

# SOS FOR WISCONSIN 4-H MILITARY KIDS

## Help keep 4-H Military Kids Camps OPEN in 2017

**Military service members make many sacrifices. And so do their children.**

Children whose parents serve in the armed forces experience many emotional challenges when their parents are away during a tour of service, and also when they return. They have been separated for months and sometimes for a year or more. Their parents miss so many important events — concerts, sporting events, honor banquets, club meetings, prom, and even graduation. When their parents return, it is often difficult for them to communicate with one another.

**Wisconsin 4-H Military Kids** is a program that provides opportunities for service members and their families to partake in various outings including summer camps for children of military men and women. Approximately 75 children attend camps at Upham Woods in Wisconsin Dells each summer. These camps provide children of military families with a place to go and share their feelings with other children experiencing the same emotions. They create friendships and outlets for sharing with one another. They have a few days to relax and have fun! The camps this past summer were a huge success! Check out some of the pictures on the OMK Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinOperationMilitaryKids?ref=hl>.

The U.S. Department of Defense provided funding for the camp, but recently cut funding. **We need to continue to raise funds so that military kids can go to camp this summer.** Please take a moment to watch this video and/or share with your 4-H club members: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YiQ36JSF-rc&feature=youtu.be>.



# CHANGE CHALLENGE FOR WISCONSIN 4-H MILITARY KIDS CAMPS



This year, I'd like to challenge all 1,300 Wisconsin 4-H clubs to a Change Challenge for 2017 Wisconsin 4-H Military Kids Camps. Each club, during the months of March and April, can ask members to set aside spare change. At the end of April, count up all of the funds and write a check to UW-Extension and send it to me. The winning club will have their picture posted on the OMK Facebook page, the Wisconsin 4-H website and in the Columbia County 4-H Newsletter.

Ongoing fundraisers can be conducted through the summer of 2017. All donations should be remitted via check payable to the University of Wisconsin-Extension and mailed to:

Noah Samuelson,  
Rio Go-Getters President,  
N4383 Jacobson Drive,  
Rio, WI 53960

Please include a brief note indicating how the funds were raised. Donations are tax exempt. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [sabrsha@gmail.com](mailto:sabrsha@gmail.com). I hope to hear from each of your clubs by way of a check. I thank you and so do the campers!

**Noah Samuelson**  
President, Rio Go-Getters  
Columbia County

There are additional ways you and your club members can make 4-H camps possible:

1. Place donation cans at local businesses. A coffee can may be used.
2. Conduct a special fundraiser. It could be a spaghetti dinner, a walk/run or a silent auction. Be creative!
3. Donate from existing club funds. If your club typically donates to local charities or causes, military kids would be grateful for your donation.

Such generosity would provide a great service to our men and women who bravely serve, and more importantly, provide a special moment for their children who also show bravery. I can't stress enough how important these camps are to these children. When I visited camp last summer to speak with the participants, I found out that some of them had been coming for a few years. I also learned that a few of the counselors had attended the camps themselves! Please help.

