



ANNUAL

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REPORT





OUR PROGRAMS


With your support, Young Marines programs nurture disciplined leaders and honor the legacy of our veterans. Through leadership training, community service, and opportunities to honor our veterans, Young Marines programs strengthen our communities.



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Article reprinted from Young Marines Esprit Magazine 



**The leaders of tomorrow
are in our care today—
future innovators,
educators, pioneers, and more.**

When students join the Young Marines, they develop discipline, self-confidence, and academic excellence, and they commit to healthy living. These are the pillars that sustain our leadership across the nation.

I am very proud to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and just through my first year I assure you we will carry on and carry forward. This speaks to our cherished accomplishments and our future.

This year as your Chairman, I deepened my appreciation for the decades of dedication from leadership, program adult volunteers, Young Marines and alumni, and supporters. I want to thank one leader of the Young Marines program individually, that through his almost three decades of dedication, motivated us all to serve. That is Mike Kessler. I thank him for his trust in me and all of you to thematically carry on and carry forward in this year of transition for the Foundation.

Message
From Our
**CHAIRMAN
OF THE
BOARD**

The accomplishments in 2024 reinforced success for the Young Marines (YM) program and illuminated resiliency during a period of instability of Congressional financial grant support. The Foundation as a strategic financial reserve stood together on the steps of our Nation's Capitol building in the Spring with Division Young Marines of the Year, the YM National Headquarters, and significant support organizations to fund the National Leadership Academy (NLA). In June, I proudly attended, with Guest of Honor Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Carlos Ruiz, the NLA Advanced Leadership and Senior Leadership School graduations executed with the funding in Newport, Rhode Island. I also had the privilege of participating in local events like a visit to the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School Tarzan [Obstacle] Course in Quantico, Virginia. The most impactful experience was joining 147 Young Marines plus Adult Volunteers and the YM Headquarters for Pearl Harbor Remembrance events 6-7 December in Oahu, Hawaii. As current time carries forward, the Foundation is proud to provide financial support to the 2025 Adult Leadership Conference training in Richardson, Texas and the NLA schools in Camp Rilea, Oregon, and those held locally by the YM Division Commanders.

Our goals remain steadfast while they carry our values forward with the future in mind. This is how we do it together.

HONORING VETERANS - Young Marines honor veterans through national and local initiatives.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING - The Young Marines program trains recruits in physical fitness, character, and leadership.

COMMUNITY SERVICE - The Young Marines serve the community and veterans in various ways, including yard clean-ups, hospital visits, and patriotic community events.

HEALTHY DRUG-FREE LIFESTYLE - The Young Marines promotes a drug-free lifestyle through a comprehensive drug demand reduction program that includes physical fitness, nutrition, and emotional well-being.

This holistic goal approach equips Young Marines with essential tools for lifelong success. We foresee a future program value requirement to introduce balanced young leaders with uniquely formed applicable experience to solve the societal challenges of tomorrow.

In 2025, I charge all of us to donate more time, resources, and thought and care leadership. Meet me there!

John M. Reed

Chairman, Board of Trustees
Young Marines National Foundation



**20
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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,

Looking back at 2024, it has been an exciting year for the Young Marines National Foundation.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Lieutenant Colonel Mike Kessler for his incredible contributions to the Young Marines and the Young Marines National Foundation over the past 25 years.

It was with reluctance that we accepted his retirement, but with great appreciation, we celebrated his many years of service.

It is hard to imagine the depth of the relationship he has had with the Young Marines, including the individual connections to the kids, families, and adult volunteers.

This year, we also extended our gratitude to General Jim Kessler and Commander John Alexander for their many years of service as members of the Board of Trustees and Plankholders of the Foundation.

As we look to the future, I am incredibly excited to welcome Colonel John Reed as the new Chairman of the Board and Colonel Duffy White as the Vice Chair. We all have tremendous confidence in John and Duffy, and we all look forward to embracing their new direction.

Next, we are all excited that in 2024, we welcomed our new partner, the Wounded Warrior Family Support team, and, with their assistance, were able to fully sponsor the National Leadership Academy, ensuring that every qualified Young Marine could attend their school at no cost to their family.

Finally, we are all extremely excited about where we have been and even more confident about where we are heading.

Mike Zeliff
National Executive Director.
Young Marines National Foundation.



OUR VISION

Since 1959, the Young Marines has expanded to over 234 units in 40 states, the District of Columbia, and internationally in Germany, Japan, and other countries. Our goal extends beyond developing future leaders; we are dedicated to nurturing responsible and caring individuals committed to improving their communities and the world.

