



Operation: Military Kids FACT SHEET

Get Involved: Levels of Support

Operation: Military Kids Vermont exists to educate Vermont communities on the unique experiences and challenges of military life and its impact on families, while providing positive opportunities for youth.

OMK-VT aims to establish community partnerships that will connect and educate people by: Creating community support, delivering opportunities to youth and families, supporting military kids, collaborating with community partners, educating the public, including the education community, and incorporating military families into existing community resources.

Want to participate but not sure where you fit in? Check out these levels of engagement and find one that fits your organization or business the best.

Partner – An organization or business with a statewide reach and legions of volunteers or supporters behind them, desires to help shape the statewide OMK effort, is willing to sit on the OMK State committee and attend meetings, and is actively involved to help offer Ready, Set, Go trainings and other events.

Advisors – Organizations, businesses, or individuals wanting to support the mission with more indirect involvement through reading minutes, providing input on appropriate agenda items, and disseminating information. May volunteer/assist directly on a sporadic basis.

Affiliates – Organizations, businesses or individuals that desire to provide in-kind donations, monetary support, facilities, time, or other resources.

Interested in getting involved?

Contact Deborah Alden, OMK-VT Coordinator at 802-656-0346 or via email at Deborah.alden@uvm.edu





Core Elements:

Ready, Set, Go! Training (RSG)

Led by trained facilitators, RSG! Trainings are designed to develop local support networks of youth workers, educators, counselors, and community service agencies. These workshops offer an insight into military culture and the deployment cycle and suggest ways to understand the needs of and provide support to military kids and their families through community resources.

Hero Packs (HP)

Hero Packs serve as a tangible expression of support for military families from their communities and OMK Partners. Hero Packs are backpacks filled by non-military youth with mementos and items designed to help connect kids with their deployed parent. They are a way to *hand-deliver* a salute to military children & youth for their strength and sacrifices while parents are deployed. A Hero Pack project involves youth groups and adults in a valuable community service effort that also builds awareness and fosters community support for geographically dispersed military families.

Speak Out for Military Kids (SOMK)

SOMK is a youth-led, adult supported project that generates community awareness of issues faced by youth of military families. Through simulations, interviews, and research, participants begin to understand what military families go through during deployment. As the youth form speakers bureaus, they develop presentations, public service announcements, videos and other materials, and actively seek opportunities to share their experiences with others in the community (e.g. school assemblies, youth club meetings, city council meetings, fairs, and teacher in-service programs).

Mobile Technology Labs (MTL)

The labs are used to facilitate connections between deployed soldiers and the children & youth left behind, as well as to teach technology skills. Any OMK partner such as The American Legion, Boys & Girls Clubs, Schools, 4-H can request and use the laptop computers, digital camera, video recorder, printer, scanner and the necessary software and materials for children and youth to create personal messages to their deployed loved one.

