

GREAT STORIES

GEORGIA

4-H



AmeriCorps

VISTA in Action

McKenzie Tankersley

June 2023

During June, McKenzie Tankersley, an AmeriCorps VISTA service member serving with the Georgia 4-H State Office and UGA Extension, has assisted the military partnership in camp operations and the volunteer specialist in the development of a new tool to use with staff and volunteers alike.

Throughout this month, McKenzie has continued support Military Liaison, Laura Goss. She assisted in Joint Extreme Summit military-dependent camp preparations and operations on-site and off-site. Off-site, McKenzie helped find and plan two volunteer appreciation dinner reservations and a budget that Laura hopes to utilize again. On-site of the first week of the Joint Extreme Summit camp, McKenzie assisted in the preparation, training and managing of volunteers in addition to piloting the volunteer appreciation week plans she designed in May. In the event of implementation at Joint Extreme Camp, the volunteer appreciation is likely to have generated a return of approximately five volunteers to assist military camps next year. Following the implementation of the volunteer appreciation, McKenzie has received feedback and hopes to edit and publish the design for other counties to use with volunteers to stimulate retention rates. While McKenzie has supported the military partnership, its camps, and its volunteers in many ways this summer, she has also begun a project with Keri Hobbs, a volunteer specialist, that will support all volunteers and staff for years to come.

The new project that Keri has begun with McKenzie this month revolves around updating the well-used annual tool in the organization called Risk Management Training (RMT). Keri and

McKenzie aim to administer the training through a new medium, a website-based system. Throughout this month, McKenzie and Keri have worked to create a skeleton of the program and gather pictures through attending events and coordinating with the summer AmeriCorps VISTA associates. This project, among others, McKenzie hopes to begin the publication process on the training resource and other resources developed for volunteers and staff alike in the next month and into the first week of August 2023.

