



# NEBRASKA: OPERATION MILITARY KIDS

*OCTOBER, 2009*

We are on the web! See us at: [State-www.nebraskaomk.org](http://State-www.nebraskaomk.org); [National-www.operationmilitarykids.org](http://National-www.operationmilitarykids.org)

## MOBILE TECH LAB (MTL) OUT AND ABOUT



MTL set-up at Vala's Pumpkin Patch for making cards for our soldiers overseas.

The Mobile Tech Lab (MTL) has been out and about at various events.

One event was at the "Friends of Extension and 4-H" at Vala's Pumpkin Patch on September 20. The MTL was set up on the top loft of the Country Bakery. People came up to make messages to send to our troops overseas.

Also, the MTL was set up at the River City Round Up at the Qwest Center in Omaha, September 25-27.

The MTL is available to check out to help facilitate connections between deployed soldiers and their kids. The MTL laptops contain software and programs for children and youth to send personal messages and pictures to their deployed family members.

The MTL is also utilized by OMK partner organizations such as UNL Cooperative Extension, The National Guard, The American Legion, 4-H clubs, and after school programs who request the lab for events that involve or support military kids. The MTL can be used for events that have a combination of military and non-military youth.

Possible Uses of the MTL:

- Bringing military and non-military kids together to create a DVD about issues that affect military kids.
- Doing special projects with an OMK theme in after-school programs.
- Taking digital pictures at events and making a slide show.
- Having military kids from OMK youth events send messages, cards, pictures, etc. to deployed family members.

To request the MTL please contact Beth Kaiser either by phone or email. An MTL application will be sent for you to complete and return. For Beth's contact information please see the Contacts list on the last page.

## OPERATION MILITARY KIDS AT THE 2009 NEBRASKA STATE FAIR CYBER FAIR

A booth for Operation Military Kids (OMK) was set up at the 2009 NeNebraska State Fair Cyber Fair August 29<sup>th</sup> through September 7<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln, Nebraska. Military Kids were invited to come in during the event to make photo buttons of their military parent.

The general public was also invited to come make cards of support for our military using the Mobile Tech Lab (MTL).

The Cyber Fair had many exciting exhibits. Among them were Backyard Living Display, Dell Cyber Café, a New Giant Inflatable Movie Screen, Digital Video Pro-green screen technology, Xavix Healthy Lifestyles Zone, Shooting Sports Gallery, and Sneak Peak at new 4-H Curricula.

This year at the Cyber Fair they had record attendance with the Nebraska State Fair overall. This was the last year for the Nebraska State Fair in Lincoln. Next year the Fair will be moving to Grand Island, Nebraska.

Thank you to all who came out to visit the OMK booth and special thanks to those who volunteered.

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### FREE ADMISSION TO SEAWORLD

Anheuser-Busch has a "Here's to our Heroes" campaign. Complimentary admission for active military representing all five service branches, active members of a Reserve or National Guard unit, and/or up to three direct dependents.

Valid for one complimentary single-day admission per person, per year, to one of the following Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks:

SeaWorld Orlando, San Diego, or San Antonio  
Busch Gardens, Tampa Bay or Williamsburg  
Sesame Place  
Adventure Island  
Water Country USA

Offer valid through 12/31/2009. Operating days and hours vary by park. Please check with the specific park for current operating schedule.

For more information check the website:  
<http://www.herosalute.com/states/index.html>

### NEWS RELEASE FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VA STAFF OFFICE FOR SURVIVORS OF VETS, SERVICE MEMBERS

To strengthen the programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the survivors of the nation's Veterans and military personnel, the Department has staffed an office to serve as their advocate, with a charter that includes creating or modifying programs, benefits and services.

"Taking care of survivors is as essential as taking care of our Veterans and military personnel," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinsek said. "By taking care of survivors, we are honoring a commitment made to our Veterans and service members. It will monitor VA's delivery of benefits to survivors, make appropriate referrals to VA offices for survivors seeking benefits and explore innovative ways of reaching survivors who are not receiving the VA benefits for which they are eligible.

VA benefits for eligible survivors include educational assistance, home loan guaranties, health care insurance and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, a monthly payment to the survivors of some people who die on active duty and some seriously disabled Veterans.

More than 554,000 spouses, dependents and other survivors of Veterans are receiving VA benefits. That figure includes nearly 5,000 spouses of World War I Veterans, 90 spouses and 94 children of Spanish-American War Veterans, and two children of Civil War Veterans.

The establishment of the VA office was authorized in the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2008.

### HEAD START EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER OPENINGS

There currently openings for children ages 3-5 at the Head Start Early Childhood Development Center operated by Lincoln Action Program. They would like to fill these openings ASAP! They will need to have a parent complete a Head Start (Early Childhood Program) application. These spots are federally funded and families need to income qualify. If you have parents that are working or going to school at least 30 hours or more per week and if they would income qualify, they would receive six hours a day of free childcare.

Roughly, for any family of four, this would be approximately \$20,000 or less (however do not hesitate to confirm specific cases if there is any question).