American Values - The Foundation of Our Nation

YM/SgtMaj Akshaya Krishna

Sacramento Young Marines, CA

As Young Marines, we aim to live a lifestyle emphasizing leadership, teamwork, and discipline. But above all, we honor and uphold the values that define America. These American values, freedom, equality, and responsibility, are the cornerstone of our nation's identity and the principles that guide us as Young Marines. Freedom is one of the most cherished values in American society. It's a fundamental right that allows us to live our lives, express our opinions, and pursue our goals. As Young Marines, we are constantly reminded of the sacrifices made by men and women in uniform who protect this freedom every day. By standing tall and representing the next generation of leaders, we commit to preserving these freedoms and ensuring that they remain a beacon of hope for others around the world. Another core value is equality. The American Dream promises that no matter who you are or where you come from, you have an equal opportunity to succeed. As Young Marines, we treat each other with respect and fairness, knowing that our differences make us stronger. We learn from each other's experiences and perspectives, ensuring that we promote inclusiveness in everything we do. By embracing equality, we live up to the ideals that America stands for. With freedom and equality comes responsibility. In the Young Marines, we understand that being an American is more than just enjoying rights; it's also about fulfilling our duties to our community and country. Whether through volunteering, leadership, or mentorship, we are constantly seeking ways to give back.

Responsibility involves taking ownership of your actions, being accountable to others, and making choices that contribute to personal growth and community well-being.

The events of 9/11 bring a deeper understanding of the values we hold dear. On that devastating day, nearly 3,000 innocent people (family members, friends, and loved ones) lost their lives in an attack meant to break the spirit of freedom. Yet, amongst the chaos and heartbreak, everyday people rose to the occasion. Firefighters, police officers, and even complete strangers ran toward danger to save others, showing us the true meaning of courage and responsibility. Their bravery reminds us that living by these values is a privilege. By standing for freedom, embracing equality, and serving our communities, we honor their memory and ensure their sacrifices are never forgotten. As Young Marines, we embody these American values in everything we do. We are the future leaders of this country, and it is up to us to continue carrying the torch of freedom, equality, and

responsibility. By staying committed to these ideals, we not only honor the legacy of those who came before us, but we also help build a better future for generations to come. American values are not just words; they are actions we take daily. As we train, serve, and lead, we demonstrate what it means to live these values and inspire others to do the same. Let us never forget the importance of freedom, the power of equality, and the responsibility we have to uphold these principles. Together, we can ensure that American values remain strong for years to come.





2024

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.



Another Amazing Advanced Leadership School

YM/SgtMaj Jackson Waters
Mountain View Young Marines, CO

This summer, I was able to attend Advanced Leadership School for the third time. I was a student the first time I went in 2022; in 2023, I was the admin chief, and this year, I was lucky enough to be the school Sergeant Major. Each year has been an extremely fun and unique experience. Some of my best memories have been from attending ALS. And this year's ALS did not disappoint. We had an outstanding location at Naval Base Newport, which was a really cool experience. We kicked things off with knowledge about intent-based leadership, how to build unit culture, the relationship between a leader and a member, and annual and quarterly planning, to name a few. Each morning started bright and early with physical training; we spiced things up by adding in different kinds of PT to keep the Young Marines engaged and show them that PT can be fun with a variety of activities. They had a team PFT where they had to work together to complete a modified PFT, PT Bingo, which allowed them to choose what their workout would entail and, finally, the axis challenge. The axis challenge pushed every single one of the Young Marines to

find inner motivation, getting them to believe in their strength and push through the challenge. Throughout the week, they also learned how to command an entire company for close order drill. Having the opportunity to march two platoons full of Young Marines is an opportunity many Young Marines do not get. Having to think about how you are going to move all those people from point A to point B helps build confidence and gain valuable experience. The week flew by so fast, and graduation seemed to be faster than anyone had wanted. This year was extra special, with the keynote speaker being the 20th SgtMaj of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Ruiz. I truly hope that every Young Marine gets to experience their own Advanced Leadership School; the growth you will experience not just as a leader but as a person will help you for years to come.



