

Wisconsin Highlights

Operation: Military Kids

February 2008



Nicole Cray, Samantha Jackson, Connie Jackson, and Cathy McPhail
Present Operation Military Kids and Speak Out For Military Kids
To the Grant County 4-H Leader Association

1. OMK State Team

- The Wisconsin OMK Team met by phone conference on February 11. This meeting was dedicated to planning the National Guard Family Weekend Activities, our OMK face to face meeting, and the Speak Out For Military Kids Training.

2. OMK Ready, Set, Go

- Ready, Set, Go Training for twenty six UW-Platteville education students on Feb. 5 by Sue Curtis.
- Ready, Set, Go Training for fifteen members of the American Legion Post 52 in LaCrosse on February 14 by Laura Petersen.

3. OMK Informational Meetings/Briefings

John Ashley, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, has been a champion in briefing school audiences about OMK. John made the following presentations in February:



- February 11th - presentation to the Green Charter Schools Conference at the UW Arboretum - 100 participants.
- February 12th - presentation to the American Diploma Program and P-21 Leadership Team at the Monona Terrace in Madison - forty participants
- February 18th - presentation to the Whitnall School Board and staff - twenty participants.
- February 28th – presentation to the new members of the Wisconsin Academy of Arts, Letters and Sciences, in Menasha - thirty five participants.
- February 29th - presentation to the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Board of Control in Madison - thirty participants.

4. Youth Focused Programs



On February 27th Laura Pettersen, Monroe County 4-H Agent, and Bob Matysik, La Crosse County 4-H Agent, presented information about the affects of deployment on youth and families to educators, administrators, and counselors in the West Salem School District. Ten individuals learned about the phases of deployment and the unique challenges and effects of deployment on specific age groups of youth (early childhood, grade school, middle and high school). Discussion of ways to communicate effectively with families was also a part of the presentation.



Steve Horvath presented to Western Technical College February 28th in Tomah, WI. He helped the audience understand the five stages of deployment and how they impact the family. Participants included six high school/middle school counselors from the Tomah School District, the Western Tech. Director, and two Western Tech counselors.

5. New State Team Member – Welcome Denny Behr



Command Master Chief USNR (retired)
President - Madison, WI Council
Navy League of the United States