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- Growth/Maturation
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- Health Needs of Exceptional Children / “At-Risk” Children
- Healthy Lifestyles
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- Personal Care and Hygiene/Dental Care
- Physical Fitness
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- School Lunch
- School Nurses
- Scoliosis
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- Teenage Pregnancy/Sexual Responsibility
- Vision/Hearing/Scoliosis Screenings
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- Artist in Residence
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- Citizen/Character/Spiritual Education
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- Music in our Schools Month
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- Accidents/DUI/Impaired Driving
- Bicycle Safety
- Bullying/Hazing/Sexual Harassment/Cyber Bullying
- Character Development
- Child Restraints/Seat Belt Safety
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- Healthy Relationships
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- Parent/Family Involvement
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- Student Involvement
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Hope for Tomorrow

Mental Health Education Program for the School Community

Utah PTA has a partnership with The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Utah (NAMI Utah) that officially supports the Hope for Tomorrow program. This program is a homegrown Utah program that was developed by students, PTA representatives, parents, educators and other professionals.

The three goals of this program are:
- Raise awareness of mental health issues
- Erase the stigma of mental illness
- Foster hope among students and their families

The three topics discussed are:
- Mood disorders
- Substance use disorders
- Eating disorders

The three audiences involved are:
- Students
- Teachers
- Parents and the community

This program does not prescribe, heal, or treat. Through education, this program provides an opportunity for adolescents who suffer from undiagnosed, under-treated, or untreated mental illness to learn both when and how to seek appropriate professional help. It also provides teachers, parents and the community with information on signs and symptoms of three potential, life-threatening illnesses. Education is empowering—especially when there is collaboration between homes and schools.

The curriculum consists of materials for each topic and each audience. It includes how to set up the program in schools, program materials for each topic, and a DVD presentation for students on each topic. Programs and materials that can be used in conjunction with the Hope for Tomorrow curriculum include:
- Parents and Teachers as Allies – a free, 2-hour faculty in-service that helps teachers and parents work together to understand how to best support students with a mental illness.
- NAMI Basics – a free 6-week course for parents and caregivers of children/adolescents with mental health issues.
- Progression – a free 6-week education/support group for youth ages 15-21 who are dealing with their own mental health issues.
- “Mental Health Matters” – a newsletter containing valuable educational information as well as stories about mental illness from the perspective of a student, parent, and teacher.
- Prevention Dimensions – a lesson plan on mental health developed for health teachers.

The Hope for Tomorrow program has undergone an evaluation funded by Primary Children’s Medical Center Foundation and the Department of Pediatrics in the School of Medicine at the University of Utah. Students who participated in the Hope for Tomorrow program showed an increase in help-seeking behaviors.

Visit the NAMI Utah website [www.namiut.org](http://www.namiut.org) or call NAMI Utah at 801-323-9900 or toll free 1-877-230-6264, or fax 801-323-9979 for additional information.
PTA Take Your Family To School Week

Occurs during a designated week each February

PTA Take Your Family to School Week is a way to attract families to your school. Invite family members to step away from their daily grind and into the school during PTA Take Your Family to School Week. This special week is designed to connect families with their child’s school experience, and hosting PTA Take Your Family to School Week events will help strengthen the parent-school partnerships throughout the year.

By planning organized activities for families at the school:

- Parents gain a new perspective on their children's school day.
- Teachers build positive partnerships with parents.
- Children know that their family cares and values education.
- Schools build an excellent reputation in the community as an open welcoming place for families.
- Studies show that a child’s academic performance increases when their parents become involved in their education.

Ideas for PTA Take Your Family to School Week:

Open Gym Day: Get In The Game!
- Set up for volleyball, softball, kickball, or basketball on the school grounds.

Family Food Functions:
- Host mealtime opportunities with options like Moms and Muffins or Dads and Donuts!
- Evening meals: ethnic pot luck, barbecue, or indoor picnic where families bring food.

Wall of Fame: Who’s Who at the School
- Students interview teachers and adults at the school. They can use quotes, photos, pictures, and facts for a "Wall of Fame."

School Lunch Together:
- Parents go through the lunch line with their student, and eat lunch together.

Family Heritage Exhibit:
- Families contribute artifacts that highlight the history and diversity of all the members of the school’s community.

Reflections Art Gallery or Talent Gallery:
- Hang Reflections entries or display talents of your students in the school.

“Build It Night”: (Math/Science Emphasis)
- Encourage families and students to come to the gym and build it! Work math puzzles and do hands-on science experiments.
Special Nights in the Gym:
  ■ Music—family sing along, dance concerts, or themed family play evenings.