Young Marines getting the Four Lenses class taught by Mrs. Davis

All 3 photos taken by Mr. Huff



Young Marines running a mile with their team to finish a team PFT



From Comfort to Confidence: Breaking Barriers on My Path to Leadership in the Young Marines

YM/SgtMaj Chingiz Bahadur

Potomac River Young Marines, DC

Important Dates: April 29, 2019; September 6, 2021; October 7, 2021; July 30, 2022; July 21, 2024; January 1, 2025. As you read, I encourage you to write these dates down in order and cross them out as they appear throughout this journey. In 2018, my family immigrated to the United States. Moving to America felt like stepping into a whole new world—different settings, different rules, a different language, and a different culture. Most importantly, there was opportunity. At the time, I didn't fully understand how much opportunity awaited me, but I knew it was a great experience to be here. Adjusting to life in America wasn't easy. I didn't know anyone, struggled to make friends, and faced challenges like losing weight and overcoming the language barrier. English was difficult for me, and I was deeply embarrassed by my broken sentences. Fear of being judged kept me from participating in public activities outside school. I stuck to what was familiar, going from school to home and back again, avoiding anything that might make me feel different. A year later, my parents met an elderly couple, Diana and John, who changed my life. John, a retired Air Force veteran, suggested the Young Marines program to my father, who was looking for ways to get me out of the house. At first, I resisted. I argued that I needed to focus on school, but the truth was I was too comfortable staying home. "Comfort is the enemy of success," they say, and my parents convinced me to at least visit a local unit, Col. Wesley Fox Young Marines. When I first arrived, I was intimidated by the uniforms and the



variety of ages. But as I observed and interacted with the people there, I saw how welcoming they were. For the first time, I didn't feel judged. April 29, 2019: I joined the Young Marines program. Recruit training was tough, and there were times I wanted to quit. But deep down, I knew I was there for a greater purpose. Over time, I grew to love the program. My guidebook became my lifeline, helping me improve my English and boosting my confidence. By the time I reached the rank of Lance Corporal (LCpl) two years later, I had come a long way in my personal growth, even though I still had moments of doubt. September 6, 2021:

My unit commander signed me up for Junior Leadership School (JLS) in Division 2. I didn't want to go. The thought of leaving my comfort zone was terrifying, but something inside me wanted to change. At JLS, I faced challenges that pushed me to grow—public speaking, leadership training, and working with unfamiliar faces. It wasn't easy, but by the second weekend, I had transformed. I became more open, confident, and motivated. The turning point was meeting Young Marines GySgt Cody Areford at the time, whose mentorship inspired me to aim higher. He spoke about becoming Division Young Marine of the Year, and that day, I set the same goal for myself. By graduation, I had not only grown as a leader but also earned the Iron Mike Award, a testament to my progress. October 7, 2021: I attended the Public Affairs Course. At 13, I was one of the youngest participants, but I was eager to learn new skills like public speaking, camera work, and social media management. Initially, I stayed





behind the scenes, operating the camera to avoid being in the spotlight. However, as I practiced, I grew more confident. The course taught me how to present myself and strengthened my ability to connect with

others—a skill that became invaluable later in my career. July 30, 2022: I attended Senior Leadership School (SLS) in Division 5. Determined to advance, I traveled to a different division, stepping far outside my comfort zone. At SLS, I pushed myself to socialize, lead, and embrace challenges. By graduation, I had achieved both the Iron Mike Award and the Honor Graduate title. These moments solidified my transformation and gave me the confidence to continue growing as a leader. July 21, 2024: I attended Advanced Leadership School (ALS). This time, I entered ALS as a confident and goal-oriented leader. My objectives were to earn Iron Mike and become an Honor Graduate. Though I excelled in many areas, I ultimately placed 11th in my

class. Initially, I was disappointed, but after reflecting on my Leadership Evaluation Form, I realized that the true reward was the experience itself. The lessons I learned at ALS helped me identify areas for growth and strengthened my resolve to keep improving. January 1, 2025: My dream became a reality—I was named Division 1 Young Marine of the Year. Reflecting on this journey, I realize how far I've come, from a timid boy afraid of speaking to a confident leader passionate about mentoring others. Every challenge, every setback, and every mentor played a part in shaping who I am today. My journey was hard; it took time and commitment, but most importantly, it took people committed to my success and the success of future leaders to mentor me and guide me to where I am today. I am so excited for this opportunity to be able to be there for each and every single one of you as a mentor, leader, and whatever it is you need me to be. To all Young Marines: never underestimate the power of stepping out of your comfort zone. Strive to learn, grow, and mentor others with the same commitment which was once put into you. Thank you for reading, and I hope my story inspires you to achieve your dreams and spark that passion in the hearts of many more.



