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The cover photo shows the Young Marines plaque in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, informally known as Punchbowl Cemetery, in Honolulu, Hawaii. It serves as a memorial to honor those men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces and those who have given their lives in doing so.



K WE BELIEVE

Our children are the future world leaders, captains of industry, teachers, scientists, change makers. The Young Marines mission is to empower them, helping them maximize their potential to become the citizen-leaders that our nation needs. Here, they hone and uphold values such as discipline, self-confidence, the desire to live a healthy life, and the motivation to excel academically. Values that stand as the cornerstone of our success as one of the leading nations in the world.



Message From Our CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

The Young Marines National Foundation is excited to be giving back to the Young Marines youth organization. After all, that is why we started the Foundation: to provide financial assistance to the organization and restore any programs that may have been removed because of a lack of funding. We feel strongly that the Young Marines have established a proven record of success and deserve the undivided attention of anyone who feels as we do: that the development of our youth as future leaders and productive citizens is a responsibility that we take with great pride. There are three primary reasons that the Young Marines deserve our attention.

The Young Marines have been and continue to be the preeminent youth drug demand reduction program in the country. Their award-winning program called "Closing the Gate on Drugs" earned them the Defense Department's Fulcrum Shield Award for "excellence in youth drug demand reduction education". This, combined with Red Ribbon Week requires that the Young Marines spread the word on the perils of drug use to their classmates in the schoolroom and at various activities hosted by their communities. Red Ribbon week is endorsed by the Drug Enforcement Administration and honors the sacrifice of Kiki Camarena, an agent with the DEA who was captured and tortured in Mexico for his work in identifying the cartels. Through their concerted efforts, the Young Marines has won the Fulcrum Shield Award on numerous occasions.

The program takes great pride in ensuring that its members understand and appreciate the contributions and sacrifices of America's veterans. On two separate occasions the Young Marines were called upon to assist in the planning, coordination, and execution of first-time veteran's-related events. The first was to lead a Memorial Day parade through the Nation's Capital and the second was to lead a parade through downtown Honolulu to commemorate the attack on Pearl Harbor. In fact, the Young Marines have been so committed to the Remembrance Days in Pearl Harbor that they had a commemorative plaque placed on the ridge overlooking the National Cemetery of the Pacific. Several years later, both activities remain as a key celebration of those important veteran ceremonies. The Young Marines also stepped up to recognize Navajo Code Talker Day. In doing so, several hundred Young Marines travel to Window Rock, Arizona on August 14th, the home of Navajo Nation, to honor the contribution of those heroes. Finally, over the years the Young Marines have participated in escorting survivors to the battle for Iwo Jima. The bond between the kids and the veterans is amazing and has been described as a life changing experience for those fortunate few to have been able to participate.

The Young Marines' ethos of leadership, teamwork and discipline serve as the basis for the program's robust National Leadership Academy. It is here that junior leaders are exposed to the roles and responsibilities of being a small-unit leader. This is accomplished through classroom studies, practical application, and life-like scenarios. The senior Young Marines expand on this and continue by being placed in charge of a wide variety of activities involving their peers. Finally, the Advanced Young Marine Leaders are actually given the task of running the academy by teaching the classes and handling the myriad of activities that make up the schedule of events.

The Young Marines have proven time and again that they "walk the walk". The Foundation's role is to ensure that they can continue their many accomplishments. Most recently, the Foundation made a contribution that enabled any qualified Young Marine to attend the Junior Leadership School at no charge to them. We are proud of that contribution and look forward to do much more. Your contribution will help to ensure that our collective goals are met.

Michael Kessler, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)

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Board Chairman



OUR MISSION

The Young Marines National Foundation provides financial support to the mission, values, and programs of the Young Marines through the solicitation, preservation, and distribution of gifts, grants, and matching funds from individuals, corporations, and foundations.



Message From Our NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Team,

The Young Marines and the Young Marines National Foundation are working to address several national emergencies.

First, we are the only national youth group addressing the Opioid crisis head-on. At a time when illegal drugs are flooding our streets and destroying communities, we are teaching kids aged 8 to 18 to avoid experimentation, illicit drug use, and the people who promote such behavior.

Second, we are introducing the same young people to the value of military and community service. At a time when willingness to consider serving is at an all-time low, and for the inclined, the pool of qualified candidates is smaller than ever; we teach the value and benefits of service to others, servitude leadership, and the prestige of being part of something larger than the individual.

