



NEBRASKA: OPERATION MILITARY KIDS

APRIL, 2009

We are on the web! See us at: State-www.nebraskaomk.org; National-www.operationmilitarykids.org

OPERATION PURPLE CAMPS BY EASTER SEALS OF NEBRASKA

Operation Purple Camp sponsored by Easter Seals of Nebraska is now open until April 20, 2009. Dates for the camps are June 21-26, 2009 for ages 8-12 and July 26-31, 2009 for ages 10-14. The camp will be at Camp Eagle near Fremont, Nebraska. Due to the high volume of interested participants, registration wait times may be long. However, camps DO NOT select on a first come, first serve basis. Once in the registration cue, do not refresh the page or exit and retry, doing so will only increase your wait time. To register go to www.nmfa.org and check out the 2009 locations for a camp near you. You may also contact Mike Tufte at (800)650-9880. Each child may register for ONE summer camp.



Pictured above are youth who partook of *Operation: Purple Camp* at Camp Eagle near Fremont, NE in the Summer 2008.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WHAT: Case Lot Sale

WHEN: 24-25 April, 2009

WHERE: National Guard Armory, 1700 North Jeffers St., North Platte, NE

CONTACT: Family Assistance Center 308-535-8007 or 402-309-8602.

COMMENTS: Sponsored by Commissary and AAFES (PX/BX). Military ID required.

WHAT: Fishing Tournament

WHEN: June 5-7, 2009

WHERE: Lake McConaughy, Nebraska

CONTACT: KastingForKids.org or call (800)650-9880 ext. 1112

COMMENTS: To benefit Easter Seals Nebraska. \$25,000 Catch a Trophy plus many more prizes

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**AMERICAN RED CROSS
PROVIDES OVER \$20,000 IN FUNDING
FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING**

Red Cross supports Military Families with more than \$20,000 in Health and Safety Scholarship funds that are now available. This opportunity is for Military Families living in Nebraska and includes National Guard, Reserves, and Active Duty.

In an effort to provide support to military families in Nebraska several American Red Cross Chapters are offering scholarship funds for various Health and Safety courses. The courses offered vary among the Red Cross Chapters and will be available until May 31, 2009 or until funding is exhausted.

Listed below are the participating Red Cross Chapters and contact information. Chapters can answer your questions about the Health and Safety scholarships for military families.

- Central Plains Chapter, Grand Island, NE, (308) 382-3790
Offering: CPR, First Aid, and Babysitter's training
*Will hold class for Family Readiness Groups in various locations.
- Ft. Kearney Chapter, Kearney, NE, (308) 234-2770
Offering: CPR/First Aid, Babysitter's, Lifeguard Training, and Water Safety Instructor Training
- Heartland Chapter, Omaha, NE, (402) 343-7700, Offutt AFB 402-294-5032
Offering: CPR/First Aid, AED, and Babysitter's Training
- Lincoln County Chapter, North Platte, NE, (308) 534-7350
Offering: CPR/First Aid, AED, and Babysitter's Training
- Northeast Nebraska Chapter, Wayne, NE, (402) 375-5209
Offering: CPR/First Aid/AED, Babysitter's training, Lifeguard Training and Water Safety Instructor Training
- Prairie Valley Chapter, Columbus, NE, (402) 564-8314
Offering: CPR/AED, First Aid, and Babysitter's Training
- Southeast Nebraska Chapter, Beatrice, NE, (402) 223-4211
Offering: CPR/First Aid/AED, Babysitter's Training, Lifeguard Training and Water Safety Instructor Training

Those interested need to contact the closest Chapter for details as this training is available only until May 31, 2009 or while funds last. Those interested in setting up any group training will have to coordinate that with the servicing Chapter.

The American Red Cross Chapters of Nebraska thank you for your sacrifice and are eager to provide services to the Military Families in Nebraska.

Questions may also be addressed to Nick Farruggia, Manager, Service to Military Families for Nebraska, at (402) 343-7747.

