



## Operation: Military Kids Volunteer and Citizenship Opportunities

### Operation: Military Kids Program Overview

The New Hampshire Operation: Military Kids (OMK) program partners with the military and community organizations across the state to raise awareness of the impact the deployment cycle has on military kids, their families, and their communities. NH OMK includes the following program components:

- *Ready Set Go!* is a program designed to help others understand the deployment cycle and to encourage supporters to meet the needs of military kids.
- *Hero Packs* are backpacks filled with items to aid in family connections and fun. The packs are presented to military kids, typically at deployment ceremonies, to show our appreciation for the sacrifices the youth make.
- *Speak Out for Military Kids (SOMK)* is a program for military and non-military teens. The teens form “Speak Out Teams” and create projects, such as DVD productions and radio spots, designed to educate the community about what it is like to be a military kid.
- *Mobile Technology Lab (MTL)* is made up of video and digital cameras, laptops, printers, and other electronics. The equipment is used for OMK projects and trainings and for enhancing connections between military kids and deployed family members.
- *Youth Focused Programs* are a wide range of events targeting military kids and/or their families and offering the chance to get together, network, enjoy, and support one another.
- *Babysitter Program* utilizes a 4-H/Army Child & Youth Services curricula to train adult volunteers as sitter instructors and military and non-military teens as caring, competent sitters to provide quality child care for military families, as well as military events and meetings.
- *Partner Projects* is a program that awards up to \$500 to groups, organizations, or businesses that create a program or project to support military youth.

### Operation: Military Kids Volunteer/Citizenship Opportunities

- Schedule a Ready, Set, Go! program to increase community awareness of military youth issues.
- Collect items and write appreciation letters to include in OMK Hero Packs for military kids.
- Help teens (military or non-military) become involved in Speak Out for Military Kids.
- Share your photography, film making, or computer skills, or use the MTL at a military kid’s event.
- Sponsor an event for military kids or volunteer your time at OMK military family programs.
- Take an OMK Babysitter Instructor Course and teach adults to be instructors or teens to be sitters.
- Take an OMK Babysitter Course and become an OMK babysitter.
- Apply for funds to conduct an OMK Partner Project.
- Donate money in support of military kids’ camps and activities.
- Become a member of the OMK State Team.
- Mobilize other people/groups to become involved in OMK’s efforts to support military kids.

### Contact Information

Charlotte W. Cross  
Extension Professor/Specialist, 4-H Youth Development  
Operation: Military Kids Program Director  
[charlotte.cross@unh.edu](mailto:charlotte.cross@unh.edu)  
[www.nhomk.com](http://www.nhomk.com)

UNH Cooperative Extension  
G05C Pettee Hall, 55 College Road  
Durham, NH 03824  
(603) 862-2495