Next, we teach respect for our veterans and their sacrifice. We clean veterans' graveyards, scrub gravestones, march in parades, visit veterans' homes, and teach our kids to honor our uniformed heroes. At a time when young people seem to lack regard for individuals and institutions, we teach respect.

Further, at a time when obesity affects more Americans than ever in our Nation's history, the Young Marines take the importance and value of physical fitness very seriously. Physical training promotes and preserves good health and contributes to character, self-esteem, and self-respect, teaching our youth the attributes of perseverance, commitment, and teamwork.

Finally, these efforts and priorities contribute to the Young Marines building the next generation of honest, humble, well-prepared future leaders.

Over the years, we have been inspired and reassured by the contributions and participation of our Young Marines, Adult Volunteers, families, alums, business partners, donors, and other friends of the Young Marines that these programs are valuable and worthy of our best effort.

Thank you for being part of our team and supporting our mission. With your help, we will continue to address these crises and make a difference in the future of our great country.

Michael Zeliff, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)

National Executive Director

Michael Fuff



KWHAT WE DO

Our goal is to empower future leaders—but perhaps even more importantly, to create conscientious, empathetic, and productive members of society.

Ours is a mission of growth. Since our humble beginnings in 1959, we've expanded to more than 235 units with more than 7,500 members and 2,500 adult volunteers; we are spread over 40 states, the District of Columbia, Germany, and Japan; and have affiliates in a host of other countries. We help by initially focusing on character building and on fostering leadership qualities—helping to mold productive citizens through programs that help instill the qualities that will help them step into the shoes of the leaders of tomorrow.

A Message from the MCL Commandant



By SgtMaj Johnny Baker, USMC (Ret.) National Marine Corps League Commandant

The Marine Corps League strongly values America's youth development programs. We provide college scholarships to League family

members to help with the financial

impact of higher learning. We also support organizations such as Boy Scouts of America, the U.S. Marines Youth Foundation, National Youth Physical Fitness (YPF) program, Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, and the Young Marines. Our special relationship with Young Marines started in 1959,

in Waterbury, Connecticut, when several Marine Corps League members started the Young Marines program.

The Young Marines leadership development of America's youth is critical to the future of our country. The training and mentorship provided through the help of self-less servant leaders guides our youth to live a healthy, drug-free lifestyle which contributes to responsible citizenship in our American society.

As the National Commandant of the Marine Corps League, I want to take this opportunity to say Thanks to the many Marine Corps League members who have stepped up to be Adult Volunteers (AV) with the Young Marines. Without your patriotic volunteerism, the youth in your areas may not realize their potential. You directly impact their future and the future of our country.

The Marine Corps League currently has more than 1,150 national Detachments and many do support Young Marine units. My goal is to encourage all our Detachments to support; by either starting a unit in their area, supporting with volunteers, or financial donations to help those units. We, as Marine vet-

erans, have an obligation and responsibility to assist in cultivating America's youth. We have the expertise, and we have the patriotism in our hearts to do so.

Also, as the National Commandant, I want to say

Thanks to the more than 2,500 Adult Volunteers

throughout the country that are making a difference in the lives of our youth through the Young Marines. It is such a rewarding responsibility that you have placed upon yourselves to volunteer to help our nation's youth. What a blessing that you have bestowed in teaching our youth. Your patriotic volunteerism is what America is about. With over 235 units, you are all impacting

America's future.

Thank You for

striving to better

yourselves and dedicate

your daily lives to

becoming leaders

of the future.

And finally, to our Young Marines throughout the United States, Thank You for striving to better yourselves and dedicate your daily lives to becoming leaders of the future. I know that you have an obligation that states, "From this day forward, I sincerely promise, I will set an example for all other youth to follow, and I shall never do anything that would bring disgrace or dishonor upon my God, my country and its flag, my parents, myself or the Young Marines. These I will honor and respect in a manner that will reflect credit upon them and myself. Semper Fidelis." This statement is a powerful oath that should always be at the forefront of your mind and your daily lives. Fulfilling this obligation, promise, or oath, will help guide you through life and the many temptations that life brings. As you grow, if you continue to use this obligation as stated, you will succeed in any opportunity that you desire.

The Marine Corps Leagues stand ready to help the Young Marines in their core values of leadership, teamwork, and discipline. Semper Fidelis!



