

Month of the Military Child, April 2015

Virginia military youth face many challenges that are unique to their situation such as having a parent deployed, frequent moves, new schools, and leaving friends. These military youth are also resilient and take pride in their service to our country. They deserve our appreciation and support. The month of April provides an opportunity to recognize and honor our youngest heroes, military children. 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. In Virginia alone, there are over **142,000 military children**. Let's join together on April 15th to celebrate our young Virginia heroes!



Wednesday, April 15, 2015

The 4-H program of Virginia Cooperative Extension, invites everyone across the state of Virginia to join us for the 5th annual **Purple Up! for Military Kids** celebration **by wearing purple on Wednesday, April 15th**. This is a very visible way to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. 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.

Help us turn Virginia **purple** on April 15th! Be creative....the goal is for military youth to see they have the support of their community. Plan an event for military families. Need some ideas to get you started?

- ★ Ask your local, regional, state, and federal officials to wear purple on Wednesday, April 15th
- ★ Invite news and media outlets to feature a story about **Purple Up! for Military Kids**
- ★ Involve schools, sports teams, youth organizations, clubs, and afterschool programs
- ★ Engage fraternal organizations, social clubs, and Rotary groups
- ★ Invite co-workers, members of your spiritual community, exercise class, or golf league to show their support for Virginia military youth wearing purple on April 15th
- ★ Ask stores and restaurants to put a **Purple Up!** flyer in their business window
- ★ Suggest companies and businesses ask their employees to wear purple

Send us your photos to post on the Virginia 4-H Military Club website where military youth and families will see them! The sender of photos must confirm that a media release is in their file for individuals featured in photo.

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For more information and to email photos, contact: Louetta Jones, 4-H Military Club Director
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Explore opportunities for military youth: www.virginia4-hmilitaryclubs.org



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