



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY L. WAYT, ADJUTANT GENERAL

Media Advisory
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Operation Military Kids Camp invades Kelleys Island

KELLEYS ISLAND, Ohio -- "Operation: Military Kids" (OMK) Camp at Lake Erie's Kelleys Island will be held Aug. 10-14, 2009.

The camp, a joint effort of OMK, Ohio 4-H Youth Development and the Ohio National Guard, supports kids of military members.

This year, organizers have planned for two camps to be held simultaneously to accommodate 260 campers. The Junior Camp, for youths ages 9 to 11, will be held at the Erie County 4-H Camp; the Teen Camp, for youths ages 12 to 15 years old, will be held at Camp Patmos, just east of the 4-H camp.

"Our campers often tell us what they like best about the camp is meeting other kids who are in the same situation as children of military parents," said Theresa Ferrari, Ohio 4-H military liaison and an Ohio State University Extension specialist with 4-H Youth Development.

The camp was created specifically for the children of deployed service members to give them the opportunity to: come together in a fun environment, learn from each other and forge new friendships; develop independence, resilience and responsibility; develop and improve upon leadership skills, especially for the 4-H and military teens who are serving as camp counselors.

Besides typical camp activities such as canoeing, swimming, crafts, teambuilding and campfires, program highlights include: "Military Moments" to discuss military culture and values, and issues related to deployment. These topics are geared to help the youths understand the military aspects of their parents' careers.

OMK will be visited by senior military leaders at 11:30 am, Wednesday, August 12 when the military leaders will land in a CH-47 Chinook helicopter.

Special activities also include a demonstration by members of a Navy Special Warfare unit and the Ohio Army National Guard, and a community service project in cooperation with the local

post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in which campers will lay pavers for a veterans memorial on Kelleys Island.

Campers pay a registration fee of \$45; the remaining funding is provided through grants and many generous donors, including the Ohio 4-H Foundation, the USO of Central Ohio, AT&T Pioneers Ohio Life Member Council and the Ohio Child Conservation League.

Representatives of the media are welcome to visit the camp. To make arrangements or for a camp schedule or other information, contact:

Theresa Ferrari
ferrari.8@cfaes.osu.edu
614-570-8681 (cell)

or

Sue Ann Carroll
State Youth Coordinator, Ohio National Guard
sue.ann.carroll@us.army.mil
614-302-8227 (cell)

Note: Cell phone service on the island can be spotty. As a backup, beginning Aug. 7, media may also try to reach Ferrari and/or Carroll by contacting the Kelleys Island 4-H Camp office at 419-746-2794 (camp director is Dale Lybarger) or, beginning Aug. 10, contacting the Camp Patmos office at 419-746-2214 (executive director is Tim Richardson).