

Wisconsin Highlights

Operation: Military Kids

June 2008



Wisconsin SOMK Team members at Truax Field

1. OMK State Team

- The Wisconsin OMK State Team met by phone conference on June 9. Discussion topics included: upcoming SOMK events, school in-services, and cooperation with American Legion and VFW.

2. OMK Informational Meetings/Briefings

- June 2nd - Briefing for twelve participants of the Green Lake School Board retreat on the OMK/WASB relationship and how their district could support students of deployed soldiers by John Ashley.
- June 4th – OMK Update for executive committees of the Wisconsin Education Council, Association of Wisconsin School District Administrators as well as the Wisconsin Association of School Boards , twenty-three participants, by John Ashley.

- June 9th - Presentation on OMK to ten participants of the Riverdale School board in Muscoda by John Ashley.
- June 11th - Overview of OMK to the 21st Century Skills/American Diploma Project, seventy eight participants, at the Edgewater Hotel in Madison by John Ashley.
- June 12th – John Ashley and Denny Behr attended the Navy League Reception for the USS Freedom at the Monona Terrace in Madison and met with individuals interested in supporting OMK (150 participants).
- June 16th - OMK presentation to twenty-three participants of the Freedom school board and administration by John Ashley.
- June 17th - OMK update to eight Sevastopol school board members and the superintendent by John Ashley.
- June 18th - OMK update for forty-one participants of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Board of Control and Advisory Committee by John Ashley.
- June 17 & 18 – OMK information share with over 200 Wisconsin Association of County Extension Committee members at their annual convention by Steve Horvath.
- June 25th - OMK presentation to seventeen participants of the Beaver Dam school board and administration by John Ashley.
- June 25th – OMK update for WFHR Morning Magazine by Steve Horvath.
- June 30th - OMK presentation to nine participants of the Mellon school board by John Ashley.

3. Ready, Set, Go

- June 17 – Ready, Set, Go for nine UW-Platteville staff members by Sue Curtis
- June 18 – Ready, Set, Go for eight Wisconsin Association of Extension Committee Member by Steve Horvath.

4. Speak Out For Military Kids



Sam Jackson and Nicole Cray work on developing a board game about the stages of deployment as part of their four state SOMK retreat

Notes from Sam and Nicole: While Nicole and I were at the Iowa Youth 4-H Conference, we met many new people and had a lot of fun. We planned a game to be used by SOMK that allowed us to teach others about what military kids go through and use it as a tool as we led three different sessions at the conference. Taking some basic ideas from popular board games we began a long process that included brainstorming and putting things together. Two people came in to help the group with the process. One was Bubba Sorenson, the man who paints a different mural on Freedom Rock (in Iowa) every year. He works in graphic design and knew a lot about designing games. The other was a woman who is a creative writer and tells stories. At the end of the day, we had a board game that takes you through the life of a military kid. It mixes the ideas of games such as Life, Monopoly, Chutes and Ladders, etc. On the board, there are three basic types of squares: blank, stars, and situations. Obviously, nothing happens on the blank spaces, but if you land on a star, you draw a card and follow what it says to do. For example, one card said something like "your loved one is MIA, move back # spaces." Not all of them were bad though. It is the same type of thing for the spaces with situations. One example of this is "You got an A on your test, move forward # spaces." Also, to know how many spaces you move at the beginning of each turn, you roll a dice. In the end, the goal is to be the first to make it to retirement of your loved one from the military.

5. Youth Focused Programs

SOMK Team members work with over 300 youth at the 115th Fighter Wing Family Day on June 28





6. SOMK Shirts



New SOMK shirts were donated by OMK team member Connie Jackson

7. Hero Packs

Twenty Hero Packs were shared with the 115th Fighter Wing by Kim Sandleback.

