

Purple Up! For Military Kids Day is April 15th



Time to get your purple on Department of Minnesota American Legion Family!

This is a day for communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices, but also the whole month of April is known officially as the month of the military child.

We need to help build awareness for the needs of our military families and celebrate our other heroes...our military children. This grassroots effort began in 2011 to honor the sacrifices that our military children make every day for our country.

Purple indicates that all branches of the military are supported; Air Force blue, Army green, Navy blue, Marine red, and Coast Guard blue all thought to combine as a single color, purple.

Way to Celebrate Purple Up!

- Wear Purple on April 15th
- Ask local officials and businesses to wear purple on Purple Up! day
- Ask local schools, sports teams, youth organizations, clubs, after school programs, and community organizations to recognize Purple UP! day
- Request local businesses, stores and restaurants post a Purple Up! message
- Share your activities and photos at our Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary Facebook page with this hashtag - **#MNALAPurpleUp**

DRAWING! I will be doing a random drawing from the hashtags for one lucky member!

Use the hashtag **#MNALAPurpleUp** to show your activities or take selfies of yourself and members wearing purple to support our military children.

Be creative and have fun celebrating our military children.



Our military children bear a difficult burden that most children do not. They may not always understand what's going on when their parents deploy or get re-assigned, depending on their age. They are not always willing to share with other friends or adults. We need to be available to support where and when we can.

Due to privacy your unit would not be able to get names of students within your schools, but your unit can reach out to your school administration, counselors and social workers to let them know if there are needs for these students to contact your Children and Youth chairman or unit representative.

Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2)

Now would be a good time to also share with your local school or churches the Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2) stickers. This program honors military children who may be experiencing a separation from one or both parents, whether deployed to a war zone, having a short tour or on an extended temporary duty assignment. We can also share these with children whose parents are currently, not just deployed. The big out take from this is that we are recognizing their sacrifices.



KDH2 buttons may be ordered through a vendor or made yourself. You can also make sheets of stickers with the logo. You can download a file for KDH2 with instructions at www.alaforveterans.or/programs/children-and-youth/.

Robin Dorf
Children and Youth Chairman