

Virginia 4-H

Celebrates April, Month of the Military Child (MOMC)

April Month of the Military Child provides an opportunity to recognize and honor military-connected youth. These youth face many challenges that are unique to their situation such as having a parent deployed, frequent moves, and new schools. Their ability to adapt to these challenges deserves our respect.

Here are a few suggestions for how your 4-H program can show support for children of military families.

1. Although we celebrate **Month of the Military Child** all month long, **Wednesday, April 21** is a special day that Virginia 4-H will celebrate the strength of military youth. Everyone across the state is invited to join us in celebrating **Purple Up! For Military Kids Day** by wearing something purple on April 21. Groups may select an alternate Purple Up date in April.
2. Learn how the 4-H Military Partnership offers opportunities for military-connected youth to thrive at: www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org and virginia4-hmilitaryclubs.org.
3. Many schools across Virginia plan to implement Month of the Military Child activities. Collaborate with schools in your area. Look for ways 4-H can contribute to their events.
4. Make use of 4-H editable Month of the Military Child certificate to present to children of military-connected families. See VA 4-H MOMC Tool Kit at virginia4-hmilitaryclubs.org.
5. During April, interested youth and adults across the state may choose to participate in the **VA 4-H Month of the Military Child Photo Challenge**. The goal is for military youth to see they have our thanks & support. Participants of the photo challenge simply select the subject of their photo from the following:
 - MOMC spelled with toys or household items
 - A purple ribbon tied on a tree
 - A door decorated for Month of the Military Child
 - An American Flag flying in your community

Each participant will share their photo by posting on social media using: #MonthoftheMilitaryChild #Virginia4H

(People are not required to be in the photos. If more than one person is in a photo, mask wearing and social distancing should be practiced.)

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