About the Marine Corps League:

The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines and FMF Navy Personnel who wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.

www.mclnational.org

Article reprinted from Young Marines Esprit Magazine



LEADERSHIP

Training is what sets Young Marines apart. All recruits undergo a 26-hour orientation program spread out over several weekly meetings. The focus of the orientation program is firmly on physical fitness, history, customs and courtesies, close-order drill, and military-rank structure.

After orientation training, the recruits can learn additional skills, earn rank, wear the Young Marines uniform, and work toward ribbon awards. Ribbons signify achievement in areas such as leadership, community service, swimming, academic excellence, first aid, and drug-resistance education—They are badges of honor that symbolize the achievements they have made.

National Leadership Academy: IT'S A WORTHWHILE OPPORTUNITY

By YM/SSgt Akshaya Krishna Golden Gate (CA)

What better way than to spend a week of your summer at the National Leadership Academy? After completing seven days of different training and activities, I knew that I had made the right decision to attend Senior Leadership School at National Leadership Academy.

At the Senior Leadership School at Camp Rilea, OR, sixty senior leaders from across the country participated in various tasks such as the PFT, Uniform Inspection, Land Navigation, Leadership lessons, Drill Evaluation, and (my favorite) the moto run to the beach and back.

Young Marines from the Academy were fortunate to meet all six Division Young Marines of the Year, as well as former National Young Marine of the Year, YM/SgtMaj Mario Koch, and current National Young Marine of the Year, YM/SgtMaj Jason Glaskox.

My Senior Leadership School experience at NLA was rewarding. I had an amazing time at the Academy. Whether it was the motivation the cadre had to keep us engaged, or the time we spent with the Advanced Leadership School students, I could not have asked for a better week in Oregon. The Academy had something special for us every day of the week with the combination of leadership classes, which made us look forward to the next day and continue to put hard work and effort into what we did. Throughout this week-long experience, I was

impacted by some of the best leaders in this program. We learned life lessons from the cadre, Sergeants Major, staff, and Col and Mrs. Davis that we will take back to our units and apply.

Upon completion of the different evaluations, we drew closer to the end of the week and the last event that everyone looked forward to and was excited about: the graduation ceremony. As we were about to graduate from the Senior and Advanced Leadership Schools, everyone could feel a surge of pride and accomplishment as they were about to be named graduates of the 2022 National

Leadership Academy. I received the Honor Graduate award for SLS and another one of my fellow Young Marines from the Golden Gate unit was awarded the Iron Maiden and Honor Graduate of ALS! Oorah!

I will conclude by giving some advice to the Young Marines who have the desire to grow and develop to be better leaders: Never ever give up and always try to take advantage of the opportunities that show up in your life, even if they seem very challenging or new. If not for my parents who encouraged, supported, and helped me in every way possible, I would not have been able to make it to where I am today, so I thank them for that. For anything you want to achieve: plan, prepare, and practice. Work hard and march towards your goal with continuous focus, because soon enough, you will find yourself at the destination.

Additionally, I thank the NLA and SLS directors, Adult Staff, and cadre for investing their time and efforts in developing the next set of leaders. Special thanks to National Executive Director Colonel Davis and his wife, Mrs. Brenda Davis for all the life lessons and guidance. I will be sure to use some of the stress management techniques that Mrs. Davis taught us.

Congratulations to all the graduates of the 2022 NLA, I cannot wait to go back to National Leadership Academy next year to attend the Advanced Leadership School!



A Field Promotion at National Leadership Academy

YM/MGySgt Cody Areford received a field promotion from National Executive Director Col Davis while serving as cadre for SLS at NLA. Photo by Edgar Huff

-- Submitted by Monica Areford, Hamilton (MD) Young Marines

Article reprinted from Young Marines Esprit Magazine

2022 - 2023 NATIONAL YOUNG MARINE OF THE YEAR

By YM/SgtMaj Jason Glaskox National Young Marine of the Year 2022-2023

Hello Young Marines!

It is that time of the year again, summer is coming to a close and with it our lives continue to get busier. I want to take a second and reflect on the highlights of this summer. I had the opportunity to attend so many life changing Young Marines events and meet so many outstanding Young Marines this summer, I could go on and on forever! But I am going to condense it down into three main events.

NLA/Leadership Schools: Leadership schools are one of my favorite parts of the program, and this year there were plenty! I had the opportunity to attend the National Leadership Academy as well as the Tennessee Regimental Academy. It



is always amazing to see Young Marines from different backgrounds, ages and cultures come together to accomplish one goal – to become better leaders.