Garden Day:
  ■ School beatification projects for families to come and participate.

Principals Perspective:
  ■ Invite parents to a PTA meeting or informal chat to hear the school principal talk about the school curriculum and the vision for the school. Have the principal discuss opportunities for families to be involved in the school.

Reading Circles:
  ■ Ask local authors, librarians, teachers, or parents to host family book discussions or simply read a favorite story or book to students. Use this opportunity to establish a reading or book club corner in your school library.

Saturday Success Academy:
  ■ Offer parent workshops on such topics as parenting skills, graduation expectations, financing college, test-taking skills, and computer skills while students participate in review sessions for course exams and standardized tests.

Game Night:
  ■ Provide board games for families to play in teams or as individuals. Organize tournaments to help families get to know new people.

School Tour:
  ■ Invite parents to visit the library, computer lab, auditorium, track, music room, and more to see where students spend their time at school.

Social Media Literacy:
  ■ Students and parents learn about the need for increased responsible use of social media.

For more ideas and information please visit the Utah PTA website, [www.utahpta.org](http://www.utahpta.org), or the National PTA website at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).
PTA Take Your Family To School Week Award

Utah PTA Cover Sheet

This award is given by National PTA and the application must be submitted directly to National PTA.

This program is promoted by the Utah PTA Family Life Commissioner. In order to be aware of those local PTAs applying for the award and to compile information on the programs planned in Utah, please submit a copy of the National PTA application to Utah PTA.

**Deadline:** same as the current National PTA deadline to apply for the award.

Local PTA

Council

Region

PTA President Name

Address

City ___________________________ Zip Code ______

Phone Number ____________________

Please **attach** a copy of the application sent to National PTA. It can be printed from the website or be the document generated by your PTA in order to complete the application. Thank you.

SEND TO:

Utah PTA
Attn: Family Life Commissioner
5192 S. Greenpine Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84123
Battle of the Bands Basic Information

Battle of the Bands (BOB) is an official Utah PTA program for PTSAs

Rules

- All bands are eligible.
- Band members are only allowed to be in one band for the competition.
- Bands may not have members younger than 9th grade or older than 20 years old.
- All bands must have at least 2 members. At least 70% (50% when it is 2 members) need to be in 9th-12th grade.
- Band members do not need to be from the same school, but they must compete at the school where the majority of the band members attend and that school must be a PTSA in good standing.
- You will need to play a set of 2 songs, one will be an original song and one will be a cover of a song from 1960-present. The set will be no longer than 8 minutes playing time. There is a 10 minute time limit to get on stage, perform, and get off stage. Points will be deducted for going over time.
- Each band will submit a typed copy of the lyrics of both songs. Remember that all lyrics must be “family friendly”. If the lyrics are different during the performance from what was turned in, you may be disqualified.
- Each band will submit a recording on CD of the performance. Please write your band name and school on the CD. These will not be returned.
- There must be no vulgarities, profanities, lewd comments, racist remarks, violence, sexual content, references to suicide, etc., in the lyrics.
- You must provide your own instruments, amplifiers, and cords. Please mark these items for identification. Utah PTA is not responsible for any damaged, lost, or stolen equipment.
- Your dress must meet school guidelines. No clothing may be removed during the performance.
- Each band will submit a short typed biography for the MC of the competition to read. Be creative and humorous, list some of the events you have played. You do not have to list band members’ names, ages, or schools.
- The Media Release must be signed by ALL band members’ parents/guardians and 18 year old band members, or the band will not be allowed to participate.

School Playoffs

There will be one band representing each school that will move on to the Multi-Region competition. Each school that has more than one band applying to compete will have to hold a school competition. This will be run by the School PTSA President or BOB Chair.

All school winner applications will be forwarded by the school PTSA President or BOB Chair to the Region Director or Chair in charge of their Multi-Region competition by March 1st.

Multi-Region Competition

The Multi-Region Competition will take place between March 1-31. The Region Director or Chair will be in touch with all school winners with the date, time and place of the Multi-Region Competition. Three bands from each Multi-Region Competition will advance to the State BOB. Each Multi-Region will decide which three bands will advance, some send First and Second Place and then the Audience Favorite and some send the top three place bands. The Multi-Region Competition winner’s application will be sent on to the Utah PTA Student Involvement Commissioner by the Region Director or Chair.
Wild Card Entry
Any band who does not win at their Multi-Region Competition may send a video of their performance to the Utah PTA Student Involvement Commissioner at kids@utahpta.org to be uploaded to youtube.com for voting by March 30. The voting will be open from April 2nd to April 6th at 12:00 PM. The band receiving the most votes will be invited to participate in the State BOB. The band will be contacted by the Student Involvement Commissioner by phone or email.