**FLAT MOMMY/
FLAT DADDY**

The American Red Cross has received money to purchase Flat Mommy/Flat Daddy for deployed soldiers. If you have a soldier that is deployed or that will be deploying and would like to have a Flat Mommy/Flat Daddy please contact Nick Farruggia at farruggian@usa.redcross.org or (402) 343-7747 for your nearest Red Cross chapter. The money for the Flat Mommy/Flat Daddy expires 31 May, so if you are interested contact the American Red Cross immediately.

You would need a photo of the soldier (in uniform) from the waist up.

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY

All Military children and parents are invited to a luncheon to honor our young heroes in conjunction with: Bring Your Sons and Daughters to Work.

Who is eligible: All military children and parents (RSVP required NLT 17 April 2009)

When: 23 April 2009 at 12:00 noon

Pizza and drinks will be served at no cost.

Look below for a location near you:

1776 North 10th Street, Lincoln, NE
RSVP to Lori Neumann, 402-309-7333 or lori.neumann@us.army.mil

11650 Rainwood Road, Omaha, NE
RSVP to Bob Reichwein, 402-309-7086 or bob.reichwein@us.army.mil

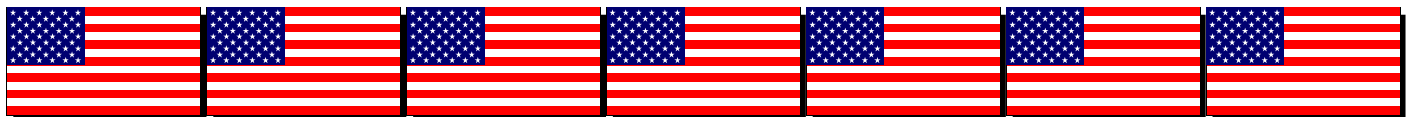
800 East 7th Street, Wayne, NE
RSVP to Layne Beza, 402-309-7944 or layne.beza@us.army.mil

5710 Airport Road, Kearney, NE
RSVP to Carey Wilson, 402-309-7747 or carey.wilson1@us.army.mil

1700 North Jeffers, North Platte, NE
RSVP to Don Miller, 402-309-8602 or Donald.e.miller1@us.army.mil

635 North 4th Street, O'Neill, NE
RSVP to John Moyes, 309-7952 or john.moyes@us.army.mil

2810 1st Avenue, Scottsbluff, NE
RSVP to Amy Reipold, 402-309-7778 or amy.reinpold2@us.army.mil



BUFFALO COUNTY YOUTH DISTRIBUTE HERO PACKETS TO THE 1195TH

On Saturday March 7, 2009 Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board members distributed Hero Pack backpacks to children of members of the 1195th unit during the pre-mobilization.

The backpacks were made during the 2nd Annual Youth Summit hosted by Buffalo County Community Partners on November 1, 2008 in Kearney. Youth attending the summit prepared 50 Hero Pack Backpacks for military youth who have a family member deployed. The backpacks allow the military youth in our community to send letters, pictures, and most importantly allow them to have contact with their loved ones who are currently serving our country.

"This was a great project- Thanks to Operation Military Kids for allowing Buffalo County youth to be a part of this great opportunity," said Lacrica Olson, Youth Summit Coordinator and employee of Buffalo County Community Partners.

"The youth from Buffalo County along with Lacrica were great to work with. They took their Hero Pack packing event to great heights by getting their whole community involved," said Beth Kaiser, Nebraska Operation: Military Kids Coordinator.

A special thanks to Kearney Volunteer Fire Department, Builders Warehouse, The Creative Teacher, Kearney Cinema 8, Nebraska Public Power District, Good Samaritan Health Systems, Wal-Mart, Target, Walgreen's, Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce, Bank of the West, Duncan Thompson Group, Hallmark, and The UPS Store for donating the items.

"On behalf of Community Partners and Operation Military Kids would like to say thank you to all who donated items or provided cash donations for this great cause", stated Lacrica Olson, Youth Summit Coordinator and employee of Buffalo County Community Partners.

