



American Legion Auxiliary
Children & Youth



"Celebrating a Century of Service"

Children & Youth eBulletin Series 2019-2020 - #05

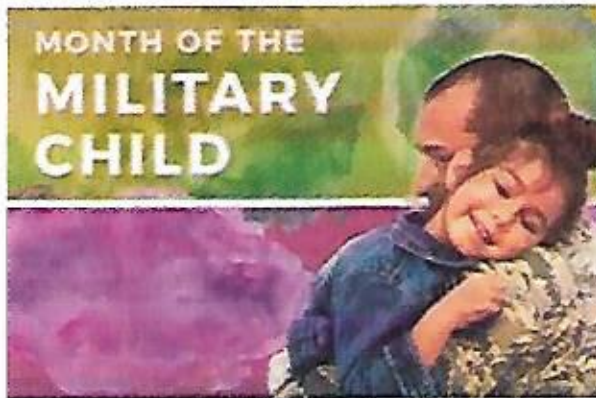


DATE: January 8, 2020

FROM: Barbara Santillanes,
Western Division Children & Youth Chairman

SUBJECT: April is Children & Youth Month

April is Children & Youth Month. It is also known as Month of the Military Child (#MOMC). With its inception by the US Department of Defense in the mid-1980s, military support organizations and agencies have used the month to recognize military kids for their sacrifice and bravery on the home front. The American Legion Family is no exception and now is a great time to start planning.



As a part of the entire month of April's celebration of the Month of the Military Child, there is also a day put aside to add an extra emphasis - Purple Up! For Military Kids is a day for communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. April 3rd is the date the ALA is recognizing for Purple Up! this year, but that surely doesn't mean that any day during the month or throughout the year isn't a wonderful time to recognize our children. Wearing purple is a visible way to show support, but how many other ways can we recognize the Military Children?

1. Ask other organizations or community business to wear purple.
2. Asking teachers to have some kind of a military theme in the classroom in recognition of the military children.
3. Schools can help by also wearing purple possibly advertising in their school paper or assembly or sports.
4. Hospital and clinic employees, including doctors and nurses, can be contacted to

support Purple Up!

5. Military institutions and other government entities might have the latitude to celebrate, but you need to make them aware of Purple Up! Make sure to include FRGs.
6. Of course, don't forget the entire Legion family!
7. And finally, don't forget to promote before, during and after on websites and social media. Share your activities and photos using the hashtag #PurpleUp #MOMC

These are just some of the ideas; there are many more that each of us can do for our military children.

"Why purple?" you might ask. It symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. This is our chance to raise awareness and build support to help our military children who meet the unique challenges they face every day.

There are many websites that provide ideas on the Month of the Military Child and Purple Up!, including <https://militarybenefits.info/month-of-the-military-child/>.

Did you know that the dandelion is the flower of the Military child?

The Military Child is Like A Dandelion

It puts down roots almost anywhere.

It's almost impossible to destroy.

It's an unpretentious plant, yet good looking

It's a survivor in a broad range of climates.

Military children bloom everywhere the wind carries them.

They are hardy and upright.

Their roots are strong, cultivated deeply in the culture of the military, planted swiftly and surely.

They're ready to fly in the breezes to take them into new adventures, new lands and new friends.

**Author Unknown*

Of course, our main resources include the ALA Children & Youth program in the Members Only portion of the National website at: <https://www.alaforveterans.org/Programs/Children-and-Youth/>, on the ALA Children & Youth Program Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALACHildrenandYouth/> or you can contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 or children&youth@ALAforVeterans.org.

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