

# 4-H MILITARY PARTNERSHIPS



## “Purple Up! For Military Kids” April 24



Established by former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger in 1986, the designation of April as the Month of the Military Child acknowledges the significant role military youth play in our communities. There are currently 1.2 million military children of active duty members worldwide.

“Purple Up! For Military Kids” is a day to wear purple show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Why purple? Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is a combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red, and Navy blue.

### Ways to Celebrate Purple Up! Day:

- Wear Purple on Purple Up! Day – recommend people take photos and post them to social media
- Recognize military children
- Recommend 4-H members make signs for the windows of their homes or yard signs supporting military kids

- Make purple a prominent part of your social media on April 24, sharing military statistics from the 4-H Military Partnerships and sending a message of support for military children in some fashion.

### *Be a Mystery Reader for 4-H Military Programs and Families*



The U.S. military operates child development centers and school age centers to care for children from 6 weeks old to age 18. We’d love to have your support of military connected children and youth by serving as a mystery reader. Youth and adults are encouraged to support a national effort which can be done from your handheld device or computer. Video recordings will be shared and used at child development centers and school age centers along with youth at home with their parents. This is a great opportunity to support our military community and help others learn about 4-H.



## *Mystery Reader Continued...*

To participate follow these guidelines:

Step 1: Pick out a book suitable for any age group between 2 and 11.

Consider choosing your favorite book. If you are a 4-H'er working on a project, you may select a book in your project area.

Step 2: To help build a connection with the listener:

- ✓ Share your first name (only share your first name)
- ✓ Briefly highlight your connection to 4-H & share a little bit about yourself
- ✓ Highlight why you like the story you picked out
- ✓ Share the title, author, and illustrator of the book and begin reading
- ✓ Don't forget to show the kids the illustrations from the story
- ✓ After reading thank the audience and encourage them to keep reading

Step 3: Record your reading on your phone or any other device. You can use the camera app on your phone and choose the video option. It'd be best if you use the landscape (widest from left to right) mode.

Step 4: Create a Google account (if required) and upload to

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ErIXfYcimbGrKftxC4ABMdCbAgD5AGc6>

Step 5: Once the file is uploaded in the drive, rename the file to:

yourname\_agegroup\_booktitle

*John Bunyan said, "You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you." Thank you for supporting military families and children.*

## *Operation: Veteran Smiles (started by a Georgia 4-H'er)*



Be a part of sharing a smile with our Veterans! With the current status of the Coronavirus and Operation: Veteran Smiles is ceasing all deliveries, but, the organization has begun accepting handmade cards that it will send to V.A. Hospitals around the U.S.

1. Make some cards. Use cardstock, construction paper or premade cards.
2. Write an encouraging note inside. Please write meaningful notes and make sure they are legible. There is a guide on their FB page that has helpful hints and guidance on appropriate messages to include in the cards.
3. Contact OVS for your prepaid envelope via their Facebook page or email [Operationveteransmiles@gmail.com](mailto:Operationveteransmiles@gmail.com) Tell the organization how many cards you've made and give them an address where they can ship prepaid shipping envelope. Once you receive the envelope, you will place your cards inside and leave the envelope for your USPS mail handler.

Typically, OVS accepts donated items for care packages and volunteers for packing the boxes, as well as financial donations for the program. Fact Sheet and Guide to starting the Operation: Veteran Smiles in your community:

<https://4-h.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Operation-Veteran-Smiles-Manual-final.pdf>