If you are planning on entering the Wild Card Entry, you need to get all the paperwork from the Multi-Region Director or Chair to send to the Student Involvement Commissioner if you are the winning band.

Membership Increase Entry
The school with the biggest percentage of PTSA membership increase will be invited to have a BOB entry. The Student Involvement Commissioner will contact the Region Director over this school to make the invitation.

Band Set-up
You will have one half of the stage to set-up and use for your performance. The other side will be being used for clean-up/set-up of the next band.

Please remember that you are responsible for providing your own instruments, amplifiers, and cables.

There will be a limited number of microphones available, if you need more then 3, please call the person in charge of the school, Multi-Region, or State Competition to see if more microphones are available. If not, you will have to provide the extra microphones that you need.

PLEASE MARK ALL ITEMS FOR IDENTIFICATION!

UTAH PTA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGED, LOST, OR STOLEN EQUIPMENT.

Media Release and Entry Form
All band members must have a parent/guardian sign the Media Release Form, unless they are over 18. All band members must be listed on the Entry Form. If you need more space on either form, please copy it. If the Media Form is not signed by a parent/guardian for every band member or by the 18 year old band member, they will not be able to participate.

Bands participating in the State Battle of the Band Competition in April will receive a t-shirt. Please write the total numbers of shirts needed by the size. All shirts are Adult Men’s Sizes.

For a Complete Packet with rules and forms go to our website: www.utahpta.org/battle-bands
Battle of the Bands

Packets Due:

Local Competition Date:

Multi-Region Entries Due to Utah PTA: April 1

Battle of the Bands is an official Utah PTA program

www.utahpta.org • kids@utahpta.org
Utah PTA Military Families and Military Children

The life of military families and children has always had challenges. Foremost among them being frequent relocations and separations. Every time military families move, children have to adapt, make new friends, get used to new schools, and find new clubs and teams to join. It is hard for kids to rebuild their world every time they move and find their place in it. Having a PTA board member as a Military Family Specialist provides a powerful opportunity to raise awareness and build support to help these children meet the unique challenges they face. It is an opportunity to recognize military children and youth for their heroism, character, courage, sacrifices and resilience.

Did You Know?

■ Two million military children have experienced a parental deployment since 2001.
■ There are currently 1.7 million military children of active duty members worldwide.
■ Nearly 80 percent of military children attend public schools throughout the United States.
■ The average military family moves three times more often than their civilian counterpart.
■ The repeated and extended separations and increased hazards of deployment compound stressors in military children's lives.
■ One third of school-age military children show psychosocial behaviors such as being anxious, worrying often, crying more, and/or acting out.
■ The U.S. military consists of approximately 1.4 million active duty service members and 810,000 National Guard and Selected Reserve. Usually Active Duty military families live on or near military installations. National Guard and Reserve families might never live near a military installation, and look within their community for educational services, friendship and support.
■ A positive school environment, built upon caring relationships among all participants—students, teachers, staff, administrators, parents and community members—has been shown to impact not only academic performance but also positively influence emotions and behaviors of military-connected students.
■ Supporting the military child takes a school-wide and community-wide effort, and professional development opportunities to inform school staff of the academic and social-emotional challenges military children face.

Utah PTA has a Military Family Board Specialist and we encourage all local PTAs to have a Military Family Specialist. On our website, www.utahpta.org, under Commissioners/Specialists click on Military Families Specialist, you will find numerous ideas and resources to help all school personnel, teachers, administrators and PTA leaders and members understand, identify and recognize these military families and children. There are over 18,000 children in Utah who have one or more parents, step-parents, siblings, or extended family members on full-time duty status in military service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty. Help us to help them!

Utah PTA Supports Our Military Families

What are the challenges our Military Families face? They face frequent relocations, educational inconsistencies—different school systems, adjusting to new neighbors and communities, leaving friends and making new friends, family separations, grandparents as care givers, disability or loss of family member and many other challenges.
**What can PTA do?** Communicate with military families, educate the community, advocate to eliminate nation-wide educational inconsistencies, and be a source of information and support.

**How do we reach and include them?** Identify them, by finding out who they are. Invite them, welcome them, and ask them to participate. Inform them of events and programs and communicate with them. Involve them, because volunteering is what they do. Include them, because no job is too small to use their skills.

**How does PTA benefit Military Families?** PTA supports them by reaching out to them. PTA sustains them by being there for them. PTA leaders and members recognize and honor their sacrifice and acknowledge their service.

