

Twenty-Four Ideas

To Celebrate Month of the Military Child 2024

1. **Kick-Off Breakfast.** Kick off the Month of the Military Child with a breakfast or lunch for military children in the school. Include their parents or other family members associated with the military.
2. **Special Announcements.** Have a military child do the announcements and share an interesting fact about their life as a military child.
3. **Daily Factoids.** Have a daily or weekly announcement with military-connected student facts. Start with the national facts and move into school facts.
4. **Purple Up Day.** Observe Purple Up Day (**April 19**). Challenge students, faculty, and staff to wear purple. Class with the most purple wins a prize. Post pictures on social media.
5. **Dress Up Theme Day.** Have a dress-up theme for each week in April. Ideas include favorite service logo day, patriotic day, etc.
6. **Military Memorabilia.** Decorate display cases and bulletin boards throughout April with military focused memorabilia, or items brought by military children reflecting their experiences (where they have live or traveled, family members' service memorabilia, parts of a uniform, patches, coins, etc.)
7. **Where in the World?** Create a world map and pinpoint where students and staff have lived because of their military lifestyle.
8. **Poster Contest.** Decorate the school. Have a group of kids design posters thanking military children and their parents for their service. Have military children make posters reflecting their experiences. Have a contest for students to choose their favorite poster.
9. **Adopt a Soldier (or Sailor or Airman or Marine or Coastguardsman).** Adopt a deployed service member or unit. Send cards, letters, and care packages to deployed troops.
10. **Adopt a Family.** Adopt a family whose military member is deployed. Find out what the family needs help with - yard work, in home technology, childcare, tutoring, homework help, etc. – and have a class or club step in to help out.
11. **Guest Speaker.** Ask a military member (a parent or sibling of someone in the class) to be a guest speaker and share their perspective on life in the military as well as their profession.

12. **Wall of Heroes.** Create a Hero Wall to honor members. They could be family members of students or historical figures.
13. **Time Zone Wall.** In a main hallway set up a series of clocks showing the time in different countries where military children's family members are deployed.
14. **Show-n-Tell.** Have students bring in something military related, such as memorabilia from an installation or service branch, favorite airplane, or a book.
15. **Skype.** Hold a LIVE SKYPE session with a deployed service family member in the classroom or at an assembly.
16. **Web Site Feature.** Promote the Month of the Military Child on the school web site. List activities that will take place on different days during the month.
17. **Salute to Military Children at Sporting Events.** Have the announcer make a special announcement before, during or after sporting events recognizing all military children. Have them raise the flag, sing the National Anthem or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
18. **Dress Right!** Have a t-shirt drawing contest for the Month of the Military Child and make t-shirts for the school to show their support.
19. **Hit the Drill Field.** Invite a neighboring JROTC to your campus for a demonstration of close order drill.
20. **Military Parade.** All students dress up in patriotic outfits and parade through the school; ending in the courtyard. Each grade level performs a song and the Principal delivers a short speech thanking the children and families for their service.
21. **Military Family Liaison.** Name a faculty member as the school's "go-to" person to help military families. Post the liaison's information on the school web site. Ask for training for the liaison from the Arkansas Council for Military Children. <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/legal/military-families>
22. **Food Drive.** Hold a food drive or fundraiser for an organization that addresses food insecurity among military families. Coordinate your efforts with the Arkansas Foodbank or a local food pantry.
23. **Post the Colors!** Start the morning announcements by playing a recording of the bugle call "To the Colors" over the intercom and then have a military-connected student lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
24. **Military Trivia.** Finish up the morning announcements each day with an interesting piece of military trivia. Have a different Military Kid do the honors!