As always, there was no shortage of nervous Young Marines at these events. Embarking on a new journey - not knowing what to expect and having the fear of failure is the perfect mix for making someone incredibly nervous. My favorite thing to watch at these academies is seeing a Young Marine come in on day one, nervous and sometimes unconfident, but working hard during the training and graduating the academy as a

confident leader, accepting of failure but with the endurance to face adversity. Junior, Senior, and Advanced Leadership School taught me that failure is a precursor to success, and when I see other Young Marines learning that same lesson, it always brings a smile to my face. As always, the academies were one of the highlights of the summer for me and many other Young Marines.

Camp Chester: A new event hosted by the Young Marines Alumni Association, Camp Chester was a five-day encampment opportunity for younger Young Marines, ages 8-12. If I were to say this camp was fun, I would be underselling it! I had an

absolute blast and I know all the Young Marines did as well. Basketball, volleyball, capture the flag, 9 square - there were so many games to be played and so much fun to be had! My favorite part of this event was watching the Young Marines make new friends. By the end of the camp, everybody knew each other's names and we were all one big family. I also want to mention that eleven Young Marines were promoted at the end of the camp. How outstanding is that! And how could I forget, one of the hardest workers in our program, YM/PFC Chester, our program's mascot, finally

got promoted to LCpl! Overall, Camp Chester was yet another highlight of this summer and I highly recommend attending in the future for our younger Young Marines out there.

Navajo Code Talkers Day: The Navajo Code Talkers were a group of WWII soldiers who were paramount in the success of the United States throughout the war. This event is the definition of a once in a lifetime experience. From hiking Window Rock, to learning about the Navajo culture, to meeting one of only three remaining Code Talkers, this was a humbling and honorable



experience to say the least. Young Marines gave back to the Navajo community by cleaning up the local Code Talker Memorial Park and Zoo. Young Marines also had the opportunity to hike Window Rock, visit the Code Talkers Museum, march in the local parade and lay wreaths at the Code Talkers Memorial Statue. Overall, it was a once in a lifetime experience to represent the Young Marines and honor the Code Talkers of the Navajo Nation.

As you can see this summer had some highlight events! There are still so many more I didn't get the chance to talk about, those were just some of

my favorites. I want to encourage all of you Young Marines to continue to stay engaged and take advantage of these opportunities. Events such as these are often once in a lifetime experiences and *you* have the chance to go! It was a pleasure meeting many of you this summer and I look forward to meeting many more of you going into the fall. Until next time Young Marines, remember to stay motivated, stay engaged and continue living to inspire!

TEXAS JUNIOR LEADERSHIP SCHOOL "TAUGHT BY THE ABSOLUTE BEST"

By YM/LCpl Ty Cochrane Cross Roads (TX)

This past March I was lucky enough to go to my Regimental JLS on the Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve base in Fort Worth, TX. Our JLS was a small group of 13 Young Marines and 6 Cadre members including 2021-2022 National Young Marine of the Year YM/SgtMaj Mario Koch. It was an absolute pleasure to have him join us, along with YM/SqtMaj William Jensen as our JLS YM/SqtMaj. Other Cadre members were YM/GySqt Anthony Martinez (now a Master Sergeant with a First Sergeant billet) YM/GvSqt Andrew Matteson, YM/MSqt Mary Mullinnix and YM/ SqtMaj Keira Base.

With such an outstanding Cadre lineup it was easy to understand everything taught to us. We had classes such as CPR, Map and Compass, and Mealtime Etiquette. We even had a swim qualification test! I personally believe that everyone there learned something

from each Cadre individually member collectively. and also believe everyone learned something from each other as well.

Going into the JLS on the first day was completely different than anything I have ever experienced. Our Cadre members made our JLS educational and informative, and they also made it fun for

everyone. There was one activity I remember apart from the others. The Cadre had us create "ditties" or "catch phrases" for chow. We would make one for lunch chow and evening chow. The best part about these was not only the competition to see what group had the best ditty but to see each and everyone's creativity come alive.

We had classroom instruction and team building and we also had a PFT. Personally, the PFT was my favorite part because I am a fitness enthusiast and enjoy physical activity. During this PFT there was an overwhelming sense of friendship and camaraderie between all Young Marines there. Everyone there always encouraged everyone to try their absolute hardest and do their absolute best. I yelled so much and so loud for so long that I ended up losing my voice!

