

OPERATION: Military



CLEMSON EXTENSION



South Carolina

How Can YOU help?

As 4-H'ers or 4-H Agents you can:

- Provide information about your club to local Army Reserve or National Guard units.
- Open your clubs to suddenly military youth
- Host special events for military connected youth and parents to learn more about 4-H.
- Specifically invite suddenly military youth to your events.

Possible events/activities include:

- Family Fun Days
- Welcome Home events
- Fishing/Hunting trips
- Be Proactive! Get involved in your local guard or armory volunteer programs

For more information about SC OMK or how to become involved, please visit our website,

<http://www.sccyd4h.org/omk/>
or

www.operationmilitarykids.org

Or Contact

State Military Liaison

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Operation Military Kids

**Serving Military
Families in Our
Own Backyard**

What is Operation Military Kids



Operation Military Kids (OMK) is a collaborative effort of 4-H, Army CYS, Boys & Girls Clubs, American Legion, Military Child Education Coalition and others.

When National Guard, Army Reserve and other military parents living in civilian communities are mobilized, their children suddenly have different needs. 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 "new" military kids may have new needs:

- Connect with kids in similar situations
- Financial support
- Greater understanding from teachers
- Understanding adult to talk with
- Help in assuming additional family responsibilities
- Positive activities as a counter-balance to the anxiety of family deployment

State and County Cooperative Extension staff, community agencies, schools, and 4-H Club youth 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 community support networks for military youth "in our own backyard" when Soldier parents are deployed.
- Delivers recreational, social and educational programs for military youth living in civilians communities.
- Supports military kids coping with the stress of knowing their deployed parents may be in harm's way.
- Collaborates with schools to ensure that staff is attuned to the unique needs of military students.
- Educates the public on the impact of the deployment cycle on Soldiers, families, kids and the community as a whole.
- Becomes a part of the ongoing deployment support services for military children and youth.

Mobile Technology Lab

The Mobile Tech Lab (MTL) consists of 15 Dell laptop computers along with a laser printer, scanner, and a DVD recorder. Also available to accompany the lab are 10 Canon digital cameras and a color printer. The laptops can be networked and connected to the internet, if a connection is available.

The MTL is available to any youth group provided they have some sort of military connection: members of their group have a parent in the Armed Forces (Army, Air Force, National Guard, Reserves, etc). If they do not have a military connection, they can provide a plan on how they will recruit National Guard and Reserve youth to get involved in the group's activities.



Military Child Education Coalition

