



**Beyond the  
Yellow Ribbon**



## Minnesota Military Teen Panel Quarterly News

*Fall 2016*

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### Want to join the Minnesota Military Teen Panel?

Contact Lead Child and  
Youth Program Coordinator,

Laura Groeneweg

651-242-6938

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Find more information about the  
Teen Panel [here](#).

### We're on Facebook!

Be sure to visit the [Minnesota  
Military Teen Panel on  
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## Can Do Canines Experience

At the first Teen Panel meeting of the year, a representative from Can Do Canines visited us. Pat, the representative, brought with him a poodle service dog named Luverne. Pat has been working as a puppy trainer for many years with his family. Every few months they get a new puppy that they have to train to do basic skills and take to behavior classes. Each dog is trained for a specific skill that the client needs like hearing, mobility, diabetes, seizure and autism. Every assistance dog is provided free of charge to their customers. Pat not only explained how the dogs are trained, but gave real life examples of how the dogs have changed people's lives. Most everyone working with the Can Do Canines is doing it voluntarily which helps save money. Anyone can become a puppy trainer if you go through the right procedures.

## Teen Spotlights

### New Member Spotlight:



**Ryleigh Higel**  
**New Teen Panel Member**

I am a freshman at Sartell High School this fall. This is my first year on the Minnesota Military Teen Panel. I joined to make a difference in the lives of military teens across Minnesota. I love to play volleyball and travel across the world with my family. I am connected to the military through my dad who has been in the Army National Guard for 15 years and counting. He has been deployed three times and has done quite a few humanitarian missions across the globe through the military.



**Zara Myer**  
**New Teen Panel Member**

Hi! my name is Zara. I am a

*By: Emma Merricks-Teen Panel Members*

## 2016 MN State Fair Military Appreciation Day

At the Minnesota State Fair, once a year there is a day dedicated to military families at the end of August. A space is reserved for booths and different types of military incorporated activities that the Teen Panel gets involved with every year. The panel has a game area for children and adults to play at and also a booth with information about Child and Youth Programs. The main goal while the panel is at the fair is to make every military individual know they are appreciated for their sacrifices.

*By: Dietrick Flemister Teen Panel Member*

## Laketrails Base Camp

Laketrails Base Camp is a wilderness canoeing and camping program located on Oak Island. Campers begin their voyage with learning rotations covering paddling, carrying canoes, swimming, and basic survival skills. After two days at Base Camp campers depart for a 5-6 day wilderness adventure exploring Lake of the Woods and surrounding areas, supplied with only what can fit in the canoes. Three members of the current Teen Panel, along with two of the panel's frequent soldier support s chaperones attended the July 8-16 session. Members' favorite memories were deep fried girl scout cookies, canoe games, swimming, and the close friendships made in such a short amount of time. Laketrails Base Camp is not a military-based camp, but the program gives a generous discount to military kids- a kindness that the panel members took advantage of. The camp was not easy- the days were full of constant paddling, portaging, and firewood scavenging, nights spent on hard rock and wet tents. However, despite these hardships and difficult weather conditions, panel members left with fun memories, new friendships, and a sense of accomplishment.

*By: Kate Zenzen-Teen Panel Member*

junior at St. Michael-Albertville High School. I have three dogs and love all animals. I enjoy camping, volleyball, and Crossfit. I will eat almost any food except for watermelon. My step-dad is in the Air National Guard. I am looking forward to my time on the Teen Panel.



**Keira Clyborne**  
New Teen Panel Member

Hey, my name is Keira Clyborne. I'm 17 years old and will be a junior at Minnetonka High School this upcoming school year. My mother is currently in the Army National Guard and my father is a US Army Veteran. You can pretty much always find me reading a book and I adore anything dark and creepy. This is my first year on the Teen Panel. I'm so excited to be here this year!



**Take advantage of these great offers from businesses that want to show their appreciation for your service!**

Vera Bradley- 10% off in stores and outlets  
Foot Locker - 20% off  
Old Navy- 10% off every Monday  
Hot Topic- 10% off



## Career Building

For the career building experience at our August Teen Panel meeting we got an in depth interview with Sasenka, a resourcing recruiter from the Mall of America. The panel got to learn about the different avenues of jobs and the roles they play. When that was done the panel was taken on a tour through the rest of the mall to learn the behind-the-scenes look.

*-Tyler Cromwell, Teen Panel Member*

## 2016 Teen Summit Recap

The 2016 Teen Summit went great! I noticed the teens were actively participating in activities, interacting with each other and bonding with other teens. The teens had fun, learned new life skills and made friends they can count on. Not only did they learn new skills that will last a life time, but they also made friends and grew as individuals. I can't wait to see them next year to bond with the new teens who decide to come and join us.

At the 2016 Teen Summit the theme was the Rio Olympics 2016. We split up into four countries to do the team building activities and competition games against each other. I personally was not on the Teen Panel at the time. As a teen attending the summit, the teen panel was really welcoming and made it easy to connect with

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them and the other teens. We did Zumba, Career Code, art  
therapy, and healthy living as workshops. We got to hear  
different military stories from Brigadier General Sandra Best and  
Military 101 from 1SG Montero. We did a service project at  
Feed My Starving Children.

*By: Tyler Cromwell-Teen Panel Member*

