs were judged on culturally appropriate decorations, knowledge of the country, ability to answer questions about their country, and the food, game, or craft representative of their country. The Kirtland Flyers Teen Club received an education score of 94 percent and were also awarded Best Culturally Relevant Decoration/Costume. In today's ever-changing and globalized world, our youth must learn to appreciate other cultures. The 4-H International Night seeks to help youth learn about different cultures and foster a deeper global awareness and understanding of the world around them. Learning these skills early on as a 4-H member will profoundly affect their lives in the twenty-first century.

Utah State University Extension 4-H: Teens as Teachers

Geographically dispersed military-connected youth may not experience the common community feelings associated with residing on or close to an installation. In fact, they may live in communities where they are one of only a few military-connected families. Programs that bring geographically dispersed youth together provide opportunities for them to connect and work together, especially when a parent is deployed. During FY20, Utah 4-H organized a 4-H Air Force Teens as Teachers Club to provide youth the opportunity to contribute to their community. Participants were challenged to design a project focusing on bullying prevention or mental health awareness. As a response, teens developed social media campaigns on bullying, and a video series on mental health, indicating that the experience taught them about communication and mental health. One youth shared, *"I loved being a part of the Teens as Teachers program. I got out of my comfort zone having to write scripts and recording the videos. I learned a lot about mental health in youth, how it is affecting all youth, and ways to cope with mental health difficulties. Being part of this program has pushed me to be more involved with other military youth and give back to my community."*



▲ New Mexico youth using virtual learning techniques in baking.

Pandemic Response

Like all other life areas, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted planned programming for Air Force 4-H Outreach and Support efforts globally. 4-H programs worldwide stepped up to the challenges of meeting the needs of youth by adapting what has always been an in-person approach to providing resources virtually.



University of Arkansas Extension 4-H: Virtual Camps for Geographically Dispersed Youth

The Arkansas 4-H camping program took steps to keep the flames alive for youth — but doing so virtually. For twenty-four weeks, Arkansas 4-H offered Virtual Camps through Facebook and Zoom to **fifty-three** Air Force youth dispersed around the state. They even brought the campfire online by broadcasting *Fourth Friday Virtual Campfires* live from a fire pit at the camp coordinator's home! Zooming

around the virtual campfire was an opportunity for the campers to share what they created and accomplished during other virtual opportunities. Participation rates for these camps were high, as Air Force youth could Zoom in alongside their peers to experience these opportunities together. Arkansas 4-H mailed supplies to participants to create crafts, engage in activities together, and have a sense of unity while located in the state's farthest corners.

University of Connecticut Extension 4-H: 4-H STEM Kits

As physical distancing due to the pandemic's precautions became the norm, we had to find a way to provide families with quality 4-H programs and keep our geographically dispersed families feeling connected — not just to 4-H but to their military community. We created 4-H STEM kits to mail to families with youth between 5 and 12-years-old as our response to this need. These kits were a phenomenal success! Through this effort we reached **129** Air Guard and Army Guard youth with a series of engaging, educational activities that promoted hands-on learning and appeal for all ages. Approximately 90 percent of the families who received the first kit opted to continue receiving additional kits, which provided them with consistent, repeated exposure to 4-H programs since March 2020. Due to this effort's success, Connecticut 4-H decided to continue this project for as long as we are able. With resources at a premium and virtual programs shattering physical boundaries, new partnerships were formed. Massachusetts 4-H began offering a virtual 4-H babysitter's class and generously opened their program to CT Air Guard and National Guard teens. Since the UConn 4-H Military Partnership Program provided the teens with the curriculum and a Babysitter's Magic Bag and supplies, MA 4-H waived their registration fees for our teens. The Partnership for this program is firmly cemented for the future, and the instructors are eager to use the newly updated curriculum. The UConn 4-H Military Partnership Program is proud of how we collaborated with our partners to pivot our programs and continue having a successful impact on our geographically dispersed Air Force families.