**Ideas to Celebrate and Recognize Military Families and Children**

1. Have a patriotic program in a School Assembly (See website: [www.utahpta.org](http://www.utahpta.org), under Commissioners/ Committees, click on Military Families Specialist. Click on Ideas to Recognize Military Families.)
2. Wear a camouflage ribbon or article of clothing on Assembly Day, or on Veteran’s Day, President’s Day or any patriotic day.
3. Have the students wear red, white and blue to school and have each child describe what each color means to them. Then discuss the real meaning of the colors.
4. Have students create artwork that promotes patriotism and display it in the classroom and/or school. This could be done anytime during the school year but throughout November, Military Family Month or April, the Month of the Military Child, or around any patriotic holiday it would be especially meaningful.
5. Encourage the reading of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.
6. Present a patriotic play or story in class prior to Armed Forces Day, Veteran’s Day, Flag Day or Memorial Day.
7. Have a “Take Your Veteran to School Day” (See ideas on website: [www.utahpta.org](http://www.utahpta.org), see instructions above.) Suggest veteran wear his/her military uniform to the assembly, or a program or to the child’s classroom. The child could introduce him/her.
8. Have students write a paper on “Serving our Nation” by interviewing a former or current member of the military.
9. Sing a patriotic song, or learn a dance or memorize a patriotic poem as a class.
10. Have students write a paragraph, poem or short story about, “Why I am Grateful to Those in Military Service.”
11. Invite a student’s military family member to the class to explain what their military service meant/means to them.
12. Have the students write a letter, as a class or individually, to a soldier. (Mailing addresses can be provided)

National PTA Supports our Military Families by creating and continuing Military Family Support Committee. The latter is a group of organizations that work together to provide resources to and advocate for military-connected families. MAPP develops collaborative strategy to create awareness of military families and their needs. It serves military families by providing and developing resources that will help and support them.
Utah PTA Military Family Month

Proclamation

WHEREAS, this year, 2019, marks Utah PTA’s 7th annual Utah PTA Military Family Month observance ... paying tribute and giving appreciation to military families for their strength, commitment, sacrifices, and unconditional support of our troops; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of brave Utahns have demonstrated their courage and commitment to freedom by serving in the military and have taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; and

WHEREAS, there are over 18,000 children in Utah who have one or more parents, step-parents, siblings, or extended family members on full-time duty status in military service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty; and

WHEREAS, we appreciate the strength and sacrifice of military families who also serve when their family members and other caring adults sacrifice to defend our freedoms, and who provide support to their family members, endure long periods of separation, and move frequently; and

WHEREAS, the children of military men and women face unique challenges, Utah PTA has committed to be an active participant in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children which will help families when they transition from school system to school system across state lines; and

WHEREAS, the spouses, youth and children of our service members are major contributors to the fabric of strength in their classes and schools every day; and military families continue to make significant contributions to families, schools, communities, our State and the Nation, despite prolonged and repeated absences of one or both parents; and

WHEREAS, these military families are a source of pride and honor to us all, and it is only fitting that we take the time to recognize their contributions, celebrate their spirit, and honor their sacrifices; now

Therefore, I, Laney Benedict, President of Utah PTA, do hereby proclaim and recognize November 2019 as Utah PTA Military Family Month, and urge my fellow citizens to observe this month by connecting with military children, military families and the communities where we work, live and play to provide support to all our Utah Military Families and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.
Attention All PTA Families!!

Utah PTA and Utah National Guard celebrate Military Family Month with a concert held around Veterans Day every year.

Essay Contest

Utah PTA, in partnership with Utah National Guard, is also holding an essay contest for Military Families! The three winning students from Elementary School, Middle School /Junior High, and High School, from Military Families will be honored at this concert and receive a valuable prize!

A Military Family is one that has father, mother, sister, or brother who has served or is presently serving in the Active, Reserve or National Guard (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard). If children live with guardians who are presently serving, they are also included.

The theme for the essay contest is “Why I am proud of my Veteran!” The essay must be no more than 500 words. You can email or send the essay to Utah PTA Military Family Specialist, Kathy Allred, at the addresses below. Word format is preferred. The article can be sent anytime before the deadline. The articles must be in by Friday, October 11, 2019. If you have any questions or need more information please contact:

Kathy Allred, Utah PTA Military Families Specialist
MilitaryFamilies@UtahPTA.org
5192 S. Greenpine Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84123
Phone: 801-261-3100
Fax: 801-261-3110
The participants include

AUSA: Association of the United States Army,
DoDEA: U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity,
MCEC: Military Children Education Coalition,
MISA: Military Impacted Schools Association, and the
NMFA: National Military Family Association

Resources on the Internet

Utah PTA: .......................................................... www.utahpta.org
National PTA: ........................................................... www.pta.org
Military Children Education Coalition: ................................ www.militarychild.org
National Military Family Association: ................................ www.militaryfamily.org
Military Impacted Schools Association: ....................... www.militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org

Utah PTA Celebrates in November and April!

