

Operation: Military Kids Hero Packs

Hand Written Appreciation Letters

The handwritten notes of encouragement and thanks are for the military youth receiving Hero Packs. Your group can use patriotic stationary or make your own cards/letters.

The goal is to have at least one letter in each Hero Pack, but feel free to do more letters if you wish. Remember the most important thing is to write from your heart. Think about what a civilian youth may say to a military youth if they were to talk in person. Share some of your favorite experiences and pastimes. Encourage military youth and their families to join partner programming in their area.

A sample letter is below. These are just ideas; your letters do not have to follow this format specifically.

Guidelines

- Keep it positive
- Keep it politically neutral
- Use “family member” or “loved one” rather than “parent” (many children have siblings deployed)
- No personal information (lat name, phone #, email, etc.)
- Have fun and thank our every day heroes
- Do not tell the military youth how bad you think their situation is or how sorry you may feel for them.
- Thank the youth for their sacrifices that they are making
- Remind the military youth that they are heroes too

Sample letter to a military child

Dear Child,

Thank you for supporting our country. I really appreciate all of the services and sacrifices that you are making while your family member is gone. I made this Hero Pack for you because you are one of my Heroes. You and your family are heroes for making such a big contribution to our country. I hope you can use some of the items in this care package to have fun and keep in contact with your parent while they are gone.

My 4-H club made this Hero Pack for you. As a member of, 4-H, which is a youth organization open to everyone ages 5 to 19 years, I take part in lots of fun activities. My favorite part of 4-H is 4-H camp. Each summer I get to go to 4-H camp for five days with my friends. We spend time dancing, swimming, doing a high ropes course and making things to take home. One year I got to make a lamp out of wood and marbles to take home and give to my parents. My favorite part of 4-H Camp is my counselors. 4-H camp counselors are high school kids who are lots of fun. 4-H is in every county in Ohio. I encourage you to join 4-H in your county. It is a youth organization from The Ohio State University and I hope you will join in the fun.

Thanks for being a hero!

* You can substitute your group information if you wish, but it does not have to be included.