



Operation: Military Kids Community Partner Program funded by Nebraska Operation: Military Kids (OMK)

Nebraska Operation: Military Kids (OMK) is a program coordinated and administered by University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development in partnership with all branches of the military, The American Legion, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Schools, and the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies.

The Goals of Operation: Military Kids (OMK) are to:

1. Raise community awareness of military youth throughout the state;
2. Build local community capacity to provide sustainable support services to these youth;
3. Implement educational, recreational and social outreach programs.

For more information about OMK please visit our web site at www.omknebraska.org

What is OMK Community Partner Funding:

Community Partner projects approved by OMK are given up to \$250 in funding to cover the costs of programs, events, or activities that target military youth or a combination of military and non-military youth. Community Partner projects can range from sustainable support services to one-day events for military kids. (see examples below)

Who can request funding:

Community Partner funding can be requested by any combination of youth groups, community groups, organizations and business in Nebraska who want to create a program or project to support military youth.

Example of Uses for Community Partner Funding:

- Build public awareness of geographically dispersed military families & impact of deployment on families by hosting a Hidden Hero Training (aka: RSG) for community organizations and schools.
- Initiate an academic, social and emotional support network for kids affected by military deployments.
- Plan programs that help military kids and the community learn about the Middle East, or Asia, or Eastern Europe (soldiers are deployed to places around the globe).
- Develop a mentor program for military kids.
- Develop a volunteer community program to help military families with transportation, home repair, or other needs.
- Develop a "Pen Pals with Parent's Program"— help kids write letters, send photos, drawings, audiotapes, and/or videotaped messages to deployed parents.
- Organize family fun nights/social nights for military kids and families.
- Provide activities/programming for kids at Guard/Reserve family support group meetings
- Plan a day camp for military kids.
- Purchase books and other materials on topics such as separation, reunion and stress management to be checked out to military kids and families.
- Plan activities for military kids utilizing the Mobile Technology Lab.
- Develop a school/organization based support group to bring together military families.

Community Partner Program Conditions:

- Applicants must involve military kids or families in the planning process.
- Funds **CAN NOT** be used for:
 - Entertainment costs regardless of their apparent relationship to project objectives (meals/food, banquets, awards or recognition ceremonies, tickets to shows or sporting events, salaries);
 - Awards, Certificates of Achievement or Incentives;
 - Promotional give away items or thank you gifts. Award funds cannot be used to purchase give away items such as coffee mugs, tote bags, t-shirts or any clothing items, stress balls, etc.
- The projects selected for funding must financially support their event initially. If all documentation is completed and the process is followed, pre-approved items will be reimbursed within 30 days of full completion of documentation.
- If you do not have access to a camera, please use program funding dollars to purchase a disposable camera to take pictures before, during, and after your project. Photos must be included in your final report.
- Program funds should not be given as a cash donation for another fundraiser.
- Groups should consider the sustainability of the project.
- The intent of OMK is to fund projects in all parts of the state but groups are not limited to one partner program per county.

Application Process:

- You will need to complete an application form and budget sheet with an explanation of how the funds will be used. You will find the Community Partner Application online at www.omknebraska.org.
- You must open the application form on the website, and then save it to your computer as a word document. We prefer that request for funds are created using the form available online. If you are using a paper copy of the form to apply we ask that your responses be typed. Hand written applications will not be accepted.
- Please send the completed application form in one of the following ways:
 - Attached to an email addressed to bkaiser2@unl.edu
 - Through paper mail to the address listed below.
- Applications are due no later than 30 days prior to project event. It will be reviewed and approved based on the project/program idea, collaborations and accessibility to military kids.
- This grant is subject to Federal Guideline A-21. Grantees/Contact person will receive payment following the completion of the event. Grantees/Contact person **MUST** submit receipts, pictures and a narrative of results **NO LATER THAN AUGUST 25, 2008** to Beth Kaiser the NE OMK Coordinator, to receive payment.

If you have any questions concerning the appropriate use of community partner funds or the request process, please contact:

Beth Kaiser
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Lincoln, NE 68507
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Operation: Military Kids is a partnership of Army Child and Youth Services, USDA National 4-H Headquarters, and University of Nebraska 4-H Youth Development.