University of Illinois Extension 4-H: Building Resiliency — Youth Mental Health

Youth of military families face many challenges due to deployments and worries and concerns that they frequently bury inside in anticipation of not knowing when their service member parent will be called away. During the pandemic, many military families experienced the added stress of being isolated from their friends. Implementation of the *Your Thoughts Matter* program as a virtual 4-H experience created an alternative way for geographically dispersed military youth to connect in a safe environment where they could share their concerns and worries and better understand how to process these feelings. **Eighteen** Air Force-connected youth were involved in a six-week virtual group experience during which they learned what mental health means and its impact on those around us; explored the differences among common but serious mental health disorders; discussed how society communicates about this issue in casual speech and in the media; and gained an understanding of self-help strategies and how to reach out for support from others.

Oklahoma State University Extension 4-H: Healthy Living through COVID-19

The Oklahoma 4-H Military Partnership Program refused to be held back by COVID-19 when it comes to Healthy Living. Programming may have moved to a virtual format, but 4-H Educators creatively continued to teach youth to be healthy and happy. Tinker Air Force Base 4-H quickly moved to implement 4-H Fridays. 4-H healthy life skills were emphasized and practiced virtually. Tinker CYP staff assembled "At Home Spa Day Face Mask Kits" for teen and school-aged youth members to pick up curbside. 4-H and Child and Youth Programs staff facilitated lessons via Zoom & Facebook Live, modeling how to make the mask using the supplied kits and materials. Youth gained a greater understanding of relaxation and mindfulness while enjoying their spa day. This valuable skill can help youth reduce anxiety and stress during this unusual time of social distancing.

Louisiana State University Extension 4-H: You Can't Hold Us Back!

FY20 has been a tough year for everyone. But for Louisiana, the Covid-19 pandemic and hurricanes dealt an even larger blow to our statewide 4-H programs. Camps, events, activities, and field trips were canceled, and schools shut their doors and went virtual. Knowing that 4-H builds skills with "hands-on" experiences, Louisiana 4-H went virtual to reach our youth across the state and beyond. Louisiana 4-H offered professional development training events for Air Force Child and Youth Programs (CYP) staff, including lessons on STEM, Healthy Living, Citizenship, Program Management, and Positive Youth Development. 4-H offered the training and curriculum virtually, including *Living Your Financial Experience* (LYFE) (9th–12th graders), *Stand Strong* (5th–8th graders), *Incubating Education* (3rd–8th graders), and *Louisiana Cloverbuds* as part of Louisiana's work to reach our volunteers. Following COVID-19 guidelines, a two-day sewing camp was held at Barksdale Air Force Base Youth Center. **Six campers, one CYP volunteer, one teen state 4-H leadership board volunteer, and one 4-H Extension Agent** worked together to complete projects. A parent stated that her daughter "had a fantastic time at camp" and "came home each day, proudly, talking about the projects that were done."



UNITED STATES ARMY
CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES

ARMY

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Army Child and Youth Services (CYS) turned to the 4-H Military Partnership for activities and programs offered through Cooperative Extension. We were able to develop a plethora of information to support families teaching their children at home. 4-H Extension was one of the first to create virtual staff training that our staff could access at a convenient time, no matter where in the world they were. Lastly, 4-H Youth Development realized the importance of supporting children and youth's mental health needs as the pandemic lasted far longer than anyone has experienced. Cooperative Extension staff offered to teach current programs. One land-grant university developed a program specific to Army needs that provided management and staff the knowledge they needed to identify risk factors and respond when a child expressed suicide ideation. 4-H is flexible and responsive. Families can count on 4-H to be available no matter where in the world they may be.

Army Menu Initiative

Through project funding dedicated by Army CYS, Kansas State University works to develop and provide updates and adjustments for standardized menus, including seasonal five-week cycle menus for child development centers, school-age centers, and youth centers. Menus, which meet the requirements of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for meal components, include standardized recipes and critical control points. All menus include nutrient analysis, production calculators, and cooking projects for 3-to-5-year-olds. In addition to the development of these menus, K-State provides: tools to aid cooks in cost-efficient food production and kitchen management; standardized professional training for staff with food and nutrition-related duties to improve the delivery of meals and snacks; and nutrition education for children in support of a healthy and fit lifestyle and to combat the childhood obesity crisis in America.