We had a swim qualification test and we also had an Axius challenge. The Axius challenge consisted of squat holds, planks, shuttle runs, and a six inch leg hold. Halfway through the Axius challenge, the Cadre flip a switch to test your mental toughness as a Young Marine. They say things that make you want to guit, but most of the Young Marines present held out for a substantial amount of time. Through mental toughness, the Young Marines push through boundaries and strengthen themselves by keeping each other motivated with words of encouragement.

During our graduation ceremony, YM/GySgt Anthony Martinez was promoted to YM/MSqt and then given the billet of Regimental 1st Sergeant and Regional Support Officer. During our JLS, when we had chow we would pick one person who we thought was the most motivated Young Marine since the last chow and the present one, and we would give them a Chester plushie.

> graduation, that plushie was awarded to YM/LCpl Keith Lugo. who always tried his hardest. Whether in the classroom, during PT or during Close Order Drill, he was always giving his all and encouraging the other Young Marines. Our most connected Young Marine was YM/ Cpl Patrick Ritchie, who alwavs ways to help out the

found

With such an outstanding Cadre lineup it was easy to understand everything taught to us

> younger Young Marines, making it easier for them to understand the subjects being taught. YM/Cpl Ritchie made friends with every Young Marine he spoke with.

> Our honor graduate was YM/Cpl Faith Massman, who was always on the front lines during everything we did at JLS. Although only those Young Marines received awards, everyone passed their Junior Leadership School.

> In summary, everyone had an absolute blast and learned as much as was possible being taught by the absolute best Cadre lineup with some of the best Young Marines I have ever met.

Former Miramar Young Marine Earns the USMC Eagle, Globe and Anchor

In 2013, at the age of 10, Kenneth W. Popiela joined the Miramar Young Marines Unit on MCAS Miramar in California. He was proud and excited to graduate from Young Marine Recruit Training and earn the rank of Young Marine Private.

Young Marine Private Popiela always had a great attitude and tried his best. Upon entering Chaparral High School in Temecula Valley, California, he joined the Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC). He is now Private First Class Popiela in the Marine Corps.

In the back of his mind, he had a desire to join the Marine Corps. Kenny Popiela stated, "The decision for me to join the Marine Corps has always been a dream that was far away." But knowing his goal and being in the Young Marines helped him to stay on course. PFC Popiela stated, "The Young Marines helped guide me to making the right decisions and to stay on the right path as well as having role models for me to look up to."

On September 28, 2020, having graduated high school, former Young Marine Kenneth W. Popiela enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He was placed into the Poolee Program until he was sent to Basic Training on February 2, 2021. After his Basic Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD), in San Diego, PFC Popiela attended Marine Combat Training located at the School of Infantry (SOI) at Camp Pendleton, California.

PFC Popiela then attended his Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) School at Camp Johnson in North Carolina, home of the Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools. Camp Johnson is located on Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Lejeune. Camp Johnson was originally named Montford Point after Civil War veteran Colonel James Montford.

On April 10, 1974, Montford Point was renamed to Camp Johnson in honor of Gilbert "Hashmark" Johnson, an African American recruit who eventually became a drill instructor at Montford Point and later became the Sergeant Major. This is where PFC Popiela was trained to be a Distribution Clerk. His Primary Marine Occupational Special (PMOS – 3152) is Preservation, Packaging, Packing, and Marking Specialist with a MOS (3112) of a Distribution Management Specialist.

PFC Popiela's first duty station is on MCB Hawaii located on the Mokapu Peninsula on the island of O'ahu. Obviously liking his duty station, PFC Popiela described it stating, "It's like taking a vacation for four years while working Monday through Friday."

PFC Popiela stated, "I plan on serving my full 20 years growing as a Marine and becoming an officer." He said he has met many new friends in the Marine Corps and enjoys learning about the "old days of the Marine Corps, its history and forefathers."



PFC Kenneth W. Popiela, USMC

"The Young Marines helped guide me to making the right decisions and to stay on the right path as well as having role models for me to look up to."

-- PFC Kenneth W. Popiela, USMC



Kenneth W. Popiela as a Miramar (CA) Young Marine

COMMUNITY

Community service is a large part of being a Young Marine and learning the value of personal sacrifice and shared responsibility. Each year, Young Marines from across the country travel to Iwo Jima, Pearl Harbor, and the home of the Navajo Code Talkers at Window Rock, Arizona, to honor surviving veterans and their families for their historic and dedicated service to our nation.



