Operation: Military Kids is a partnership of Army Child, Youth and School Services, 4-H National Headquarters/USDA and the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service 4-H program. Operation: Military Kids in Arkansas is funded by the 4-H /Army Youth Development Project under Kansas State University Special Project #2010-48661-21868.

4-H OMK programs are offered through the Cooperative Extension Service, part of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. These programs are offered to all youth age 5-18 regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status or any other legally protected status.

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The mission of Operation: Military Kids is to foster resilience and provide support for military children and youth before, during, and after the deployment of a loved one, regardless of where they live.

Contact information:
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OMK Contributions may be made to: University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service – Operation Military Kids, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204

Cover photo: Campers plant bulbs with Master Gardeners at Fayetteville Public Library – their camp service project.
Dear Friends,

2012 offered new challenges and opportunities for OMK, as our OMK Partner Team responded to continuing deployments and funding reductions. OMK recognizes and responds to the unique needs of military children, particularly geographically dispersed children whose lives have been impacted by deployment. The programs and activities foster the development of resilience in our military children.

OMK continues to partner with local community support networks, such as Project South in El Dorado. Our technology resources are available for use with military youth anywhere in the state. A new resource is the Technology Discovery Program, with twenty lessons on engineering and robotics. Volunteer training is available for this and other programs.

OMK offered quality camping experiences to help military youth age 5 – 18 develop life skills that will positively impact their lives. With 5 – 18 develop life skills that will positively impact their lives. With gratitude, we salute the adults who volunteered to serve as camp counselors.

A special thank you to all volunteers, friends of OMK, individuals and businesses who contributed either dollars or in-kind services and support our young heroes. Please continue to support these children and Arts Camp.

• 8 youth age 13 – 18 attended Arkansas 4-H High Adventure Camp

• 28 civilian and military adult volunteer chaperones at the OMK Camps.

• 26 teenagers served as counselors at the OMK Camps.

• One registered nurse volunteered at the OMK residential camps.

• 19 youth attending 4 Yellow Ribbon events received Speak Out for Military Kids Training.

OMK recognizes the importance of technology in today’s world. The Technology Discovery Program, with twenty lessons on engineering and robotics, is available for use with military youth anywhere in the state. Volunteer training is available for this and other programs.

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Movie and Arts campers learn to plan, set up and record an interview.

Sincerely,
Operation Military Kids State Partner Team

2012 OMK Fast Facts:
• Arkansas OMK offered camps, to develop life skills such as independence, leadership development, healthy lifestyles, resilience, teamwork, and communication. 3 military youth attended the Camp Leadership Workshop in order to serve as counselors.
• 20 youth age 5 – 8 attended Day Camps
• 16 military, 17 non-military youth attended Project South Military Day Camp in El Dorado
• 48 youth age 9 – 12 attended two weekend Metro Camps
• 33 youth age 13 – 18 attended five day Movie

• 217 youth at 17 events utilized the Mobile Technology Lab
• Two-day training for Technology Discovery Program reached 10 military partners and volunteers
• 60 4-H adult and youth volunteers assembled 350 Hero Packs at two events
• 513 Hero Packs distributed at 11 Yellow Ribbon events and Deployment Ceremonies
• 423 Give a Hug Dolls distributed at Army National Guard and Reserve deployment events
• 370 military children attended 30 activities or events for military families and youth, with OMK-supported educational activities. These children represented the following branches of service: Army – 6; Army Reserve – 43; Army National Guard – 232; Air Force – 23; Air National Guard – 55; Navy – 4; Navy Reserve – 3; Marine Corps – 3; Marine Corps Reserve – 1

Community Outreach
• Supported community support networks in El Dorado and Russellville
• 9 State OMK Team meetings and conference calls, engaging 50 State Team Members
• Facilitated 7 local or community planning meetings with 65 people attending
• Conducted 16 briefings on the OMK initiative, reaching 806 community members
• 4 training sessions for 127 volunteers and OMK partners to deliver OMK curriculum
• Engaged 374 volunteers who provided 1877 hours of service to the OMK initiative
• Movie and Arts Camp participants told their stories on the syndicated Public Radio show “Tales from the South”
• Governor Mike Beebe proclaimed April as “Month of the Military Child”
• Supported Military Child Education Coalition’s Public Engagement program
• Raised funds to support programs through the Kroger Community Rewards program
• Four county 4-H Programs reported service projects directed to military youth
• 28 4-H youth reported making “Speak Out for Military Kids” presentations

“After serving as a camp counselor, my daughter has decided she wants to work with youth for a career.”

– Kim, a Military Mom