Training sessions were planned for April and June 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 related travel ban, these training sessions were canceled and rescheduled as two-day virtual training events, which will begin in Fiscal Year 2021. Planning for these training events includes the development of the lesson plans; development and testing of recipes for the hands-on portion of the training; updating of PowerPoint slides; piloting of the virtual delivery platform; coordinating with supporting instructors and the Child and Youth Services Nutritionist; booking space for the demonstration portion of the training; developing feedback collection tools; hiring of student workers to support the virtual training.

Wounded Warrior and Deployment Camps

During Fiscal Year 2020, Kansas State University hired an Army Grant Specialist to develop and implement the Request for Application (RFA) process for the Army Wounded Warrior and Army Deployed Soldier Youth Camps. While the pandemic slowed down the release of the RFA by several months, the Grant Specialist met with Army CYS leadership, Search Institute, land-grant universities, and veteran organizations more intentionally. These meetings allowed for building rapport between partners and contractors, essential in planning, implementing, and executing this award.

The release of the RFA came in July 2020, approximately three months delayed due to the ongoing pandemic. The Project received applications from nine state land-grant universities, resulting in seven Wounded Warrior camps and seven deployment camps. The total amount awarded for these camps was just under \$800,000.

Instructor Guide

4-H/Army Child & Youth Services

I have what it takes to be **YOUR Teen Babysitter**



Babysitting Curriculum

After years of planning and reviewing, the 4-H/Army Child and Youth Services revised curriculum — *I have what it takes to be YOUR Teen Babysitter* — was made available to all Project partners. This curriculum guide is designed to help middle school and teenaged youth learn what it takes to be a responsible, caring, trustworthy, competent, capable, and safe babysitter. The curriculum is divided into eight chapters where teens learn about the ages and stages of child growth and development, safety, food and nutrition, how to handle emergencies, appropriate activities to implement with children, and the business of babysitting. Since the release of the revision in October 2020, this curriculum has had the highest number of views on the Project website (<https://4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/resources/educator-resources/youth-babysitting>).

Development of 4-H Youth Development Specialist

At the end of Fiscal Year 2020, Army CYS determined it could provide funding to support the addition of a 4-H Youth Development Specialist to enhance Project efforts. The Air Force and Navy have supported 4-H Youth Development Specialist positions for several years. Army leaders and the 4-H Military Partnership Project Team decided to support Army Child and Youth Services with a dedicated professional to mirror the other services' efforts. The Army 4-H Youth Development Specialist will begin efforts in Fiscal Year 2021.

Development of Suicide Ideation Training

During the pandemic that began in March 2020, CYS facilities, land-grant universities, and all programming providers pivoted to maintain training efforts in a virtual world. The pandemic flipped the world of education and early childhood education upside down. As the pandemic continued, there was an increase in youth suicides and youth suicide attempts. Army CYS leaders asked the Project to develop training for CYS professionals on suicide ideation training. K-State's Couple and Family Therapy Program immediately accepted and began developing the training series and plans to pilot the information for a select group starting in Fiscal Year 2021.

Army 4-H Partnership in Action — State Efforts at a Glance

Cornell University Extension 4-H: Summer Programming Efforts

Jefferson County 4-H offered a plethora of programming, both in-person and virtual, during the summer of 2020. Programming included an evening astronomy program, virtual summer reading camp, environmental science club, virtual animal science club, environmental expeditions program, and a virtual Minecraft club. **Fifty-five** Army youth participated in these programs, each participating in six to thirty hours of hands-on virtual and in-person programming.

New York 4-H also offered a three-part camp-in-a-box program during the summer of 2020, including *Outdoor Adventures*, *Nature Exploration*, and *Tech Camp*. Each box included all the materials and instructions needed for more than ten hours of hands-on learning. **120** Army youth participated in the summer camp-in-a-box program where they engaged in seven hours of virtual programming.



