



NEBRASKA: OPERATION MILITARY KIDS

OCTOBER, 2007



Pictured from left to right: Mrs. Lemke, Major General Roger Lemke, Sara Cease. Sara Cease explaining what a zoom album was to Major General Lemke during his visit to the OMK exhibit at the 4-H Cyber Fair.

OMK AT NEBRASKA STATE FAIR 4-H CYBER FAIR

The Mobile Technology Lab (MTL) was set up at the 4-H Cyber Fair in the Farmland Building at the Nebraska State Fair from August 24-Labor Day, September 3, 2007. While OMK was set up at the Fair they had a large number of Military Families who have someone deployed overseas make a Zoom Album.

Zoom Albums are a small 3" X 3" album that holds 12 photos. They are small enough to fit in a soldier's side sleeve pocket. Some of the families also made a DVD to send to their deployed military member. TV station KOLN/KGIN from Lincoln came out on Saturday, August 25 to check OMK out. OMK was the feature on the 10:00 news that evening. Check it out at the following:

<http://www.kolnkgin.com/home/headlines/9376156.html>
WOWT from Omaha also gave OMK a tidbit as well that evening. Also, the Omaha World Herald had OMK on the front page of the morning paper on Friday, August 31, 2007. With that news bit, it helped remind people that we were having a Hero Pack Drive at the Fair.

A number of adults and youth participated in making cards for soldiers and military kids at the Fair. It was also an excellent opportunity for communities and families affected by deployed military members to know about OMK.

OMK AT SARPY COUNTY FAIR

The Sarpy County Fair was held August 1-5, 2007 in Springfield, Nebraska. Quite a few adults and youth came to make cards for soldiers and the Suddenly Military Kids. The event was a success in setting up the Mobile Technology Lab (MTL). We received approximately \$1,500 in donated goods which weighed in at 209 pounds. Along with the donated goods OMK received some monetary donations. The 4-H Curriculum Office from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) gave a large donation at this event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

American Legion Post #1 is hosting a Saturday Movie Morning with pop and popcorn for school age (5-18) children of deployed parents. Parents are welcome to drop off their children or stay. It will be held on **Saturday, October 13** and **Saturday, November 10** from **9:00 am to 12:00 noon** on these days. Other activities will be available as well. The American Legion Post #1 is located at

7811 Davenport, Omaha.

Volunteers are also needed.

Please RSVP to Geri Thomas at (402)571-8371 or e-mail at stevegeri@netzero.net.

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OMK PARTNERS

How does each of the involved partners of OMK help? Read the small briefs below to find out.

4-H

4-H staff, youth, and adult volunteers can link with OMK networks in regions of the state or in specific communities with high deployments. Each OMK network benefits from collaboration of all the OMK partner groups and appropriate and interested local groups and individuals. Teens who are active in 4-H leadership and citizenship programs will find that OMK and SOMK provide excellent opportunities for them to link with military teens in critical leadership and community service actions.

American Legion

The American Legion is proud of its advocacy and accomplishments on behalf of our country's youth. The members' efforts in the area of child welfare are a living testament to the service to America and speak to the many hours, the tremendous amounts of energy, and the personal sacrifice of free men and women on behalf of others.

Boys & Girls Clubs

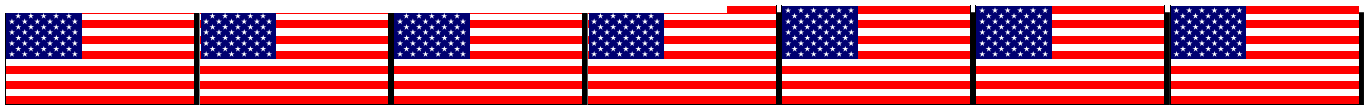
Boys & Girls Clubs of America offers a wide variety of programs and activities which are categorized in five areas based on the physical, emotional, cultural and social needs and interests of youth: character & leadership development, education & career development, health & life skills, the arts, and sports, fitness & recreation. More than a decade ago, BGCA first officially partnered with the military during the Persian Gulf conflict, reaching out to families of deployed National Guard and Reserve men and women living off post.

Army Child & Youth Services

Child and Youth Services is an integral part of the Army mission. The programs support the Soldier which in turn enhances Army readiness. In other words, a soldier can concentrate on his/her mission knowing that their children and youth are safe and supervised by trained and professional staff while participating in quality developmental programs. One significant difference is the soldier may not have a choice when called for duty. Child and Youth Services recognize the challenges of our soldiers and their families. By offering quality programs and accountability for children and youth. CYS reduces the conflict between mission readiness and parental responsibility!

Military Child Education Coalition

Promotes partnerships and provides for networking of military installations and their supporting school districts. Their focus is to address transition and other educational issues related to the military-connected child, including active duty, National Guard, and Reserves. MCEC seeks to include all military installations, their supporting schools, concerned organizations, and caring individuals.



SPECIAL THANKS TO AMERICAN LEGION VOLUNTEERS

OMK would like to thank the volunteers who came from across the state to the Nebraska State Fair 4-H Cyber Fair. All the volunteers were greatly appreciated and needed. The great thing is that everyone who signed up, said "yes," and often had another person to add to the list of volunteers. Again, thank you. The American Legion was one of the reasons that the message of OMK got out and our presence at the Fair was a success.

Pictures below are volunteers and participants at the OMK booth at the 4-H Cyber Fair at the Nebraska State Fair.



***If you should have story ideas, for the OMK newsletter, please contact Michele Myer at mmyer2@unl.edu.*



Mark Simmons
Extension Educator/4-H Military Liaison
8015 W. Center Road
Omaha, NE 68124
(402)444-7804
mesimmon@unlnotes.unl.edu

Sara Cease
State Youth Coordinator/Nebraska National Guard
1776 N. 10th St.
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402)309-7338
sara.cease@us.army.mil