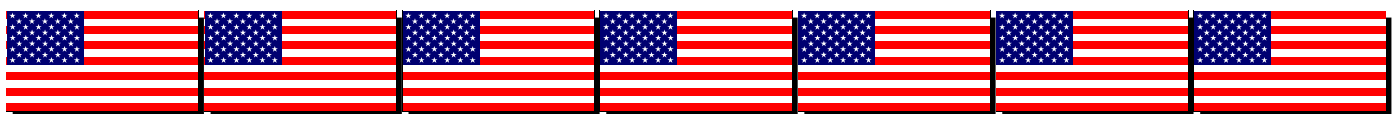
The mission of Operation: Military Kids is to reach out to military youth living in communities across the State of Nebraska "before, during and after" their loved ones are deployed by creating networks of people, organizations and other resources to support "suddenly military" children and youth where they live. Operation: Military Kids also holds Hidden Heroes Training that educate the public on the impact of the deployment cycle on Soldiers, families, kids and the community as a whole. Operation: Military Kids is a partnership of Army Child and Youth Services, National 4-H Headquarters/USDA, and the University of Nebraska - Lincoln Extension. Operation: Military Kids- Nebraska is supported by the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project under Kansas State University.

The Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board is a program and a philosophy that recognizes youth as valuable resources in their community and empowers them as equal community partners to bring about positive community change.

Buffalo County Community Partners is a county-wide effort located in central Nebraska working toward attainment of 10 priority health goals by 2010. The Partners stretch to all corners of the county in the recruitment of volunteers, assessment of health needs and impact of the initiative. The mission of the Buffalo County Community Partners is to assess, promote and strengthen the health of Buffalo County.



Pictured above are pictures from the Buffalo County Community Partners distributing Hero Packs.



UNIVERSAL ORLANDO'S MILITARY SALUTE

(Cont'd from left column)

Universal Orlando is offering a "Universe of Thanks for Serving our Nation" with a Free 2-Park Unlimited Admission Ticket. Plus, save up to \$35 each on 2-Park Unlimited Admission tickets for family and friends!

Take advantage of these special limited time offers

1. One (1) free 2-park unlimited admission ticket offer—Valid for Active Duty (includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard or Reservists) or Retired military service members with valid military photo ID. To receive this offer, please:

--Visit your nearest participating military base ticket office (ITT/ITR) to receive your free ticket. You will be asked to complete an Acknowledgement Form and sign the signature line on the free ticket.

--Once at Universal Orlando Resort, present your valid military photo ID at any theme park front gate ticket window to Activate your free ticket. Once activated, precede to the turnstile for entry to Universal Studios and/or Universal's Islands of Adventure theme parks.

2. Specially-Discounted 2-park unlimited admission ticket offer—valid for family and friends. Tickets can be purchased by U.S. Active Duty and Retired military service members and/or familial dependents with the presentation of a valid military or dependent Photo ID. To receive this offer, please:

--Visit your nearest participating military base ticket office to purchase these specially priced tickets. You will be asked to present your valid military or dependent photo ID to purchase.

--Once at Universal Orlando Resort, holders of the specially priced companion tickets can proceed directly to Universal Studios and/or Universal's Islands to Adventure theme parks turnstiles for entry.

Military Offer Details

Universal Orlando's Military Salute Free tickets can ONLY be obtained by active duty (includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard or Reservists) or Retired military service members with valid military photo ID (a maximum of one (1) Free ticket per service member, regardless of where the ticket is obtained). Offer available through June 28, 2009. Visit a participating U.S. military base ticket office or the office or the Shades of Green Resort in Orlando to receive an unactivated Military Salute Free ticket. The active duty or retired military service member must have the unactivated Free ticket then ACTIVATED at any front gate ticket window at either Universal Studios Florida or Universal's Islands of Adventure theme parks on the first date of use. Military Salute Free tickets will only be ACTIVATED when presented by the service member to whom they are issued with a matching valid military photo ID.

