



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

Mike DeWine, Governor

Major General John C. Harris Jr., Adjutant General

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For Immediate Release

New Ohio Army National Guard camouflage jerseys debut this weekend *High school football teams to host military appreciation games*

COLUMBUS, Ohio — High school football teams all across the state of Ohio will be wearing special jerseys at designated games during the 2019 regular season, with help from the Ohio Army National Guard, beginning Friday.

The jerseys are a dark camouflage pattern and have been approved by the Ohio High School Athletic Association for home team wear. The front of the jersey features the Ohio Army National Guard (OHARNG) logo. There are 10 full sets of jerseys that will be rotated to different participating schools across the state. Fairfield High School, Cuyahoga Falls High School, River View High School, and Warren High School are expected to debut the jerseys this weekend.



“Members of Ohio’s Army National Guard serve selflessly in support of our country, and we’ve seen fantastic enthusiasm from local high schools wanting to recognize these Citizen-Soldiers during their high school football games,” said Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine. “I encourage football fans to show their appreciation for the Ohio Army National Guard as they cheer on the players during these special military appreciation games throughout the state.”

“We have had a tremendous response from schools requesting the jerseys, and the schedule is filling in quickly,” said Sgt. Maj. Justin Sprankle, senior enlisted Soldier assigned to the OHARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion. “The National Guard has a mission to serve its local communities, so we’re happy to provide this resource to schools interested in recognizing our service members.”

Since 2011, the OHARNG has been supporting schools hosting military appreciation games through a program called Operation Buckeye Guard, which was initiated through a partnership with the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association (OHSFCA). Schools can request the OHARNG’s support for American flag helmet decals, school-branded patriotic banners, a military static display, a Soldier to conduct the coin toss, or inflatable tunnels and smoke machines for player introductions.

“Over the years, several coaches have asked if we can provide military jerseys for their teams to wear, and we’ve never been able to support those requests. This year, with the help of OHSFCA, we are able to provide them through the National Guard Game of the Week program,” Sprankle said.

“We’re proud of our long-time partnership with the Ohio Army National Guard, and we’re excited about suiting up in camouflage this year,” said Jerry Cooke, immediate past president of OHSFCA. “It’s a pleasure and a privilege anytime our coaches get to interact with the Guard, and we want our players and fans to recognize the value of the fine men and women who defend our country at every opportunity. Putting a spotlight on them during one of our Friday night football games is a win-win for everybody.”

The Ohio Army National Guard comprises more than 11,500 Citizen-Soldiers, serving in about 100 units across the state. Benefits include 100% college tuition, paid job training, and affordable healthcare for part-time service.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: The current list of Ohio high school football teams participating in the National Guard Game of the Week program is provided below for localization in media coverage areas. A high-resolution photo of the jersey teams will wear is available to download at <https://www.ong.ohio.gov/press-releases/2019/ntl-guard-jersey.jpg>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Stephanie Beougher, public information officer, at 614-336-7369 or stephanie.k.beougher.nfg@mail.mil.

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NATIONAL GUARD GAME OF THE WEEK (MILITARY JERSEYS) PARTICIPATING HIGH SCHOOLS AS OF SEPT. 5, 2019

- Arcanum
- Bellbrook
- Berne Union
- Bethel Tate
- Black River
- Bloom Carroll
- Briggs
- Brookfield
- Brooklyn
- Brush
- Cambridge
- Elyria
- Fairfield
- Genoa
- Hilliard Davidson
- John Hay
- LaBrae
- Liberty Union
- Mason
- Mineral Ridge
- Niles McKinley
- North Baltimore
- Summit Country Day
- Talawanda
- Teays Valley
- Twinsburg
- Unioto
- Urbana
- Utica
- Vermillion
- Waite
- Warren Local
- Washington Court House

- Carrollton
- Central Crossing
- Centerville
- Cleve. Cent. Catholic
- Coldwater
- Copley
- Cory Rawson
- Coshocton
- Cuyahoga Falls
- Danbury
- Dawson-Bryant
- East Canton
- East (Sciotoville)
- Edgewood

- Oak Hills
- Olentangy
- Orrville
- Ottawa
- Plymouth
- Ravenna
- Reynoldsburg
- Ridgemont
- River View
- Springfield (Akron)
- Start
- Steubenville
- Stow
- Strongsville

- Waterloo
- Waynesville
- West Carrollton
- West Clermont
- West Geauga
- Whitehall
- Willoughby
- Winton Woods
- Woodridge
- Wooster
- Xenia
- Zanesville