



Beyond the Yellow Ribbon



Minnesota Military Teen Panel Quarterly News *Spring '18*



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New Member Bios:



Cole Estes

Hi, my name is Cole Estes. I am 15 years old and a new member to the teen panel. I am a student at Albert Lea High School and I participate in soccer in the fall and golf in the spring. I am also a



Teen Panel members with the Boxes that built for Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity

At our most recent teen panel meeting in January, we had the opportunity to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that strives to provide affordable housing for everyone. They do everything from building small things for peoples homes, to building entire houses for people to move into. The teen panel was able to help out this organization by building toy boxes to be sold at their restore-- a place where they are able to sell affordable appliances and furniture for peoples homes. We were given pre cut wood, and a packet of

member in my schools student council. I like doing stuff outside and love spending time with my family. I am very excited to be a part of the MN Military Teen Panned and I'm excited to see what the future brings!



Kerrigan Merricks

My name is Kerrigan Merricks and I am 15 years old. I live in Farmington MN and I'm in 9th grade at Farmington High School. Some things I like to do outside of the panel are swimming on the High School Girls team. I also play the flute in the band and pep band. On the weekend I like to hangout with my friends, go to movies, and go shopping. This is my first year on the Military teen panel and I have really enjoyed meeting a lot of new people that I can relate to. Planning the Teen Summit has been a good experience for me and is teaching me how to become more of a leader. I am excited to create more friendships with teens that understand having someone close to you in the Military. Overall I am glad I joined the Teen Panel and am looking forward to many more years creating memories.

Graduating Members:

instructions. After a quick information session we were able to build these boxes. Together as a team we used different types of tools and skills to create them. Habitat for Humanity was a great team building experience for the teen panel, and a great way to give back.

By: Katie Funk and Brooke Isaacson

Month of the Military Child

In 1986, Caspar Weinberger, former defense secretary, declared April as the month of the military child and it had been celebrated ever since. As many of our readers know, military kids bear a lot and month of the military child is about acknowledging their sacrifice.

One of the ways you can show your support is to buy a month of the military child t-shirt. They are purple, the color of the military child, and cost \$15. These can be ordered on https://stores.inksoft.com/minnesota_nations_guard-military/shop/home

There is one day in particular where you should wear your purple up gear and that is April 13 from 2:00PM to 10:00PM at the Mall of America. Registration for this event is not required, unless your military children wish to participate in the Build a Bear event and/or Nickelodeon Universe wristbands. Registration for those events will open March 23rd.

Other events include a photo contest where military families are challenged to capture a photo that shows what your life as a military family looks like. Email photo to the State Programs Assistant, Hannah Warner, @ hannah.r.warner2.mil@mail.mil with a 250 word (or less) description along with your name and phone number.

Governor Dayton also wants to thank military kids with a a letter from him. Registration for the letter can be found @ [HTTPS://MN.GOV/MDVA/](https://mn.gov/mdva/)

By: Conor Deans and Keira Clyborne

Teen Summit

Every June the Military Teen Panel organizes an event a "summit" per say, that brings together military connected teens by bringing them together for a weekend of fun. The panel is planning an exciting weekend on the dates of June 22-24 centered around the theme of the four seasons and how like the seasons we must adapt to the changing world around us. As of now we have many fun activities planned. Ranging from team building to renowned speakers. All at the beautiful Chaska Oak Ridge event center and hotel. If you know military connected teens ages 13-18 who would be interested we would love to have them and we look forward to seeing anyone who has already signed up.



Conor Deans

My name is Conor Deans, and I am a senior at Saint Cloud Technical High School. This is my second year on the panel. My favorite thing about being a panel member is the lifelong friends I have made. I play baseball, guitar, and am in NHS along with the Teen Panel. I am hoping to go to either the United States Air Force Academy or The Citadel for university and after commission as an officer in the Air Force.



Zara Meyer

My name is Zara Meyer, I have been on the panel for two years, and I go to St. Michael-Albertville High School as a senior. This is my last year on the panel, and it has been one of the best experiences of my of my life. The panel means a lot to me because it creates sense of community that can be difficult for military teens to

By: Zara Meyer and Jace Schoon



Holiday for Heros

The Holiday for Hero's event is a time that military families can get together and enjoy a day at the Mall of America. Some of the activities available at the event are free breakfast, free roller coasters and many fun activities for children and teens. During these events, the overall idea is that support is shown during the holiday season.

By: AJ Steinmetz

Ice Fishing Clinic

The Military Youth Ice Fishing Clinic is becoming an annual event for military families to come together for fun, fishing, and food. There are expert fisherman helping teach the families the basic fishing procedures. The Teen Panel has helped out at this event for the past two years. We serve hot drinks and lunch to all the families participating. We also help with registration and interacting with the kids. A new activity that they added was ice skating. This is a great opportunity for families to connect with one another and connect with other military families. It's a fun event for all ages!

By: Emma Merricks

Want to join the Minnesota Military Teen Panel?

find. I have loved my time on the panel because I have enjoyed being there to support other military teens and make new friends and memories.

In my free time I love to draw and spend time outside hiking and camping. I am very excited for next year because I will be attending Penn State for forensic science and engineering.

Contact Lead Child and Youth Program Coordinator,
Laura Groeneweg
651-242-6938
or [email](#)

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

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