NAVY

Navy Child and Youth Programs (CYP) provide high-quality educational and recreational programs for military and Department of Defense (DoD) children and youth ages six weeks to seventeen years. Navy CYP's system of care serves 200,000 military children and youth each year via our network of 238 child development and youth program facilities worldwide. All 104 Navy Youth Centers offer 4-H programs throughout the year to ensure military and DoD families receive a consistent, first-class experience at every Navy CYP they attend. The consistency that 4-H programming brings to each Navy CYP worldwide allows military and DOD families to rest assured that their children are safe, well cared for, and thriving in high-quality child care and recreational programs. And when military and DoD families are confident that their children are safe and in good care, they can better concentrate on fulfilling their military and defense support responsibilities, which Navy CYP could not achieve without 4-H.

The Navy 4-H Military Partnership ensures Navy CYPs can access positive youth development curricula, staff training, and technical assistance services from Extension. The availability of 4-H programs in every county throughout the United States supports geographically dispersed youth and installation youth in various 4-H activities.

Professional Development

In addition to the local professional development offerings from county 4-H programs and State 4-H Military Liaisons, ninety Navy CYP professionals learned alongside others working with youth as part of the 4-H Military Partners Conference and the 4-H Volunteers of Southern States. With dozens of sessions recorded, learning expanded as other staff could view the sessions and share the information to enhance programming.

The Navy 4-H Youth Program Specialist offered several virtual training sessions, including recordings and reflection guides. Sessions included ideas for programming in civic engagement, healthy living, and STEM as well as guidance for meeting the needs of different aged learners, 4-H curricula use, positive youth development, and the essential elements. Through ongoing support and technical assistance in programs, 4-H provided resources to support Navy annual training as well as training for specific needs.

Pandemic Response

Supporting the changes in needs and programs, Navy CYP received links and resources to support virtual programming, at-home programming, and installation programming. With school-age and teen programs offering activities and programming in a variety of methods, the flexibility of 4-H activities provided resources and options for programs. Navy CYP social media pages highlighted 4-H virtual tours, 4-H virtual sessions, and 4-H at-home learning activities. Other 4-H programs offered specific programs for military-connected youth to support the time at home. In Connecticut, families registered through Naval Base New London MWR Library to pick up STEM activity kits every other week in the summer. Facebook live programming complimented the kits, and families participated in the 4-H Virtual Fair and Explorers Club. As installations looked for unique options to engage youth outdoors, Naval Air Station Jacksonville (Jax) created a community garden. School-agers put 4-H programming into action in planting and enjoying tomatoes, cucumbers, okra, and other vegetables throughout the summer. Connecting those school-agers not at the installation because of COVID-19, Jax offered gardening kits for pick up at the center. Following great experiences in the 4-H cooking club, Naval Station Mayport participated in Florida's 4-H Virtual Baking Contest.

Navy 4-H Partnership 4-H in Action — State Efforts at a Glance

Naval Submarine Station Kings Bay benefitted from the 4-H Military Partnership with added support from Camden Extension through their Georgia organics project. Participants received curriculum and seeds to grow turnips and other vegetables in their raised beds, including purple radish.



Through taking a virtual field trip, school-agers at Kings Bay loved creating their own sea turtle sanctuary drawings and exploring coastal adventures.



School-age 4-H club members volunteered at the thrift store at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. As one of the service-learning projects, 4-H'ers had a chance to practice generosity in cleaning, sorting, and assisting at the store.



Military-connected youth at Naval Base New London participated in six weeks of lessons in Reading Make Cents programming. Youth put their lessons into action earning tokens to pay for a field trip to the USS Constitution.

University of Florida Extension 4-H: Try a Day of Camp

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, NAS Jacksonville Youth Activities Center created a community garden to get the children outside and involved in outdoor activities. Youth worked in the garden daily performing various activities such as planting, pruning, watering, and maintaining the grounds. The gardeners planted tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and okra, among other things. The youth even participated in Arbor Day activities where they learned the basics of tree planting, maintenance, and planted a tree after instruction lead by CYP professionals. Virtual gardening programs provided gardening kits for Navy youth and families to pick up at the center. The gardening club continues to meet weekly to maintain the garden.



