



**Beyond the  
Yellow Ribbon**



## **Minnesota Military Teen Panel Quarterly News** *Summer '18*




### **In This Issue**

Minnesota State Fair  
2018 Region Five Teen  
Summit  
June Teen Summit 2018  
August Teen Panel Meeting  
2018

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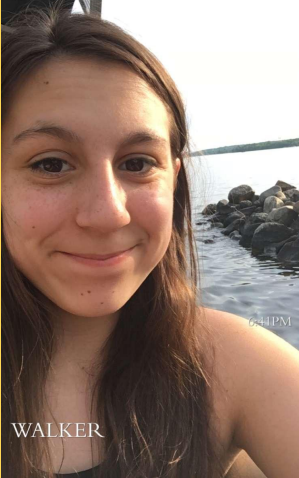
### **New Members:**

### **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*

05/27/18



### **Maria Suarez**

**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 and swimming. Synchronized swimming 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 with 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.**



### **Haley Deans**

**My name is Haley Deans and I am 14 years old. My father is in the Army National Guard and I have been through four soon to be five deployments. In my free time I like to swim, play lacrosse and**

## **Region Five Teen Summit 2018**

This year, The Minnesota Military Teen Panel had the opportunity to host the annual Region 5 Teen Summit. Where, the other State Panels get together to learn valuable skills about life and management. All while having a blast. We had the panels of 4 states in attendance this year. All at the beautiful lake resort/camping organization, Koronis Ministries. Although the weather wasn't optimal, (the power, at one point went out after a we were hit by a thunderstorm.) Everyone managed to adapt, adjust and have a great time.

At Summit we were fortunate to participate in different activities, have amazing speakers come, like motivational speaker Joe Fingerhut who taught us to say how can I? Instead of I can't and The Assistant Adjutant General Kruse who shared some of his experiences in the military with us. We also helped out in the Paynesville community garden for our community service project. Everyone had a great time together playing games, rock climbing, and swimming in the beautiful lake. Overall the Region 5 Teen Summit was a great experience with many memories and friendships made.

*By: Jace Schoon & Kerrigan Merricks*

## **June Teen Summit 2018**

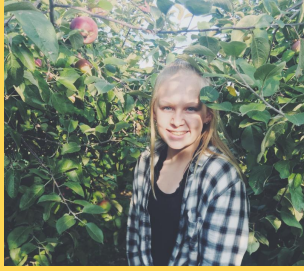
The Minnesota Military Teen Summit is an annual event where teens with parents in the military have the opportunity to partake in an amazing opportunity such as this. This Summit is put on by the Military Teen Panel which also attends the Summit as leaders. During the Summit, these teens had the opportunity 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

read. I also love to act in plays and I am very excited for my first year on the teen panel and all the new adventures it promises.



### **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.

learning class. The teen panel members took a personality quiz in order to learn more about themselves and their strengths. A guest speaker visited and organized a simulation. This simulation had the panel members practice balancing the check book of a low income family. The first meeting of this session was a success, with many fun bonding activities for the new members. The activities were not only productive but also interesting and informative, these produced important conversations about the world.

*By: Emma Feist & Elise Larson*

### **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  
[mn\\_military\\_tp](#)



**Ella Johnson**

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.

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