November is the Month of the Military Family

April is the Month of the Military Child

On the following pages you will find that each month has it’s own Proclamation by the Utah PTA President declaring the month of celebration and then a page of ideas for you to use.

Please join Utah PTA in celebration of the Military Child by doing something patriotic in your school during April, Month of the Military Child! Please contact me for questions or more information

Utah PTA Military Family Specialist: Kathy Allred, MilitaryFamilies@UtahPTA.org, 801-261-3100
April is the Month of the Military Child
Let’s Celebrate and Show our Support!

Did you know that there are approximately 1.7 million military children that are school-aged? Of that number, 765,000 military children have active duty parents, and 225,000 have a parent who is currently deployed. We have about 18,000 school-aged military children in Utah! In honor of their resilience and sacrifices, April is Month of the Military Child.

Each April, America honors the courage and recognizes the sacrifice of over 1.7 million children in military families nationwide. The life of military children has always had its challenges, foremost among them being frequent relocations. Every time families move, children have to make new friends, get used to new schools, and find new clubs and teams to join. A lot of military children take these changes in stride, but it is hard - kids have to rebuild their world every time and find their place in it. As part of a military family, these children are also “serving” their country! Month of the Military Child provides a powerful opportunity to raise awareness and build support to help these children meet the unique challenges they face! It is an opportunity to recognize military children and youth for their heroism, character, courage, sacrifices and continued resilience.

Ideas to Celebrate the Month of the Military Child:
1. Have a Patriotic Assembly, with the whole school wearing a camouflage ribbon or an article of clothing on Assembly day or a special day chosen in April. (Assembly planning ideas can be found on our website: www.utahpta.org, (From the menu bar select Commissioners/Committees and click on Military Families Specialist. From the menu on the right select Ideas to Recognize Military Families.
2. Have students create artwork that promotes patriotism and display it in the room and/or school throughout April.
3. Encourage the reading of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.
4. Read, discuss and/or act out a Patriotic story in the classroom during the month of April.
5. Invite a student’s military family member to class to explain what their military service meant/means to them.
6. Invite military family members to the Assembly or a school event. Ask them to wear their service uniform.
7. Have students write a paper on “Serving our Nation” by interviewing a former/current service member.
8. Sing a patriotic song at the beginning of class and/or play a patriotic song throughout the school.
10. Have the students write a letter, as a class or individually, to a soldier. (Mailing addresses can be provided)

Please join National PTA and Utah PTA in Celebration of the Military Child by doing something patriotic in your school during April, the Month of the Military Child!!

Please let us know what you did by contacting the Utah PTA Military Families Specialist, and share with our local PTA’s statewide!
Utah PTA Month of the Military Child

Proclamation

WHEREAS, this year, 2020, marks Utah PTA’s 8th annual Utah PTA Month of the Military Child observance ... paying tribute and giving appreciation to military children for their strength, commitment, sacrifices, and unconditional support of our troops; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of brave Utahns have demonstrated their courage and commitment to freedom by serving in the military and have taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; and

WHEREAS, there are over 18,000 children in Utah who have one or more parents, step-parents, siblings, or extended family members on full-time duty status in military service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty; and

WHEREAS, we appreciate the strength and sacrifice of military children who also serve when their family members and other caring adults sacrifice to defend our freedoms, and who provide support to their family members, endure long periods of separation, and move frequently; and

WHEREAS, the children of military men and women face unique challenges, Utah PTA has committed to be an active participant in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children which will help families when they transition from school system to school system across state lines; and

WHEREAS, the youth and children of our service members are major contributors to the fabric of strength in their classes and schools every day; and military children continue to make significant contributions to families, schools, communities, our State and the Nation, despite prolonged and repeated absences of one or both parents; and

WHEREAS, these military children are a source of pride and honor to us all, and it is only fitting that we take the time to recognize their contributions, celebrate their spirit, and honor their sacrifices;

Therefore, I, Laney Benedict, President of Utah PTA, do hereby proclaim and recognize April 2020 as Utah PTA Month of the Military Child, and urge my fellow citizens to observe this month by connecting with military children, military families and the communities where we work, live and play to provide support to all our Utah Military Children and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.