**4-H
Military
Partnership**

STATE EFFORTS

Beyond Sub-Awards

University of Hawaii Manoa Cooperative Extension 4-H: 4-H STEAM Day with Guard Youth

In February 2020, right before the pandemic shutdown, Hawaii 4-H Military Partnership hosted a 4-H STEAM Day with Hawaii Army and Air Force Guard youth. The forty youth in attendance spent the day on the University of Hawaii's campus, where they learned about connecting art and design with STEAM.

Younger youth learned about chemistry through a fun activity from 4-H STEM Lab called Fizzy Foam Fun. Youth experimented with ratios of ingredients and food coloring to create chemical reactions. Through trial and error, youth created foaming eruptions in different colors. Older youth had the opportunity to connect art with circuitry to make wearable art. After experimenting and creating their unique designs, the older youth then taught the younger youth how basic circuits worked and made light-up ladybug necklaces. Youth enjoyed the day of hands-on activities with peers. Youth had the opportunity to tinker, laugh, make messes, problem solve, and connect to STEAM learning through this experience. Through debriefing and post-program evaluation, Cloverbud youth (ages 5–8) showed that 100 percent like doing science experiments and desired to continue STEAM learning. One youth participant in this group said, *"I'm going to take these directions home and show my mom. She will be so surprised."* The older group had an opportunity to teach about their circuit and design project.

Ninety-eight percent successfully shared and demonstrated how circuits work and assisted younger youth with their necklaces. In post evaluation, this group showed that 90 percent think STEAM will be important for future careers. Youth left excited and with their STEAM project in hand to share what they learned with family and friends. *"When is the next time we get to come to 4-H and do more STEM?"* was a final goodbye from one participant, and then others chimed in, *"Yeah, when?"*



▲ Youth shows off her new ladybug necklace that she made with assistance from one of the older participants. Using older youth to teach and help younger youth allows for making connections to learning and connections to each other.



Professional Development and Technical Assistance

Military partners and USDA/NIFA/4-H consider professional development and technical assistance (PDTA) for staff important for creating opportunities where youth can develop life skills as they become self-directed, productive, and contributing adults. Through training and support, staff expand their resources for youth, delivery methods for activities, and their creativity for programming. State and local 4-H staff provide training events for military child and youth staff to better understand and implement positive youth development, essential elements of youth programs, and experiential learning. Through the network of Extension programs, military service staff working with active duty, guard and reserve have access to training and technical assistance. This network includes the support of local Extension educators who serve as trainers, facilitators, and supporters for staff, as well as the myriad of online resources available through Extension websites and social media.

During FY20, the 4-H Military Partnership supported professional development and technical assistance for both military service staff and Extension staff in a variety of ways. These efforts included training provided in specific areas to meet the requirements of grant funds, virtual efforts to meet the needs of staff and families in a global pandemic, and the ongoing work of connections built through the Partnership during its more than twenty-year history.

Training in Grant Funded Projects

During FY20, more than 1,240 child and youth program professionals participated in events and activities offered by twenty-eight states receiving funding through the 4-H Military Partnership & Outreach subawards. These projects focused specifically on the Taxonomies including Communication, Organizations, 4-H Program Management, Educational Design and Delivery, Interpersonal Characteristics, and Positive Youth Development. These programs offer staff opportunities to network and engage together while exploring the curricula and resources available through 4-H. Additionally, funding provided through USDA-NIFA's CYFAR project offered additional opportunities for military service and extension staff from all around the world to work together in professional development opportunities.

Virtual Programming Efforts

As staff were managing full workloads and very different working conditions, the 4-H Military Partnership created opportunities for staff to learn through online resources.

North Carolina State University offered three additional virtual trainings during FY20. Contemporary issues of virtual programming, supporting youth in a pandemic, and working with special needs participants were included in the series. Sessions provided time for question-and-answer discussions, small group conversations, and additional resources to support staff following the events. As with the conferences, sessions were recorded to create additional training availability.



Continuing the Connection

Chartering the 4-H Military Partnership Working Group

As the long-standing representatives of the 4-H Military Partnership in each administrative region, the 4-H Military Partnership Working Group advises many aspects of the 4-H Military Partnership. During FY20, North Carolina State University led the process to charter the working group through the National 4-H Program Leaders' Working Group. This charter ensures visibility within Extension 4-H programs and enhances networking for all military-related Extension programs. Through these efforts, 4-H military-connected programming has been invited to share updates at the National 4-H Program Leaders' meeting and to participate in discussion groups with state 4-H program leaders to further support and connect local 4-H programs to bases and installations in all service components.