Golden Gate Serves Our Community, Working With Marines

By YM/LCpl Gideon Sihoe Golden Gate (CA)

On December 19th, several Young Marines from our Golden Gate (CA) unit had the chance to volunteer at the Toys for Tots program at the USMC Reserve unit in San Jose, CA. The Young Marines donated many toys, and also collected toys from many organizations, including Every Little Life Matters (ELLM).

Our group was responsible for sorting toys by age and gender, then bagging them for distribution to various nonprofit groups, service organizations and families in the community. This was a lot of work, but I believe the event helped all of us think more about the less fortunate people in our area. In my opinion, the highlight of this event was to work alongside Unit-

ed States Marines. It was most memorable knowing that the we were all able to bring joy our communities during the holiday season.

Before the event, I had the impression that this was a seasonal activity. However, as we worked, I realized that Toys for Tots is an ongoing project that everyone can be a part of year-round. I thank Staff Sergeant Craig, Sergeant Gomez, and Sergeant Stafford for leading the Toys for Tots program in San Jose, and reminding us how Young Marines and the American youth are crucial to serving our communities.

Golden Gate Young Marines volunteered time for USMC Reserves' Toys For Tots.



Young Marines learn about conservation of plant species while working at the Point Loma Native Plant Reserve

YMs Volunteer to Help Save Endangered Plant Species

In April, a group of Miramar (CA) Young Marines conducted community service with the San Diego River Park Foundation at the Point Loma Native Plant Reserve. The San Diego River Park Foundation supports the restoration of the San Diego River as it runs 52 miles from the mountains of Julian, California through valleys, agricultural lands, industrial areas, residential developments, and dense urban settings to the Pacific Ocean. The Point Loma Native Plant Reserve features many rare and endangered native plant species that are found along the San Diego River. One federally endangered plant grown on the reserve is the Willowy Mint, a plant whose only habitat is along a few miles of the San Diego River as it flows through MCAS Miramar, the home of the Miramar Young Marines.

The Young Marines worked hard, moving two very large piles of mulch with wheelbarrows and buckets into the reserve. Once the mulch was brought into the reserve, the Young Marines diligently spread the mulch in many of the plant beds that protect the native plants. The mulch helps to reduce unwanted

weeds, adds nutrients to the soil, and most importantly helps to conserve moisture in the semi-arid region of San Diego, CA.

The Young Marines worked diligently and were outstanding representatives of the program. They were thanked by residents who came to enjoy a walk through the park and the Young Marines spent a few minutes with many explaining what the Young Marines program is all about.

The Young Marines in attendance with me were YM/LCpl Diego Davis, YM/PFC Alexander Diehl, YM/LCpl Zachary Jara, YM/PFC Carlos Cesena, YM/PFC Shane Christensen, and YM/PFC Kara Liu with Adult Volunteers Vanessa McCullough and Susan M. Righthouse.



DDR



DRUG-DEMAND REDUCTION (DDR)

Our nationally recognized "Closing the Gate on Drugs" initiative educates our young members about the dangers of the most-common gateway drugs (tobacco, alcohol, inhalants, prescription drugs, and marijuana). It is taught by our senior Young Marines to convey how healthy, responsible living starts closer to home.

Each member of the Young Marines learns how to personally implement this knowledge, so that they are prepared to share their experience and information with members of their community.



Drug Demand Reduction Teaches Gateway Drug Dangers

By YM/LCpl Dominick Pastrana Pikes Peak (CO)

Smoking causes damage to the lungs, including lung cancer. Smoking can lead to yellowed teeth and gum cancer. Smoking causes you to have an elevated heartbeat, and stress on your heart can kill you. It doesn't affect only you, if you are smoking in public, second-hand smoke can affect the health of other people. Smoking can lead to heart disease and cause health issues all over the body.

Tobacco is a drug that is very difficult to stop using and many find it hard to quit. When smoking it, it causes the body to struggle to heal infections. Tobacco

causes many problems such as dry mouth, bad breath, gum disease (which could lead to tooth loss). Tobacco has many chemicals inside of it as well.