Universal Orlando's Military Salute companion tickets can be purchased by Active Duty and Retired military service members OR their familial dependents with valid military or dependent photo ID. 2 Park Unlimited tickets are valid for unlimited access to BOTH Universal Studios Florida and Universal's Islands of Adventure theme parks for up to 6 days from date of first use. Military Salute tickets are valid through 12/18/09. Tickets must be used by the family, friends, or companions for whom they are purchased.

*Savings based on Universal Orlando Resort theme parks front gate Adult 2 Park Unlimited Ticket retail price of \$124.99. Universal Orlando Military Salute ticket offers are for use at Universal Orlando Resort ONLY (not applicable for use at Universal Studios Hollywood).

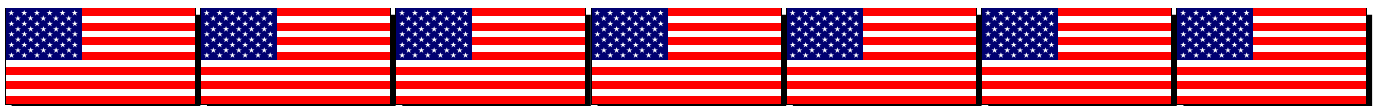
PAWNEE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HONORS MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Pawnee City Historical Society will let children under 12 into their museum free and if any military children come over that age they will allow them in free during April for the "Month of the Military Child."

The museum in Pawnee City has 20 buildings full of memorabilia for children to learn about and some on hands things to do. They also have written games of things for them to find at the Museum.

They will be glad to have any military children come. They appreciate military families for all they are doing and going through.

(Cont. to right column)



**"MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD" PRIZE
GIVEAWAY SPONSORED BY UNITED
CONCORDIA**

United Concordia Companies, Inc. is proud to once again to recognize and support the "Month of the Military Child" in April by sponsoring a Web-based, random drawing. Children of active duty and National Guard and Reserve sponsors who are enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) are eligible for this drawing. **Entries must be submitted by a parent or legal guardian.** Entries submitted by individuals other than the parent or legal guardian will not be accepted and are ineligible for the drawing.

To enter, simply complete the contest at www.TRICAREdentalprogram.com between 8 a.m. April 2, 2009, and midnight April 29, 2009, Eastern Standard Time. Entries will be accepted via online submission only. Winners will be selected at random.

Prizes will be awarded to military children of varying ages. Within each age category, prizes for first, second and third place will be awarded in these areas: TRICARE North Region, TRICARE South Region, TRICARE West Region, TRICARE Europe, TRICARE Latin America and Canada, and TRICARE Pacific.

Ages 0-2

First Prize: Disney's Baby Einstein™ Baby Neptune™ Ocean Adventure Gym and "Discovering Water" DVD; "Water, Water Everywhere" book; and Teethe & Tug Pals: Baby Neptune.

Second Prize: Disney's Baby Einstein My First Story Reader, "Baby's First Sounds" DVD and "Colors Flip Flap Book"

Third Prize: A \$50 All Services Exchange gift certificate

Ages 3-6

First Prize: VTech® V-Motion™ Active Learning System

Second Prize: VTech Create-a-Story™ Reading System

Third Prize: A \$50 All Services Exchange gift certificate

Ages 7-10, 11-14 and 15-17

First Prize: Nintendo® Wii™ Gaming Console and Wii Play bundle

Second Prize: Nintendo DS Lite

Third Prize: A \$50 All Services Exchange gift certificate

Remember ...

Only one entry per child is permitted. Winners will be announced on the TDP Web site on May 28, 2009. Mailed or faxed entries will not be considered. The entry deadline is midnight April 29, 2009, Eastern Standard Time, and only parents or legal guardians may enter their children. Best of luck to all who enter!



UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln



***If you should have story ideas, for the OMK newsletter, please contact Michele Myer at mmver2@unl.edu*

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