

Month of the Military Child

Let's Celebrate!

Purple in Power. Get a local policy making body (city council, district school board, county quorum court) to wear purple at its April meeting. Take pictures and post them on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or in the local newspaper.

Paint the Town Purple. Get local businesses (and the city hall or county courthouse) to put purple wreaths, ribbons, bows, etc. on their buildings during Purple Up Week.

Kick-Off Breakfast. Kick off the Month of the Military Child with a breakfast or lunch for military children in the school. Include their parents or other family members associated with the military.

Special Announcements. Have a military child do the announcements and share an interesting fact about their life as a military child.

Daily Factoids. Have a daily or weekly announcement with military-connected student facts. Start with the national facts and move into school facts.

Light it Up! Get a local landmark (e.g., the Union Plaza Building and Junction Bridge in Little Rock) lit up purple.

Purple Up Day. Observe Purple Up Day Challenge students, faculty, and staff to wear purple. Class with the most purple wins a prize.

Dress Up Theme Day. Have a dress-up theme for each week in April. Ideas include favorite service logo day, patriotic day, etc.

Military Memorabilia. Decorate display cases and bulletin boards throughout April with military focused memorabilia, or items brought by military children reflecting their experiences (where they have live or traveled, family members' service memorabilia, parts of a uniform, patches, coins, etc.)

Where in the World? Create a world map and pinpoint where students and staff have lived because of their military lifestyle.

Poster Contest. Decorate the school. Have a group of kids design posters thanking military children and their parents for their service. Have military children make posters reflecting their experiences. Have a contest for students to choose their favorite poster.

Adopt a Soldier (or Sailor or Airman or Marine or Coast Guardsman). Adopt a deployed service member or unit. Send cards, letters, and care packages to deployed troops.

Adopt a Family. Adopt a family whose military member is deployed. Find out what the family needs help with - yard work, in home technology, childcare, tutoring, homework help, etc. – and have a class or club step in to help out.

Guest Speaker. Ask a military member (a parent or sibling of someone in the class) to be a guest speaker and share their perspective on life in the military as well as their profession.

Wall of Heroes. Create a Hero Wall to honor members. They could be family members of students or historical figures.

Time Zone Wall. In a main hallway set up a series of clocks showing the time in different countries where military children's family members are deployed.

Show-n-Tell. Have students bring in something military related, such as memorabilia from an installation or service branch, favorite airplane, or a book.

Skype. Hold a LIVE SKYPE session with a deployed service family member in the classroom or at an assembly.

Web Site Feature. Promote the Month of the Military Child on the school web site. List activities that will take place on different days during the month.

Salute to Military Children at Sporting Events. Have the announcer make a special announcement before, during or after sporting events recognizing all military children. Have them raise the flag, sing the National Anthem or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Military Family Liaison. Name a faculty member as the school's "go-to" person to help military families. Post the liaison's information on the school web site. Ask for training for the liaison from the Arkansas Council for Military Children. <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/legal/military-families>

Field Trip. Take a class trip to a military installation. This could be an active duty installation, a National Guard Armory, or an armed forces reserve center or complex. Meet with some of the service members and learn about what they do.

Sports Tournament. Organize a field day or sports tournament. Divide the students into teams representing different branches of the military. Encourage the participants to wear the color of the military branch they represent. Invite the local media to cover the event.

Military Ball. Host a school dance with a military theme. Decorate the venue in patriotic colors (or purple!) Invite a military parent as guest of honor.

District School Board Meeting. Invite military families to attend the April meeting of the district school board. Read a brief biography of each family and present the families to the board. Have the board chairperson formally thank the military families for their service and sacrifice.