Alcohol. When people drink alcohol, they may temporarily feel elated and happy, but they should not be fooled. Consuming a dangerously high amount of alcohol can also lead to alcohol overdose and death. Many people use it at a young age to look cool in front of their friends. Many people find it hard to quit drinking, because they become so addicted, they can't live without it. Alcohol abuse may cause many cancers like teeth cancer, liver cancer, cancer of the gums and even throat cancer.

Two Young Marines Proudly Earn the Coveted DEA Device

The Young Marines of the Miramar (CA) unit fully support the program's Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) mission. The Young Marines take every opportunity to spread the message about the dangers of drugs in their communities.

The Miramar Young Marines take immense pride in earning the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) device for their Drug Demand Reduction ribbons and they use the challenge to further spread the anti-drug message to their peers by teaching DDR courses to youth outside of the program.

On February 5, 2022, two more Miramar Young Marines, YM/Sgt Andrew Vuong, and YM/PFC Zachary Jara were presented with their unit DEA Device plaques, joining 12 other unit Young Marines who had also earned theirs! A fantastic job by these Young Marines!

Four 20-minute DDR classes taught to groups outside of the Young Marines are what it takes to earn your DEA Device. Help spread the DDR message in your community by earning your own DEA Device! You can earn it at any time, even prior to earning your DDR ribbon... and you are going to need it to compete for Division Young Marine of the Year! Earn yours now!



Miramar Young Marines YM/PFC Zachary Jara and YM/Sgt Andrew Vuong earned their unit DEA Device plaques.

-- Submitted by Bret Righthouse, Unit Commander, Miramar (CA) Young Marines



The program takes great pride in ensuring its members understand and appreciate the contributions and sacrifices of America's veterans.

We support the Year round efforts of the Young Marines who show deep devotion to military veterans from any era and branch of service. In addition, Young Marines participates in Veterans Appreciation Week, a campaign that challenges our youth members to dedicate time to show our country's appreciation and help our nation's veterans in their local communities.

Foothills Young Marines Welcome Includes a Grandpa Honor Flight Veteran



An Honor Flight's return took on special meaning for one Young Marines family welcoming their grandfather, a World War II veteran







By YM/PFC Dylan Foulke Foothills (CO)

The Young Marines are all about honoring veterans, and that is exactly what the Foothills (CO) Young Marines did on May 14, 2022. An Honor Flight returned from Washington, DC on a

multi-day trip dedicated to transporting as many United States military veterans as possible to see the memorials of the respective wars they fought in. I think it is significant because many veterans who served this great nation were not welcomed home with honor, dignity, and thanks they deserved, but rather with anger, and disrespect; I feel that this is the homecoming they deserve.

This Honor Flight was not only the first one I participated in ,but it was very special as my grandfather, a Marine Corps veteran attached to the 3rd Battalion 7th Marines 1st Marine Division, an Infantry Machine Gunner MOS 0331, was coming back home and I was there to greet him. Not only was I there to greet him but my father, a Southwest Airlines Captain, was the pilot flying him and the Honor Flight home.

Our unit arrived at the main terminal of Denver International airport. Five other Young Marines and I went through security with our Executive Officer, Mr. Stone, to the main gate to greet them right off the plane. As we waited for the plane to arrive we were each awarded a challenge coin from the head Denver airport police officer (a friend of Mr. Stone) in

appreciation of our work. It's the first coin I've been awarded and hopefully not the last. Then we stood in the exit of the jetway, two rows of three, saluting as the first veterans started towards us. Everyone in the gate stood and applauded as the veterans walked past. After they had all exited the plane, we walked with them to the train that would take us from the gates to the main terminal.

It was awesome the airport assigned us our own train and shut down the other trains. The veterans thought they were done being welcomed home, but we weren't done welcoming them home just yet; the rest of my fellow Young Marines as well as the families and onlookers surprised them and welcomed them home a second time. Our family was there to welcome the veterans home for a once in a lifetime opportunity that I will never forget. It was an honor to welcome them home. I am truly grateful for this experience and for the opportunities and that the Rocky Mountain Honor Flight, Foothills Young Marines, and Southwest Airlines allowed that night for my grandfather, family, and myself.

--Submitted by Nicholas Stone, Foothills (CO) Young Marines





PHYSICAL FINESS



A sound body complements a sound mind.

