

## Operation Military Kids (OMK) State Team and Friends of OMK

Hello! I hope this message finds you doing well. As many of you already know, we received not one, but BOTH of the camp grants we applied for to hold different types of military camps in Kentucky in 2011! The first grant is the same one we have received the past two years - Operation: Military Kids (OMK) Camps for the whole military family to attend together. This year the camps will be held at Newport Aquarium, Louisville Science Center, and Mammoth Cave -- with new and exciting activities for the whole family to participate in together as they meet other military families and grow their support systems through people and resources. You won't believe how exciting these camps are going to be this year, from camping out under the fish tunnel and penguin encounters, to cave tours and canoeing, to CSI investigations and flashlight safaris!!!

Last week we gave out flyers and the web address for these three camps during our quarterly OMK state team meeting so that all our partners could start sharing this information with military families. The application packet is not yet complete, but we are working on it now and hope to have it out as soon as it is approved. The web site for these family camps is <http://www.ca.uky.edu/hes/?p=590>. The flyers I have attached are already available there, and the application packet will be posted there as soon as it is done so that families can download it right from this web site to fill out and submit. We would be very grateful if you would start sharing the word about these WONDERFUL camp opportunities to all the military families you know -- they do not have to just be Kentucky families, either! We have space for up to 100 people at each of the three camps this year. First priority will go to families who are geographically dispersed and who have experienced at least one deployment. Also, please feel free to share the web site and flyers with others who might be able to help us get the word out as well - FRGs, Family Resource Centers, School Liaison Officers, Homemakers, and more!

In addition to new partners and camp facilities, we also have a new camp coordinator this year. His name is Derek Darlington and he will be the primary contact for all matters concerning these 3 camps. His contact information is on the attached flyers and on the website. Please join me in welcoming Derek to our OMK family in Kentucky!

I will be sending out information separately about the other camp grant we have been awarded, which will consist of 7 different camp opportunities for military parents and their teenage children to attend together. I will also be posting a job announcement to hire a camp coordinator for this grant, and will send the link to the job announcement to our OMK State Team once it has been posted so that it can be shared with anyone who might be interested.

Stay tuned for more on these camps!

Thanks for all that you do in support of our military families!

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