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Photo Caption: Participants from the Delaware 4-H Program and Delaware National Guard Program recently participated in the Military SOMK Training.

Delaware Youth Participate in Military SOMK Training

Twenty youth participated in a recent training workshop for the Speak Out for Military Kids (SOMK) program. SOMK is an educational program designed to raise the awareness about issues facing military families. The program helps to provide information and opportunities on how community individuals can get involved in the Operations Military Kids program while providing support and assistance to military families. The program is made possible due to a grant received by the University of Delaware 4-H Program from funds provided by the USDA Army Youth Development Project, a collaboration of the U.S. Army Child and Youth Services and the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

As part of the training, youth from Delaware 4-H as well as youth from the Delaware National Guard participated in various training workshops about the impact of deployment and the deployment cycle, media, creating and developing presentations as well as other informative sessions. Based on this training, members will develop a presentation that can be given to various local, county and state organizations, businesses, schools, and other venues to help increase the awareness of issues facing military families. By participating in this training, youth gained valuable leadership skills, organization, research, and public speaking skills that they will be able to use with this initiative as well as in the future with other projects.

4-H is the world's largest youth group, teaching leadership, creativity and other life skills. 4-Hers participate in many events, contests and project areas. Delaware 4-H is a non-profit organization that does not discriminate against sex, race or religion. Delaware 4-H is a part of the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Services.