



N.D. NATIONAL GUARD CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM



December 2012 Newsletter

Merry Christmas!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our National Guard extended family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May your homes be filled with family and friends, your hearts be filled with love, and your lives be filled with laughter. Don't forget to spend some valuable time with your wonderful Military Children and show them they are extra special.

—Beth and Nicole



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Come fill your Christmas Stocking!

Children and parents, grab your stocking and stop by your local Family Assistance Center to enjoy complimentary cider and cookies while you shop for FREE stocking stuffers and gifts.

December 10th through the 14th

For you!

Bismarck - Military Service Center, 1850 E. Bis. Expressway (8am-5pm)

Minot - Reserve Center, 3420 2nd St. NE (9am-5pm)

Fargo - Military Service Center, 2219 12th St. N, Ste B (8am-5pm)

Valley City - Armory, 747 7th St. SE (Mon. 8am-noon, Tues. 9am-5pm, Wed. 8am-noon, Thurs. 1pm-5pm, closed Fri.)

Grand Forks - Armory, 1501 48th St. S. (9am-5pm)

Devils Lake - Reserve Center, 4417 Highway 20, building 6100 (9am-5pm)

Thanks!

Toys donated by community members at local Dollar Tree Stores with the support of Operation Homefront.

For more information, contact:

Nicole, 701-333-4822

or Beth, 701-451-6109

nicole.l.cook.ctr@us.army.mil

beth.sandeen1@us.army.mil



Halloween Event, Bismarck

Contest Winner!

"It is always a great time and it brings more than just candy to the kids. It is our gift to the families that support us, a personal thank you for all the time, we as Soldiers give to the organization because of it's demands. There is no directive that says we MUST or government funding that dictates HOW we must execute - it is personal time and Soldier generosity that supports this great event.

There is one other thing this event does that is always overlooked. It creates Esprit de Corp within our offices and sometimes even between the offices. It promotes teamwork among employees and definitely boosts morale. It is a very nice break from the often stressful work week."

LTC Daryl Roerick



Top Ten Winter Family Activities

1. **Cookie Competition**—host a bake off for best tasting cookies or see who can come up with the best decorated!
2. **Snow Artist**—Fill squirt bottles with water and food coloring and send the little artists outside to add some color to the white landscape.
3. **Make Hot Chocolate**—homemade hot chocolate is a kid crowd pleaser. Gather up the kids for a warm cup of cocoa and take time to have a talk as a family. Don't forget the marshmallows!
4. **Holiday Light Tour**— load up the family and head out for a tour of the town and take in all the sparkling sights.
5. **Build a Bird Feeder**—not only fun but allows you to teach your kids a little about nature. Research birds that stay in your area for the winter and talk about what migration means.
6. **Frosty Treasure Hunt**— before letting the kids begin assembling Frosty the Snowman, create a treasure hunt for the items Frosty needs (pebbles, sticks etc.)
7. **Indoor Fort**—Build an indoor fort with blankets, pillows, tablecloths, and chairs! Kids love having their own space to transform into a clubhouse or secret hideaway.
8. **Family Storybook**—Let your little ones illustrate and write their own storybook using their family members as main characters.
9. **Make a Snow Globe**- Snow globes are a classic symbol of winter and are surprisingly easy to make.
10. **Put on a Play**- encourage kids to get creative by putting on a play complete with costumes and a big show for mom and dad.



Merry
Christmas!

Peppermint Ornaments

Lay 5 peppermint candies in a circle to form a wreath, bond sides together with icing or glue. Adorn front with cinnamon candies, mints or M&Ms. Loop twine around ornament and knot.

www.marthastewart.com



Snowman Cupcakes

This snowman wears a winter hat made from chocolate covered mint. His plump figure is two marshmallows; cut a slice off the top one and squish to make it smaller. Dabs of icing hold parts together. His eyes are chocolate sprinkles and his nose is cut from a gummy fish.

www.marthastewart.com

Decoupage Christmas Cards

Use color photocopies or print-outs of family pictures that your child can cut out and work with. Clothes can be made from wrapping paper, construction paper or wallpaper, glitter or even newspaper and glued on with a glue stick.

www.marthastewart.com



Christmas Fun in Fargo

Christmas Party for Military Children

Saturday, December 15, 2012
11:30 am to 2:30 pm
Legion Post 02
505 3rd Ave N, Fargo

- Make Christmas cards with OMK.
- Play a variety of Christmas games.
- Santa will make an appearance around 1:30 pm.

Sloppy Joes, chips, cookies and drinks will be provided by the Auxiliary.

Space is limited to the first 50 children ages 0-12. Please RSVP to Mavis 701-361-0413 no later than December 10th.



Sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 02 in partnership with OMK and NDNG Child and Youth Program



open gym for children of military families!

Saturday, December 15th, 2012

4PM - 6PM

Open Gym at TNT Kid's Fitness for ALL children of Military personnel!