Strive for all FIVE!With Motivation and Practice, a 500 Score is Within Reach

By YM/LCpl Conner Sayers Imagine at North Port (FL)

You look around and you hear people exhaling and exhausted. You have your hands above your head. You're tired, finishing the mile run. Sergeant Jake tells you to keep your hands above your head and get a drink of water. You realize that you came a minute short of getting a 100 on the mile run.

Here are strategies to get a 500 on your PFT. Have you ever been mad/upset when you come just a little short of getting a 100 a PFT event? YM/Sgt Jake once had this same problem. One day, three years ago, when YM/Sgt Jake was a PFC, he was 1.72 seconds short on the shuttle run. He got a 100 on everything else. This got him a 490 on the PFT. PFC Jake was discouraged at these results, but the unit commander motivated Jake to not give up. Jake decided that when he got home he would make two white lines and practice for days. Four months later, at the next PFT, he had been promoted to Lance Corporal. Now YM/LCpl Jake received a 100 on each of the events, and this gave him his first perfect PFT.

Three years later, Sergeant Jake has been promoted to Staff Sergeant. Staff Sergeant Jake is now motivating YM/PFC Peterson, who was discouraged because he scored a 495 and he was going for a 500. Staff Sergeant Jake gave him some strategies. He suggested that Peterson buy a pull up bar and practice his flex arm hang. Staff Sergeant Jake also suggested that he should make two white lines in the yard and *practice* the shuttle run. PFC Peterson listened, and practiced. When the next PFT came, Peterson scored a 500 on the PFT. He couldn't be happier at that moment.

At the next drill, YM/SSgt Jake was promoted to

Gunnery Sergeant and PFC Peterson was promoted to YM/LCpl. January 2022: The PFT is happening again. It's the mile run time, and Private Jefferson comes two minutes short on the mile run. He stays motivated and asks YM/GySqt Jake how to improve for the mile run, and is told to run one mile everyday and time himself. So Private Jefferson practices for five months, running one mile everyday. At the next PFT, Private Jefferson finishes the mile run a minute earlier than he needed to get a 500. February 2022: YM/GySqt Jake has helped two Young Marines to get a 500 on the PFT. Private Jefferson and PFC Peterson both have achieved 500 scores and are starting to help people give the same strategies to other members of their Young Marines unit that YM/GySqt Jake gave them. The unit commander is very proud of YM/Gy Sgt Jake, so at the following drill YM/GySgt Jake was promoted to Master Sergeant. YM/LCpl Peterson was promoted to Corporal after he came back from JLS.

YM/Private Jefferson was promoted to YM/PFC and a few other members were also promoted. A new recruit got a 500 score during the PFT at the recruit training and everyone was impressed. Use these strategies to get a 500 score on your next PFT.



Young Marines National Foundation STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ending December 31, 2022

REVENUES _

Detachment Contributions \$1,700.00

Restricted Donations \$2,000.00

Matched Donations \$514.00

General Contributions \$16,405.03

Total Revenues \$20,619.03

Investment Activity \$(595,672.57)

Total Income \$(575,053.54)

EXPENSES

Accounting Fees \$16,600.74

Executive Director \$30,000.00

Audit Fee \$8,400.00

Donations (Junior Leadership Academy - YM Donation) \$500.00

Donations (Junior Leadership Academy – Use of Restricted Funds) \$500.00

Donations (R. Lee Ermey Memorial Golf Tournament) \$1,000.00

Fundraising Expenses \$107,479.86

Bank Charges \$1,672.28

Dues and Subscriptions \$186.04

Insurance \$3,829.15

Office Supplies & Expenses \$717.17

Postage and Shipping \$677.52

Printing and Copying \$850.00

Website Maintenance \$2,125.00

Travel \$24,677.35

Taxes Paid on Investments \$1,987.04

Total Expenses \$201,202.15

Net \$(776.255.69)

CURRENT ASSETS

Truist Bank **\$63,204.54**

Brown Advisory **\$3,435,938.78**

Selected Assets \$3,499,143.32

The presentation above is consistent with prior year annual reports and may differ from the presentation on the audited financial statements.

HELP US LEAD

Coming from very humble beginnings, our rise has been significant. But we still have a long way to go, and every bit of help we can get is welcome. Young Marines currently boasts 280 units across the country, and it operates in 92% of all states and territories.

Whether you give personally or through your company, we hope you'll consider joining one of our Leadership Annual Fund societies. We are happy to work directly with you to deliver the benefits that best suit your needs.

To inquire about becoming a partner, write to us at giving@ymfoundation.org.

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