



Alabama 4-H Reaching Out to Military Families

Impact Statement

The Problem/Issue:

Alabama has three military facilities. The state also has one of the highest rates of National Guard and Reserve deployment in the country. The state has a large number of children who are coping with their parents being on military service away from them.

What's Been Done:

Redstone Arsenal and Fort Rucker have active and growing 4-H programs. Their staffs have completed the Army 4-H 101 training. Maxwell Air Force Base has a rich tradition of 4-H involvement in after-school programs. Extension has helped provide a network of support for Army youth whose parents are regularly transferred. It has promoted mission-readiness for soldiers by providing safe, structured activities for their children. Approximately 300 young people were reached with some type of 4-H programming associated with a military base.

Why We Care:

Extension's 4-H military programming effort has made significant strides in helping military families deal with the unique stresses they face. Alabama 4-H has reached new audiences and made sound use of public resources by its collaboration with the Army. The collaboration combines 4-H's expertise in youth development with the Army's goal of becoming a model for youth programming.