If the child stays longer than the 6 hours per day the fee would be \$3.00 per hour. The Head Start Early Childhood Development Center is open M-F, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and is located at 3258 S 13th. Please contact Kristi or Janelle at 471-7475 or Tracy Went at 471-4515 Ext. 117.

### FREE ONLINE TUTORING FOR ARMY DEPENDENTS

There is free tutoring for any Army dependent to include National Guard and Reserve.

How it Works:

Army affiliated students submit a one time registration to obtain their CYSS passcode. Students can then use it to log in from home or from the CYS Services Youth Technology Lab. They enter the grade level and subject they need help in. They are then connected to the first available subject expert tutor in an online classroom. Students and tutors work together in an online classroom using controlled chat and an interactive white board. Students can send computer files, such as essays, to the tutor for review and assistance. They can also share educational websites.

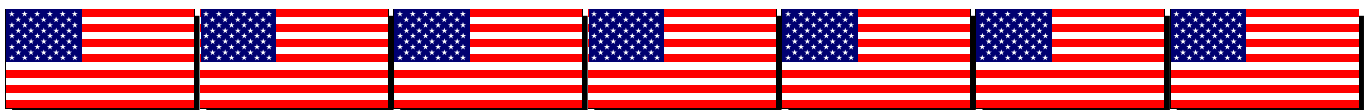
Educational support is available for Kindergarten - 12th grade and college prep. Subjects supported are all grade levels of math, science, English, and social studies.

About the Tutors:

Tutors are certified teachers, college professors, professional tutors or graduate school students from across the country, which have been hired by Tutor.com, the provider of Live Homework Help(r). Tutors with expertise in math (including algebra, geometry and calculus), science (including earth science, biology, chemistry and physics), social studies and English composition are available.

For more information check this website:

<http://www.myarmyonesource.com/ChildYouthandSchoolServices/CYSServicesFreeOnlineTutoring/default.aspx>



## MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY WITH THE KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

The Kansas City Chiefs invite all Men and Women of the Armed Forces and their families to Arrowhead Stadium for the San Diego Chargers game on October 25<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate Military Appreciation Day! For this day only they are offering all members of the Armed Forces the significant benefit of purchasing a limited number of \$35 Field Level Tickets (subject to availability). As part of this special day, you will be honored throughout the game, witness a flyover and enjoy halftime entertainment including a US Army induction ceremony. For more information or to order tickets visit [www.kcchiefs.com/military](http://www.kcchiefs.com/military).

Also, now is the first opportunity to guarantee 2010 Season tickets in both the upper and lower level of Arrowhead Stadium. A \$100 per seat deposit will begin your priority and give you one of the first opportunities to pick out seats for next season. For additional information or to place your deposit, please contact Tyler Kirby directly at 816-920-4824 or via email at [tkirby@chiefs.nfl.com](mailto:tkirby@chiefs.nfl.com).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**WHAT:** Nebraska National Guard's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Haunted Armory

**WHEN:** Friday, October 23, 2009, 5:30-8:30

**WHERE:** Spirit of 76 Armory, 1776 North 10<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, NE

**CONTACT:** Family Program Office at (402)309-7332/  
(402)309-7333

**COMMENTS:** Haunted Halls, Trick-or-Treat Trail, crafts, games, etc.

**WHAT:** Kearney Haunted Armory

**WHEN:** Friday, October 30, 2009, 5:30-8:30

**WHERE:** Armed Forces Reserve Center, 5710 Airport Rd., Kearney, NE

**CONTACT:** Carey Wilson at (402)309-7747

**COMMENTS:** Costume Contest, Haunted Halls, Trick-or-Treat Trail. For Military members and their families.

**WHAT:** Veteran's Day Program - Veterans Memorial Garden

**WHEN:** Wednesday, November 11, 2009, 11:00-1:00

**WHERE:** Antelope Park, 3200 Veteran's Memorial Drive, Lincoln, NE

**COMMENTS:** A visit to this site in Lincoln's historic Antelope Park will take you on a walking tour of over twenty one Military Monuments. A place of solemn beauty, the garden allows peaceful reflection and serves as a permanent reminder of the sacrifices veterans have made to preserve our freedom.

**WHAT:** Pearl Harbor Day Program - Veterans Memorial Garden

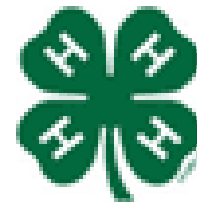
**WHEN:** December 7, 2009, 11:55-1:30

**WHERE:** Antelope Park, 3200 Veteran's Memorial Drive, Lincoln, NE

**COMMENTS:** A visit to this site in Lincoln's historic Antelope Park will take you on a walking tour of over twenty one Military Monuments. A place of solemn beauty, the garden allows graceful reflection and serves as a permanent reminder of the sacrifices veterans have made to preserve our freedom.



UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln



*\*\*If you should have story ideas, for the OMK newsletter, please contact Michele Myer at [mmyer2@unl.edu](mailto:mmyer2@unl.edu).*

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