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.



Giving Back, One Toy at a Time:

The Heart of the Sacramento Toy Project

YM/SgtMaj Akshaya Krishna

Sacramento Young Marines, CA

The Sacramento Young Marines recently participated in the Sacramento Sheriff's Office Toy Drive as part of the annual Toy Project. This initiative gathers toys, clothes, blankets, and monetary donations to support families in need during the holiday season. With multiple donation sites hosted at stores across the region, the Toy Project ensures the entire community has an opportunity to contribute. These drives are a vital part of the holiday season, spreading hope and joy to children and families who might otherwise go without. The importance of this effort cannot be overstated. For families facing financial hardships, the holiday season can be a stressful time. These donations help alleviate that burden, providing children with gifts and essentials that bring comfort and joy. Beyond the immediate impact, projects like the Toy Drive foster a culture of giving and remind the community of the power of coming together to support those in



Sacramento Young Marines at Sheriff's Office Toy Drive

need. At one of the donation sites, the Sacramento Young Marines worked alongside other volunteer organizations, including the Sheriff's Explorers and the Young Men's Service League. Their collaboration exemplifies the collective effort needed to make these events successful.

Food Drive Orlando

YM/GySgt Piper Shpigler

Orlando Devil Dogs Young Marines, FL

That day, I volunteered at a place where families in need were receiving meals during a big food drive event. It was a heartwarming experience to be part of distributing the food to these families. The expressions of gratitude on the faces of the recipients touched me deeply and filled me with a sense of fulfillment. Witnessing the impact a simple act of kindness could have on someone's day was truly humbling. The interactions with the families that day taught me the power of compassion and the importance of giving back to the community. It was a reminder of the value of helping others and the joy that comes from selflessly serving those in need. The experience at the food drive not only opened my eyes to the challenges some families face but also reinforced the significance of empathy and generosity in making a difference in people's lives. It was a day filled with meaningful connections and a lesson in the impact of small acts of kindness.





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HONORING 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.

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



Saluting Heroes: The Punchbowl Pearl Harbor Ceremony

YM/Sgt Charlotte Aubin

Pyramid Rock Young Marines, HI

This year, 35 units from across the nation came out to Honolulu, Hawaii, to honor those who died at Pearl Harbor. I had the honor and privilege of attending one of our annual events, the Punchbowl Ceremony. The Punchbowl Pearl Harbor ceremony is an annual event at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, located in Honolulu, Hawaii. This cemetery is the final resting place for over 13,000 American service members who died during World War II, including those who perished in the attack on Pearl Harbor. Each year, a ceremony is held to honor the sacrifices

of those who gave their lives during the attack and throughout the war. The event typically involves wreath-laying by military officials, veterans, and other dignitaries, including the Young Marines, who participate in the ceremony as a way to pay their respects. This event serves as a reminder of the bravery and sacrifices made by those who served, especially those lost at Pearl Harbor. This ceremony helps instill a deep sense of gratitude and patriotism in our Young Marines. It is important for all Young Marines to respect those who served, no matter where they are.

Pearl Harbor Memorial

YM/GySgt Valerie Huete

JPSO Young Marines, LA

As we remember Pearl Harbor, we honor the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought valiantly to protect our country. We pay tribute to the fallen and acknowledge the resilience of those who survived. This day serves as a solemn reminder of the fragility of peace, and the importance of cherishing and safeguarding it for future generations. It is a day to reflect, to mourn, and to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that such a tragedy never happens again. On this day of remembrance, we stand united, honoring the past and looking toward a future defined by unity and hope. December 7th is more than just a date for Americans; it's a poignant reminder of a day that altered countless lives. This marks the anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack - a catastrophic event in 1941 when Japanese forces targeted the U.S. naval base in Hawaii. The attack lasted roughly two hours, yet its repercussions are still felt today. It resulted in devastating losses: significant military equipment was destroyed, and around 2,400 American lives were taken, with another 1,000 individuals wounded. The emotional

aftermath of the event was overwhelming. Families were torn apart and the entire nation mourned the tremendous loss. As Franklin D. Roosevelt, the then-President, famously declared, it was indeed "a date which will live in infamy." His words underscore the deep scars left on the national psyche, scars that remind us of the high costs of conflict. Admiral Chester Nimitz, another key figure during wartime, reflected on the resilience showcased during the attack, stating, "They fought together as brothers-in-arms. They died together and now they sleep side by side. To them, we have a solemn obligation." Today, we not only remember those who lost their lives but also honor the courage of the survivors and those who fought bravely. This day serves as a solemn reminder of peace's fragility and the ongoing importance of preserving it. As we pay our respects, we also reaffirm our commitment to peace and unity, ensuring that such a tragedy never occurs again. On Pearl Harbor Day, we stand together, remembering the painful past and hoping for a united, peaceful future.



