



## WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE STRENGTH OF MILITARY YOUTH

April 2023

### 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. According to the Virginia Department of Education, Virginia has over 80,000 military-connected youth. Virginia is also home to Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, National Guard, and Reserve families.

**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 19** 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 19. Groups may select an alternate Purple Up date in April.

Purple symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Marine red, and Coast Guard, Navy and Air Force blue.

2. Make use of the 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](http://virginia4-hmilitaryclubs.org).
3. Learn how the 4-H Military Partnership offers opportunities for military-connected youth to thrive at [www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org](http://www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org) and [virginia4-hmilitaryclubs.org](http://virginia4-hmilitaryclubs.org). Please share these links with military-connected families.
4. **Sharing Purple Up! & Month of the Military Child Photos**
  - Share Purple Up! and Month of the Military photos by using #Virginia4H
  - Photos and descriptions of your Purple Up! and Month of the Military Child activities, can also be emailed to Louetta Jones, Virginia 4-H Military Club Program Director at [lojones@vt.edu](mailto:lojones@vt.edu). These will be shared with the Virginia 4-H Military Club website and with the 4-H Military Partnership social media and reports. A media release should be on file for youth featured in photos that are emailed to Louetta Jones.

*For more information contact the Virginia 4-H Military Club Director at [lojones@vt.edu](mailto:lojones@vt.edu)*

