



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota
State Veterans Service Building
20 W 12th St. #314 St Paul MN 55155
Telephone 651-224-7634 Fax 651-224-5243
Toll Free 1-888-217-9598
Email – deptoffice@mnala.org
Website - www.mnala.org

NATIONAL SECURITY

March/April 2019

Military children make up a very special part of our nation's population. Although young, these brave sons and daughters stand in steadfast support of their military parents through moves and deployments. To honor their unique contributions and sacrifices on behalf of our country, each **April is designated the Month of the Military Child**. Sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy, the Month of the Military Child is a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome. The Month of the Military Child is part of the legacy left by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. He established the Defense Department commemoration in 1986.

"Purple Up! For Military Kids" will be celebrated across the nation. This is a day for Communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Purple symbolizes the combined colors of all branches of the military-Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red, and Navy blue. Please post your Purple Pictures on our ALA Facebook page, www.facebook.com/mnala/

HOW TO OBSERVE

As we support our military, we support our military's children. Celebrate their unique qualities and enduring contributions at events around Minnesota. Use **#MonthOfTheMilitaryChild** to share on social media. Wear the color PURPLE during the month of April and be sure to follow through on why you are wearing this special color to all who compliment your attire.

DONATE a little extra to our programs that help Military Children and their families: Americanism, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Children & Youth, Community Service, Education, Girls State, Junior Activities AND report your support and funds on your ANNUAL REPORTS. Please put this topic and program on your Unit meeting agenda. It really matters to all of us.

The Month of the Military Child in April recognizes the unique challenges children in military families face. They face continually changing circumstances and often both parents enlist active duty or reserve meaning at any given time their primary caregivers can be deployed.

Depending on the size of their family, where they are stationed and how long they live the military life, a military child becomes adaptable. They may see much of the country and sometimes the world. Military life impacts every member of the family, right down to the youngest member. They sacrifice close relationships, sometimes even with immediate family members due to the distances they live and the number of times they transfer.

They endure deployments just like the parent who stays behind with them. The month of the Military Child recognizes the sacrifices and the courage of these young Americans.

Throughout the month Units are encouraged to help and support schools to plan special events to honor military children and have administrators and principals incorporate the themes of this month into their everyday duties and responsibilities. These efforts and special events will stress the importance of providing children with quality services and support to help them succeed in the mobile military lifestyle. Check out this website for new ideas in supporting our children.
<https://familiesonthefront.com/18-amazing-ways-to-celebrate-the-month-of-the-military-child/>

Web Site Feature - Schools can promote the Month of the Military Child on their web sites. Provide links to sites that offer resources for military families.

Publicize Installation/Community Events - Use the school newsletter to publicize Month of the Military Child events and activities hosted by the installation/community. Look for ways schools can contribute to these celebrations (setting up an information or activity booth, having teachers volunteer at events and activities, etc.).

Host an Assembly for Month of the Military Child - Hold a school assembly honoring military children. Include a performance by the band. Have students write a poem about what it means to be a military child and select several student volunteers to read their poems.

Salute to Military Children at Sporting Events - Have the announcer make a special announcement before, during or after sporting events recognizing all military children. Have them raise the flag, sing the National Anthem or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Teachers Salute Military Children - Ask teachers at your school make a special project with their classes such as a picture frame, bookmark, journal, etc., that ties into the Month of the Military Child.

APRIL, spring is coming and so are our ANNUAL REPORTS, please remember to document your activities, ALL your funds and donations, the events you held or sponsored and seek help from your members, your checkbook, your minutes, your Historian and your correspondences. When your Unit and members do something, we REALLY WANT TO KNOW! Please share your ideas, thoughts and accomplishments in your remarks in all your reports.

The Dandelion – The Official Flower of the Military Child ~

“The official flower of the military child is the dandelion. Why? The plant puts down roots almost anywhere, and it’s almost impossible to destroy. It’s an unpretentious plant, yet good looking. It’s a survivor in a broad range of climates. Military children bloom everywhere the winds carry them. They are hardy and upright. Their roots are strong, cultivated deeply in the culture of the military, planted swiftly and surely. They’re ready to fly in the breezes that take them to new adventures, new lands, and new friends.”~ Written by an unknown author

Please check out and share our Facebook page and post often on what you are doing!

Thank you for supporting and donating to our programs FIRST. They are successful because of YOU and your membership in the American Legion Auxiliary. Check your checkbook & donate a little more this year, it is never too late to add a bit more to your already generous donations. Our programs depend on you and so do our Veterans & Military Families. Thank you ALL.

Vicki Bibeau, National Security Chairman