Navajo Code Talkers DAY



Navajo Code Talkers Day 2024

YM/MSgt Hunter Gomez
Quartz Hill Young Marines, CA

You may or may not have heard of the term “code talker” at one time or another, but do you know what it means? It’s in the name Code Talker. Someone who speaks a version or variation of a language and then translates it to another using a specific rule or guideline to encode a message that only a select few can understand. Back in the bloodlust days of World War II, there were these few good men known as the Navajo Code talkers, native to the Indian Navajo Nation, who decided to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. Once they completed boot camp, they were all sent to a training course known as “code school,” which was to teach these men an impenetrable and unbreakable code using their Navajo language, and

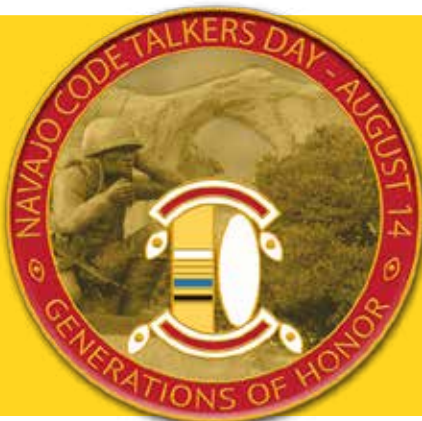


only a select few knew the code. This very code, crafted using a combination of the Navajo and English language to create a multi-layer encoding system, helped us win the war. Why? Our communications from that point forward were illegible to the enemy. For many years, there has been an annual event hosted by the Young Marines known as “Navajo Code Talkers Day” (NCTD), dedicated to teaching Young Marines the history of the Navajo Code Talkers. I was honored to be the only Quartz Hill YM representing our unit at this event. I was the acting Young Marine Sergeant Major, proudly serving alongside the command of Col. Davis, the National Young Marine of the Year (YMOY) YM/SgtMaj. Suber, four of the six Divisional YMOYs, and all my



fellow cadre who served at the event. During this encampment, all Young Marines could commit themselves to multiple activities. Some of these are tug-o-war, a uniquely held DDR dash, a hike up window rock, fun activities in teaching the Young Marines about the Navajo Code Talkers, teambuilding events that challenged one's physical and mental capacity, and various other events that involved community service and sightseeing. Of the 461 Navajo Code Talkers who served courageously in the USMC, today, only three men are left to speak about their first-hand experiences with the unique ability of their language that saved many lives. I was given the exceptional opportunity to be able to meet one of these code talkers, Mr. Peter MacDonald, during the Navajo Code Talkers Day ceremony, and just shaking that good man's hand would remind me of the courage and bravery he had to endure while serving the country during World War II. I have celebrated the NCTD three times, the last year being 2019. Attending this event for a fourth time enlightened me about the rich history that the Navajo Code Talkers possess, and it was a great reminder of how much fun I have at this kind of Young Marine event. I want to thank everyone for being there at NCTD. All the fantastic

staff from the multiple units of adult volunteers, but specifically to name Deputy Director of the YM's Mr. Wilson Lee for his words of wisdom and Division 6 Commander Mrs. Leigh Dick for supporting me throughout this event, that made this organized unit trip the best it can be. I especially want to thank MCAS Tustin Unit Commander, Mr. Hurn, for allowing me to be hosted by his unit because I would not have been able to go without them. Stay Strong.



Navajo Code Talkers Day

Every year members of the Young Marines travel to Window Rock, AZ, to be part of Navajo Code Talkers Day. Since 2006, Young Marines from across the country gather to honor and give praise to the Navajo code talkers from WWII.



DDR DRUG-DEMAND REDUCTION

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.

Young Marines

Closing the Gate on Drugs!