Branding the Partnership

The CYFAR 4-H Military Partnership funding supported the agreement between Kansas State University and National 4-H Council to begin working on a plan to increase awareness of the partnership through brand building, storytelling, and technical assistance to improve marketing internally within the project and externally with military audiences.

By leveraging the 4-H brand campaign and National 4-H Council's marketing team's expertise, the collective voice clarifies the Project's relevance and simplifies marketing planning for greater reach and efficiency. This leveraged position also increases donor confidence and encourages additional investment and sponsorship for military partnership programs and the overall 4-H program.

Through this agreement, National 4-H Council will provide oversight and guidance while developing a new logo, a suite of core 4-H Military Partnership marketing materials, training for all partners on the new brand guidelines and message framework, managing the collection of images showcasing military-connected youth involved with 4-H programming, and producing two videos spotlighting military-connected youth or professionals.

Additionally, the agreement provides 4-H military content promotion via 4-H's owned channels, including Facebook, Twitter, 4-H Today Newsletter, and a CEO Blog Feature. Partners will also gain access to the 4-H Grows Investor Portal, including on-demand marketing training, seasonal brand toolkits, and more. Council will create a dedicated Dropbox account and page on their Marketing Online Resource Center (4-H.org/MORC) where partners can easily access all 4-H Military Partnership marketing materials.

The collaboration between the Project and National 4-H Council will continue through Fiscal Year 2021, with a performance period ending July 2021.

Extension 4-H Military Liaison

The Extension 4-H Military Liaison is an Extension professional, located in each state, D.C., and U.S. territory, who serves as a link between state extension programs, military service branches in their state, and 4-H National Headquarters located within USDA-NIFA. The Extension 4-H Military Liaison's focus is to coordinate, network, and facilitate programs and resources working with various partners at the university level, with military partners, and with partners across their states to support military families, and child and youth programming. They are the official point of contact for all 4-H military-connected youth programs in their state. You can find a list of current State 4-H Military Liaisons at <http://www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org/state-4-h-military-liaisons.html>

4-H Conferences

4-H Military Partners Conference

Though initially planned for an in-person event, the conference shifted to a virtual event, enabling many military service and Extension staff to gather and learn together in support of military-connected youth. Cost savings from venue, meals, and travel needs permitted the Project to open the training to more participants. Over 485 military-connected professionals and state 4-H Military Liaisons attended all or part of the two-day session. Over 195 additional professionals registered so they could receive the recorded presentations after the live training event.

The two-day virtual conference was designed through collaborative efforts between Kansas State University and North Carolina State University. Attendees were able to participate in six live Zoom sessions where they could learn more about *Moving Change Forward in Challenging Times*, *4-H Thriving Model: Connecting Youth to Thrive in Our Programs*, *Connecting with Teens Today: A View from the Experts*, *Advancing Together: A Guided Conversation*, *Connecting Your Brand — Telling Our Story*, and *What's Your Right Next Step?*

In addition to these live events, nine recorded sessions were made available to conference attendees. Recordings of all sessions remain online for ongoing professional education. <http://www.4-hmilitarypartnership.net/for-staff-volunteers.html>

National 4-H Volunteer Conference

Building on the success of online engagement and learning, the 4-H Military Partnership promoted and provided registration funds for military child and youth professionals and 4-H Military Liaisons to participate in the National 4-H Volunteer Conference. The conference is designed for volunteers to deliver programming to youth and works well to support our military service professionals as they deliver positive youth development programming. Registration was provided to more than **275** professionals working with military-connected youth. The virtual conference included forty-two workshops over the three-day event, keynote presentations, and recorded materials for all conference participants. Additionally, military service staff were able to share registration with others in their programs to expand the reach of training. During the conference, a group of Extension and military professionals met to discuss and brainstorm programming related to military-connected youth, exploring military-connected youth's characteristics and needs in 4-H programming.