Minnesota State Fair

The 28th of August is military appreciation day at the Minnesota State Fair. And the teen panel will be present with a booth. We will be playing games with children and handing out tons of fun prizes. This is a great experience for the teen panel members because they get to interact with kids and have a fun day volunteering.

By: Haley Deans
Region Five Teen Summit 2018

Hi, my name is Maria Suarez. I am 15 years old and I am a sophomore at Hopkins High School. This is my first year on the Minnesota Military Teen Panel. My dad is in the military and has been deployed three times. Some of my hobbies that I am involved in are synchronized swimming which is a sport that I do through school. I also love to do art. Some other things that I do is babysitting and cooking. I have a lot of pets and I live all kinds of animals. I have three cats, a dog, two guinea pigs, and a Berta fish. I can’t wait to have new experiences this year on the teen panel.

By: Jace Schoon & Kerrigan Merricks

June Teen Summit 2018

The Minnesota Military Teen Summit is an annual event where teens with parents in the military have the opportunity to partake in an amazing opportunity such as this. This Summit is put on by the Military Teen Panel which also attends the Summit as leaders. During the Summit, these teens had the opportunity to do a service project chosen by the panel. (Last year the Summit went to Feed my Starving Children) Along with the community service, the teens also do multiple different activities as well as various workshops to express all of our unique personalities. On top of all of this fun, we have been fortunate enough to have amazing speakers, (Such as Kevin Brennan who taught us to live above and below the line of life) speak to our teens about various life lessons. The teens had such amazing fun last year and we can’t wait to see you next year!

By: Casey Steinmetz & Breanna Storkcamp

August Teen Panel Meeting 2018

The teen panel welcomed 8 new members in the first meeting of this session and met at Mount Olivet retreat center on August 8 - 10. The panel worked hard at planning next June’s Teen Summit. Planning included picking a theme and choosing a topic for a guest speaker. Some learning activities for the panel were included as well. One of which was a trip to the International Institute of Minnesota. Here the panel conversed with students in an English
Alex Johnson

Hello, I am Alexandra (Alex) Johnson. I am fifteen years old and this is my first year in the Minnesota National Guard Teen Panel. My Mom and Stepdad are both active duty Minnesota National Guard and I have been through one deployment. I am a dedicated student and focus mainly in my grades as well as my extracurricular activities such as AFJROTC, Varsity Swimming, and Basketball. In my free time I spend time outdoors and with friends. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with the Minnesota National Guard Teen Panel in creating a positive network for youth just like me that deal with the struggles of having a parent in the military.

Want to join the Minnesota Military Teen Panel?

Contact Lead Child and Youth Program Coordinator, Laura Groeneweg
651-242-6938
or email

Find more information about the Teen Panel here.

We’re on Facebook
Be sure to visit the Minnesota Military Teen Panel on Facebook!

We’re on Instagram
Be sure to follow us on Instagram mn_military_tp
Hi, my name is Ella Johnson. I am 15 years old coming from Clear Lake MN. This is my 1st year on the panel. My dad is in the army National Guard, I have gone through 0 (zero) deployments. In school I participate in swimming and track, I also help out with crew for drama. In my free-time I read, listen to music, watch movies, and/or hang out with friends.