Colonel Bill Davis, NED of Young Marines presenting a DEA Device to YM/GySgt Laney Jones with Scott County Young Marines

YM/MSgt Jones DEA device award

YM/MSgt Laney Jones was awarded the DEA device by the NED Col Davis at the inaugural Midwest Regiment Camp on 21 June 2024 at Camp Cuivre in Troy, Missouri. YM/MSgt Jones completed her required speaking events for the DEA Device at the Moose Lodge and the Marine Corps League, speaking in four small groups made up of youth and adults. "I enjoyed talking to many people about our program. Then I presented my PowerPoint on how drugs can have a huge impact on your life, and what we as a community can do to reduce the demand for drugs. I received great feedback and had many questions about our program in general. This is something I look forward to continuing to do." YM/MSgt Jones spent her summer planning a graduation ceremony for class 1-24, joined the Regimental Encampment in Missouri and wrapped up holding the YM Company 1st Sergeant Billet at Navajo Code Talker Days.

Submitted by - Robert O'Donnell, UC Scott County Young Marines

How to earn the DEA Device

We are proud to have the Drug Enforcement Agency authorize the Young Marines to earn and wear a DEA badge ribbon device on our Drug Demand Reduction Ribbon Award for Young Marines who conduct at least four presentations on Drug Demand Reduction to civic, community, and other appropriate audiences outside the Young Marines organization to promote the ideals of a drug-free lifestyle.

All Young Marines can earn the DEA Device and if completed before completion of the Basic Young Marine Guidebook, the device will be entered by HQYM without a ribbon award.



YM/LCPL Hull DEA device award

Twelve-year-old YM/LCPL Mia Hull with the Lenawee County Unit (Michigan) earned her DEA device by giving four presentations to the George Long Elementary School. Her presentations covered the topic of vaping. All the teachers were extremely impressed with her level of knowledge, her confidence in talking in front of an entire class of her peers, and how well she presented the material. The science teacher, Mrs. Bahlau, said, "I want to share with you how impressed I was with this Young Marine's presentation from start to finish. From the time she reached out regarding this program via our online learning platform, Schoology, from the wrap-up of letting me know when someone would reach out to me, Her organization, communication, and presentation skills were above par; everything befitting of a Young Marine. I am so very proud of her". The unit is very proud of YM/LCPL Hull for earning this award. Great job, Young Marine, and continue to be a great role model for other Young

Submitted by - Rebekah Hackett, Lenawee County Young Marines, MI





PHYSICAL **FITNESS**

A sound body complements a sound mind.

What I Learned at our Ropes Course Fun Drill

YM/CPL Rylee Martin

Poudre River Young Marines, CO

Over the summer, I had the amazing opportunity to go to the University of Northern Colorado ropes course with the Poudre River Young Marines. I am so grateful that I was able to attend and build teamwork skills with my unit. While the activities came with many challenges, one I found especially difficult was overcoming my fear of heights. Going into the ropes course, I didn't know that I was scared of heights, but it became apparent after I climbed the first ladder. While I was up there, many of my peers encouraged me to push my boundaries and keep going even though I wanted to quit. Their encouragement helped me to overcome my fears and keep going. I didn't give up and made it through all of the obstacles with my peers supporting me from below. This taught me a valuable lesson about how your peers and their attitudes can affect the way others think about themselves and the situations at hand.



Congratulations for your Perfect PFT !

Congratulations to YM/LCPL Bryce Weber (Baton Rouge Young Marines) for achieving a perfect PFT score on 05/15/2024.

Submitted By - E Earl Davis, Baton Rouge Young Marines, LA

Congratulations to Chesty Puller Young Marine YM/LCPL Brailynn Mounts for scoring a Perfect PFT in July 2024. LCPL Mounts joined the Unit in March of 2023 as the Honor Graduate of her Recruit Platoon. We are proud of her accomplishments and continued growth! Oorah



Young Marines
National
Foundation

Statement of Activities

Year ending December 31, 2024

Figures are provided prior to the final audit

REVENUES

Corporate Contributions	\$60,000.00
General Contributions	\$41,949.00
In-Kind Donations	\$710.00
Restricted Donations	\$26,500.00
Total Revenues	\$129,159.00
Investment Activity (Net of Related Expenses)	\$452,712.00
Other Revenue	\$2,776.00
Total Income	\$584,647.00

EXPENSES

Advertising Expense	\$4,820.00
Accounting Fees	\$28,107.00
Executive Director	\$30,000.00
Legal Fees	\$20,405.00
Audit Fee	\$9,000.00