*Ages 2-18. Children ages 5 and under must have an active adult helper.
(*If your child has special needs, or requires one on one attention, a parent or guardian must be present.)

FOOD AND BEVERAGES
PROVIDED BY:
U.S. Bank

Please RSVP by December 8th:

TNT Special Events Manager
Amanda Reed:
Amanda@tntkidsfitness.org
(701) 365-8868

Special Appearance by:
Santa Claus!



SPONSORED BY:



2800 Main Ave. Fargo, ND

College Scholarships for Military Children



Applications for the 2013 Scholarships for Military Children Program will be available starting December 1st. This scholarship program was created to recognize military families and their contributions to the readiness of the US Armed Forces and to celebrate the commissary's role in the military community. They are focused on supporting a good quality of life for our military and their families. The scholarship program is administered by Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides assistance to service members and their families. For more information or to apply for the military scholarships, please visit their website. www.militaryscholar.org

Need a **helping hand** this holiday season?

Your Sittercity membership can help you find child care, senior care, pet care and more during the busiest season at work and home.



Activate today at: sittercity.com/DoD



Find caregivers for:

- School holidays
- Holiday travel
- Holiday parties
- Last minute needs
- Pet sitting
- Senior care

**ARMY
MARINES
NAVY
AIR FORCE**

*including active duty,
Reserve & Guard families.*

Your membership to Sittercity is
fully paid by the Department of Defense
and is at no cost to you!



Upcoming Youth Program Events

Save these Dates



Christmas in Medora

MEDORA'S 17TH ANNUAL OLD-FASHIONED COWBOY CHRISTMAS!

Friday, Dec. 7th

Oyster stew/Veteran's Memorial Service/Wreath Ceremony/ Parade of Lights/ Holiday Stroll/Dakota Air Radio Show with a late night buffet.

Saturday, Dec. 8th

Eats on the Streets/Kids Games/Crafts/Sleigh & Hay Rides/Cowboy Snow Sculpting/Cowboy Poetry/Christmas Supper with Radio Stars Band and Dance along with (Fire & Ice Fireworks *tentative).

Sunday, Dec. 9th

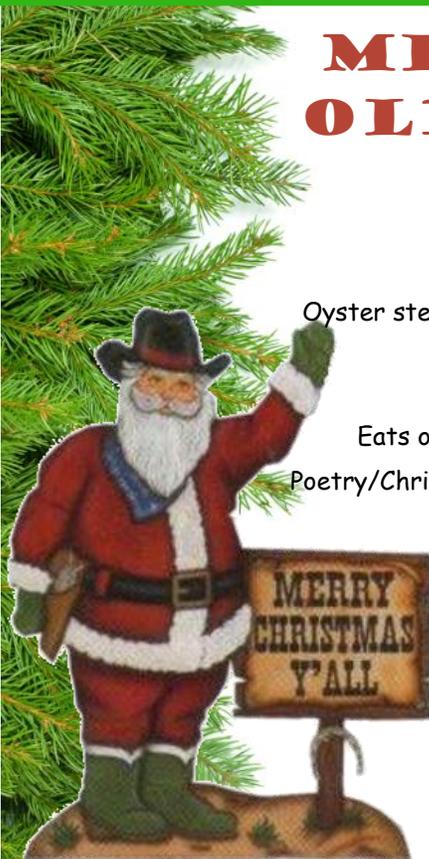
Breakfast/Christmas Cookie Contest/Cookies with Santa/Sledding at the Chateau.

DATE: 12/7/2012-12/9/2012

LOCATION: City-wide, Medora, ND

CONTACT: Leona Odermann 701-623-4910

RESERVATIONS: 1-800-633-6721



December Youth Council



Fargo

The Fargo Legion is having a Christmas party for Military Children ages 0-12 on December 15th. The Fargo Youth Council is invited to come and help volunteer at the event. They will help with games, prizes, and other activities throughout the day. It starts at 11:30, so they need to arrive around 11:00 am to help set up. The event ends around 3:00 pm. The location is 503 3rd Ave N, Fargo. Please RSVP to Beth if you can help with this event. beth.sandeen1@us.army.mil or 701-451-6109.

Bismarck

The Youth Council is "making spirits bright" for the children at Sanford Health Hospital.

Thursday, Dec. 6th from 6:20-8:00pm we will spend an evening of decorating the children's unit with holiday cheer. We will also be handing out presents to children and placing presents under the Christmas tree for children admitted throughout the month of December. RSVP to Nicole if you would like to join us with this project.

Nicole.l.cook.ctr@us.army.mil or 701-333-4822.

North Dakota Child and Youth Program Coordinators

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1850 Bismarck Expressway,
Bismarck



<http://www.facebook.com/NDNGCYP>

Child & Youth Program Web site:
www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil

Child & Youth Program Mission

Promote and sustain the quality of life and resilience of National Guard children and youth by providing secure, timely, flexible, high-quality support services and enrichment programs.