



The 4-H Military Partnerships Project provides *military readiness through 4-H positive youth development for youth, families, and communities*. Through an agreement between the United States Department of Defense and the United States Department of Agriculture – National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the Project promotes *the collaboration of military and land grant university partners who intentionally integrate research-based programs and resources for military-connected youth, families, and communities to thrive*.

4-H focuses on positive youth development through providing opportunities for youth to engage in intentional learning experiences. As military families move frequently and experience the difficulties surrounding deployment and reintegration, 4-H provides predictable programming and a safe and nurturing environment for military-connected children and youth to excel. The Project helps to establish collaborations between military and 4-H educators to provide the training and resources they need to succeed in equipping the next generation of leaders. The Project aids with the creation and implementation of 4-H Clubs and programs on active duty military installations and, since 4-H is in every county/parish in every state, the Project helps to connect geographically dispersed military-connected youth in local communities so that all military youth can receive the benefits of 4-H.

One way the Project assists states in providing 4-H opportunities for military-connected youth is through grant awards from dollars invested by the United States Army, the United States Air Force, and the United States Navy. In Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19), the Project awarded over \$1.3 million dollars to 42 states to provide services and opportunities for military-connected youth in the States and abroad. The Project also awarded additional funds to 15 states in support of summer camps designed for Air Force affiliated youth.



New York



Ramstein AFB



Guam

Mid-Fiscal Year Numbers

October 2018 – March 2019

42,014	MILITARY-CONNECTED YOUTH SERVED
34,993	VOLUNTEER HOURS
1,422	MILITARY CHILD AND YOUTH STAFF TRAINED
42	STATES AND U.S. TERRITORIES RECEIVED A SUB-AWARD FOR 4-H MILITARY PROGRAMMING

FY19 Focus Areas on Installations

Of the states that reported on activity focus areas:

- 76% focused on STEM/STEAM
- 63% focused on leadership/citizenship
- 61% focused on healthy living
- 26% focused on cooking

"The breathing and relaxing techniques made a marked improvement in calming the classroom down and getting their attention".

-MST Classroom teacher in response to the GEM (Get Experience in Mindfulness) peer reviewed 4-H curriculum.

She specifically mentioned one youth whose parents are deployed, as he does not usually talk or share. Since doing these activities, he is making more peer connections and starting to share his thoughts and opinions.

FY19 Focus Areas for Geographically Dispersed Youth & Families

Of the states that reported on activity focus areas:

- 56% focused on leadership/citizenship
- 44% focused on STEM/STEAM
- 26% focused on healthy living

"Thank you again for doing what you do. The children are starting to beg to meet with their 4-H Club again".

- Air Force Youth Services worker

Most Reported Challenges on Installations

Of the states that reported challenges, areas included:

- Turnover of key military and/or 4-H professionals
- Competing with other youth priorities
- Comfort of staff using curriculum
- Age appropriate target audiences
- Low attendance at training events
- Lack of resources (funding, equipment, time, space)
- Ineffective communication strategies between military and Extension

Most Reported Challenges for Geographically Dispersed Youth & Families

Of the states that reported challenges, areas included:

- Turnover of key military and/or 4-H professionals
- Identifying youth who are military connected (data reporting)
- Low attendance to events

What People Are Saying About Project Efforts

"I had no clue that 4-H was something my kids would like. I always thought it was about animals. I want to call the 4-H people in our community to see if they have a robotics program. My daughter really had a great time today".

- Parent: National Guard, after a 4-H delivered program during drill weekend.

"I really am excited about our 4-H garden. I love how it has brought together families. Having the parents assist the youth in building/ setting up the garden was special".

- Staff: Naval Base Coronado, Gardening

"I've never done this before, and it is so fun! I want to join 4-H!"
- Hayden, age 8

"I enjoyed having the chance to build something like engineering topics and finding the real world connection from the things I learned in school". - Participant

"I think we had an ah-ha moment at our last training. One of the staff members brought up the subject of giving the youth choice every day about what they want to do in the after school program. He brought up the idea of letting them choose a six-week project and having that count as their choice. We have been encouraging that since the very beginning of my work with Fort Riley many years ago and know that is the way many of the other installations choose to give youth choices. It was great to hear one of the staff members see that option and think it was a good idea". - Staff, Fort Riley

"Flying drones was so fun. I never thought I would get to fly a drone and I can't wait to tell my dad. He's going to freak".

-Comment made by a geographically dispersed military youth during a 4-H club hands-on program for military kids in their community.

"4-H is helping my teen improve his life skills. Now he asks to make dinner and even offers to clean up".

- Parent: Aviano, 4-H Teen Cooking Club 2019