Donations Total **\$213,370.00**

Carolina Museum of the Marine	\$5,000.00
Esprit Magazine	\$44,000.00
Local Junior and Senior Leadership Schools	\$13,500.00
Local Junior and Senior Leadership Schools	
(Use of Restricted Funds)	\$16,500.00
National Leadership Academy	\$128,370.00
Navajo Code Talkers Day	\$3,500.00
R. Lee Ermey Memorial Golf Tournament	\$2,500.00

Fundraising Expenses	\$360,077.00
Bank Charges	\$3,000.00
Dues and Subscriptions	\$992.00
Insurance	\$4,595.00
Office Supplies & Expenses	\$ 92.00
Postage and Shipping	\$ 8,864.00
Printing and Copying	\$7,802.00
Website Maintenance	\$3,456.00
Travel	\$32,362.00
Taxes Paid on Investments	\$1,432.00

Total Expenses \$757,460.00

Net \$(172,813.00)

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

Year ending December 31, 2024

Figures are provided prior to the final audit

SOURCES OF REVENUE

Wounded Warriors Family Support Inc.	\$50,000.00
Chris SanJose	\$15,000.00
Advertising and Organic	\$10,242.91
CVS Pharmacy Inc.	\$10,000.00
Garrett Sutton	\$8,000.00
June 2024 Mailing	\$5,891.44
Russell W. King	\$5,000.00
October 2024 Mailing	\$3,869.55
January 2024 Mailing	\$3,544.07
GEICO Military	\$3,500.00
May 2024 Mailing	\$2,835.17
Bob Sartor	\$1,960.00
James Kessler	\$1,035.25
Michael Zeliff	\$1,035.25
David Webb	\$1,035.25
Bill Smith	\$1,000.00
John Reed	\$1,000.00
Walter Oliff	\$1,000.00
Arianna Berkimer	\$1,000.00
Leigh Cutter	\$750.00
John Reed (in-kind donation)	\$710.35
November 2024 Mailing	\$567.10
Flag Day Mailing	\$100.00
Email	\$72.95
May 2023 Mailing	\$10.00
Total Revenues	\$129,159.29

Year ending December 31, 2024

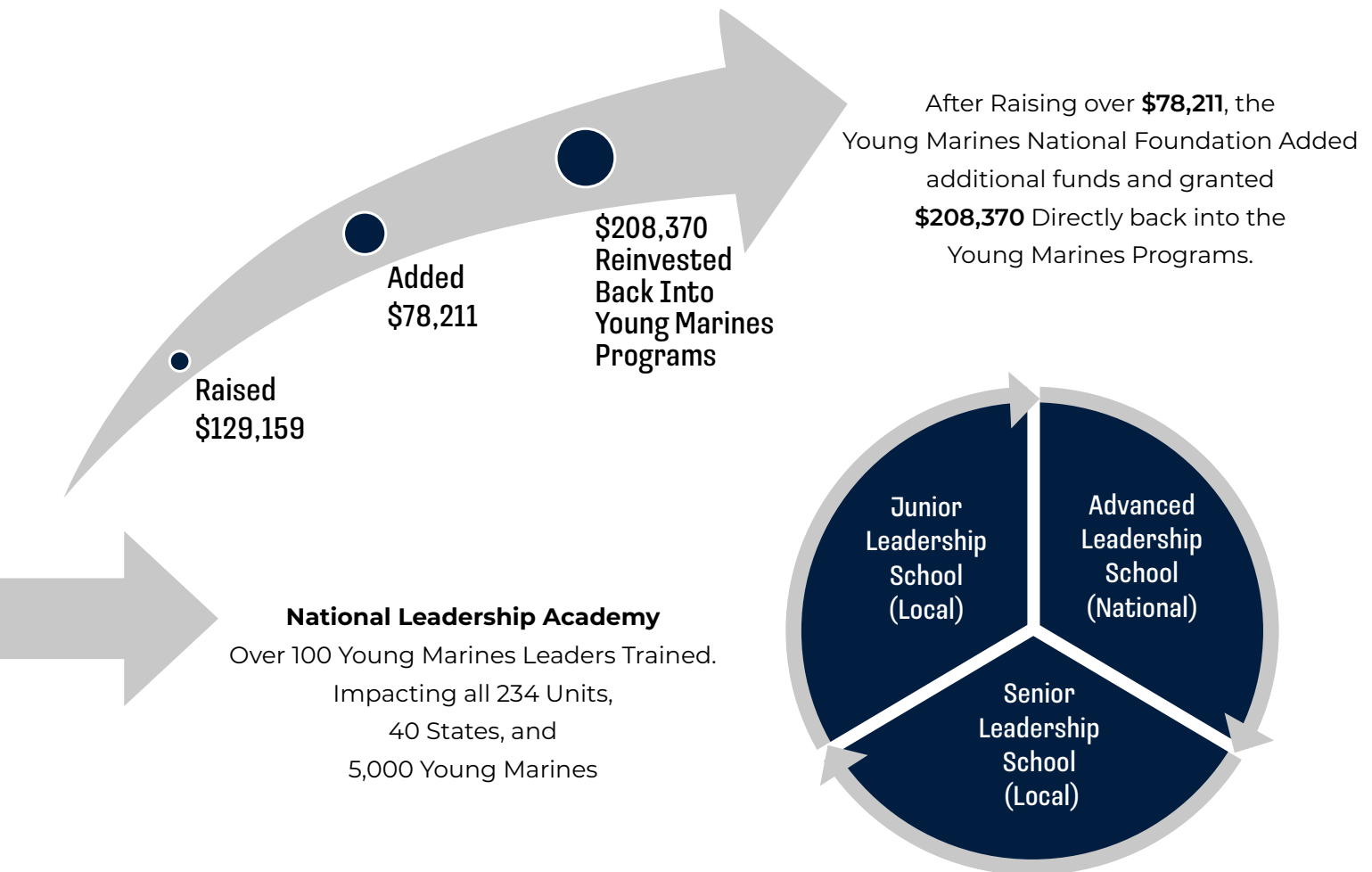
Figures are provided prior to the final audit

