

Youth Activities Promotion #1 | July 2022

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It is important that our children know and understand what our veterans gave not only for the United States but for its people, as well. Our children are our future, and they need to know what our veterans have gone through to keep our country alive. If we don't take care of the future, we fail our youth. Each of us are responsible for teaching our youth to help and understand what has made this country what it is today.

Sometimes the best way to learn something is to see it with your own eyes. For example, to teach youth about the Civil War, introduce them to the location of battle at Gettysburg to help them understand what took place on U.S. soil. Visiting the locations of the 9/11 attacks also provide opportunities for you to see and learn the price of freedom. Please keep in mind the age of youth before visiting these locations.

There are many youth organizations that we can reach out to and aid and assist:

- 4H Clubs
- Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Campfire USA
- Church groups

It is our responsibility to help feed young minds with the truth as to what our veterans have done for our country.

I once read:

The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade, has started to understand the meaning of life. Author Unknown

Sometimes you must start at the end, to understand the beginning.

My granddaughter and I were visiting the cemetery in our hometown to visit the graves of family members, and while we were placing flowers and cleaning around the graves. My granddaughter noticed a headstone about 10-feet away that belonged to a veteran. There were no flowers. There was no Flag. There was grass growing over the headstone. You could tell that nobody had been out there to pay respect to the veteran who was lying under the headstone. My granddaughter asked me, "Mama, why is it that when our veterans die no one seems to remember them ?" I tried to explain to her that maybe he didn't have any family in the area anymore. Or maybe the family he had left living didn't know he was laid to rest in this cemetery. But then she came back with the response that maybe they just forgot about him. Wow! What a reality check for me. Now, every time we go to the cemetery, we check that veteran's grave and the graves of veterans nearby to ensure that respect has been paid to them, that their headstone looks appropriate, and that they have flowers and a Flag.

Just imagine what our cemeteries would look like if each time we visited the graves of our loved ones, we also checked veteran's headstones to be sure that they were properly taken

care of. And most of all, we teach our youth that we can appreciate and honor veterans even after they are laid to rest.

There are so many ways to honor all veterans of our great country.

Upcoming Patriotic Dates to Remember With Youth

July 4, 2022 – Independence Day

July 27, 2022 – Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

Aug. 4, 2022 – Coast Guard Birthday

Aug. 7, 2022 – Purple Heart Day – A day for Americans to pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Aug. 29, 2022 – Marine Forces Reserve Birthday

Sept. 11, 2022 – Patriot Day – An annual observance to remember and honor those who were injured or killed during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Sept. 16, 2022 – POW/MIA Recognition Day

Sept. 18, 2022 – Air Force Birthday

Sept. 25, 2022 – Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day – A Day to honor the families of fallen Servicemembers.

Oct. 13, 2022 – Navy Birthday

Oct. 26, 2022 – National Day of the Deployed

Nov. 10, 2022 – Marine Corps Birthday

Nov. 11, 2022 – Veterans Day – This is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice treaty, which ended World War I and is also a day to thank military Veterans for their service.

Dec. 7, 2022 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day – The anniversary of the day Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, signaling the United States' entrance into World War II.

Dec. 13, 2022 – National Guard Birthday

Dec. 17, 2022 – National Wreaths Across America Day

Dec. 20, 2022- Space Force birthday

Significant Military Months

April – Month of the Military Child

May – National Military Appreciation Month

May – Month of the Military Caregiver

November – Military Family Month, Warrior Care Month

Please be sure and send in your report with all documentation. Full documentation **MUST** be included with the report.