

## *They Need Our Help*

Youths experiencing deployment of a parent are incredibly strong and resilient, but they do need the support of all Idahoans. Below are issues identified by youths that OMK can help address.

- \* Lack of connection with other youths in similar situations.
- \* Concern for the safety of their parent.
- \* Deployed parent misses birthdays, holidays and significant events.
- \* Limited opportunities to attend and participate in extra-curricular activities.
- \* Teachers and youth workers who may not be trained to recognize and meet their new needs.
- \* Behavioral changes and lower self esteem.



## **Technology and Operation: Military Kids**

Idaho 4-H Youth Development

University of Idaho Extension

714 W State St.

Boise, ID 83702

Phone: (208) 334-2328

Fax: (208) 364-4037

E-mail: [omk@uidaho.edu](mailto:omk@uidaho.edu)

[www.4h.uidaho.edu/omk](http://www.4h.uidaho.edu/omk)

[www.operationmilitarykids.org](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org)

Persons with a disability requiring special accommodation while participating in this program may contact us. If accommodation is not requested in advance, we cannot guarantee the availability of accommodation on site.

Cooperative Extension programs and policies are consistent with federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office or state 4-H Youth Development office.

Operation: Military Kids is an ARMY Children and Youth Services sponsored collaboration with the NIFA and 4-H, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, The American Legion, Military Child Education Coalition and other organizational partners.



## **Idaho's Speak Out for Military Kids (SOMK)**



**University of Idaho**  
Extension

[www.operationmilitarykids.org](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org)

## ***What is Speak Out for Military Kids (SOMK)?***

SOMK is a youth-directed activity sponsored by *Operation: Military Kids* that trains military and non-military youth in grades 7-12 to use media, technology, citizenship, and public speaking skills to advocate for military-connected youths affected by the Global War on Terrorism.

- \* Youths acquire knowledge and skills in developing creative and informative presentations using a variety of different media.

After the training, participants continue to meet and engage in fun educational activities that:

- \* Raise community awareness of issues faced by geographically dispersed military children and youths from all branches of the National Guard and Reserve.
- \* Foster community support for the sacrifices military families make.



## ***Top 10 Reasons you (or your child) should become a member of Idaho's SOMK***

10. You are in grades 7-12 and want to learn (or improve) technology and communication skills and use these to spread the word about an important program that helps other kids.
9. You understand that kids whose parents are serving our Nation are heroes and want to find a new way to thank them.
8. You want more leadership and community service experience at a statewide level (a positive addition to college scholarship applications and resumes).
7. You will have the chance to work with a team to develop news releases, digital photography presentations, DVD's and CD-ROM's to promote OMK in Idaho
6. You will meet others in grades 7-12 from all over Idaho who share common interests.
5. You will be given opportunities to help plan and host day-camps, overnight events and other activities to make sure younger children who have a parent deployed know that Idahoans appreciate the sacrifices they make when their parent is away.
4. Summer training sessions are *lots* of fun and include youths from all over the state.

3. You will gain valuable skills in leadership, research, organization, technology and public speaking that will help you in high school, college and your career.
2. Did we mention how great this will look on college scholarship applications? This is a biggie for parents too!

***AND THE #1 REASON*** that you (or your child) should become a member of Idaho's SOMK is:

As many as 8,000 Idaho youths have been affected by the Global War on terror when their mom or dad was deployed to serve our nation. SOMK is an important part of Idaho's effort to raise awareness of that fact in communities across the state. We cannot do it without tapping into the skills that each of us can bring in spreading this news to all Idahoans.



## ***A Call to Action***

When military personnel are deployed, not just the servicemembers, but entire families answer the call to serve our nation. SOMK is the way for military and non-military youths in grades 7-12 to thank the young heroes at home.

Contact Operation: Military kids to apply for SOMK as a youth participant or adult volunteer: [omk@uidaho.edu](mailto:omk@uidaho.edu).