



Support Wisconsin military families: Donate to Wisconsin 4-H Military Camps today!

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For seven years, University of Wisconsin-Extension 4-H Youth Development has offered camps for military kids, but grant funds are no longer available through the United States Department of Defense. **We need your help to continue this life-changing experience for military youth.**

Military families are under continuous stress and strain from frequent cycles of deployment and reintegration. This deployment cycle impacts each family member differently and can last for months or years. Wisconsin 4-H Military Camps support and build resilience in 85 Wisconsin military youth and their families, but these camps are in jeopardy.

Three summer camps offer diverse experiences to military youth and families. During **Military Kids University** at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, families experience campus life and take part in

hands-on science and arts activities taught by UW-Madison faculty.

The **Super Summer Camp Spectacular** and **Adventures Aboard** provide a more traditional outdoor summer camp experience at the Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center. Super Summer Camp

“It has made it easier and will continue to make it easier in the future to talk about feelings and experiences that are going on in each of our lives.”

4-H Military Camps parent

participants focus on making positive choices, developing effective communication and contributing to the health, growth and well-being of themselves, their families and communities.

Adventures Aboard fosters resiliency in participants by engaging them in group activities focused on team and community-building. They learn about and practice skills to assist them in addressing challenges in positive ways.

And across all three camps, youth and adults have the opportunity to connect with peers who are also experiencing the stresses of deployment or re-entry.

These camping experiences help military-connected youth and families:

- Discover they are not alone
- Learn skills to navigate and constructively manage their emotions and stress
- Escape from the everyday distractions at home
- Improve their decision making skills
- Form a support network with other military kids
- Have fun

“At this camp there are people I can talk to about my problems. Since our parents all serve in the military, it makes me feel like there’s a shoulder to lean on.”

4-H Military Camps youth



Post-camp evaluations highlight the valuable lessons youth take away from their experience. According to a survey completed by 4-H Military Camp participants:

- 100% of participants find the opportunity to interact with other military kids valuable
- 100% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that camp helped them make new friends
- 85% learned more about handling difficult situations effectively
- 89% learned much or a lot about making good decisions

These camps need funding in order to continue to help military families grow, learn and make their lives better. If you are willing to support camps that provide youth in military families with valuable connections and assistance as they face the challenges of family deployment and reintegration, contact:

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“I love trying new things. I want to come back every year – maybe as a counselor for younger military kids. I enjoyed all of the people I met and the things that I learned about myself.”

4-H Military Camps youth



More information on Wisconsin 4-H Military Programs:

<https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinOperationMilitaryKids>

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wiomk/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YiQ36JSF-rc>