SELECTED ASSETS

Truist Bank	\$120,450.21
Brown Advisory	3,690,388.63
Selected Assets	\$3,810,838.84

Young Marines National Foundation

IMPACT



Presidential Community Service Award

YM/GySgt Nicholas Trame
Lenawee County Young Marines, MI

I am YM/GySgt Nicholas Trame, and I would like to say Oorah to the Lenawee County Young Marines for having several of their Young Marines and Adult Volunteers earn the Presidential Community Service Award for 2023. Our unit collectively dedicated 3,028 hours back to our community. There were 11 Young Marines and 3 Adult Volunteers presented with the gold or silver level awards. I have been a recipient of the gold-level presidential award for three

years in a row. Earning the gold award has been a big accomplishment for me. For the year 2023, I dedicated 156.5 hours to bettering my community. A good portion of my hours for the year 2023 assisting a disabled veteran with yard maintenance and improvements. I appreciate the opportunity to give back to the community, especially those that have given so much to us.

REACH

The Foundation told and retold the story of the Young Marines of youth leadership, good citizenship, honoring Veterans, and living a healthy drug-free lifestyle through press releases and social media.

Thank You



Donation Funds Leadership Schools For Youth



Thanks to the generous donation from the Young Marines National Foundation (YMNF), with the support of our Young Marines Alumni, our six Divisions were able to hold local leadership schools across the country, to train our Young Marines with the goal of becoming better leaders. The YMNF provided \$30,000 (\$5,000 per Division) for Young Marines' Leadership Schools that were held over this past summer (2024). These checks were presented on Saturday, March 23 at the 2024 Young Marines Awards Banquet in Woodbridge, Virginia by Mike Zeliff, national executive director of the YMNF.

A United Front, The Young Marines National Foundation Partners With Wounded Warriors Family Support

The Young Marines is very grateful for the support of these two philanthropic organizations that have filled the gap for us to be able to hold National Leadership Academy in summer 2024. The Young Marines National Foundation (YMNF), with the support of Wounded Warriors Family Support donated \$128,000 to the Young Marines, to support the 2024 National Leadership Academy (NLA) and efforts to teach kids the value of selfless service and honoring veterans. At NLA, youth members of the Young Marines from around the country come together for their final and most engaging leadership school, Advanced Leadership School (ALS) in the Young Marines program. Graduates from NLA become mentors to thousands of Young Marines across the U.S., helping build the next generation of youth leaders.

of funds that guarantee the National Leadership Academy in the summer of 2024. It is all about the youth that benefit from exposure to community service, leadership, drug demand reduction, and respect for veterans."

"Our goals are as steadfast as the men and women we aim to honor and assist. This alignment is not merely about making joint efforts, but amplifying



Col John Reed USMC (Ret), incoming chair of the board of trustees of the Young Marines National Foundation, and Kate McCauley the CEO and President of the Wounded Warriors Family Support (WWFS) presented a check to Col William P. Davis USMC (Ret), national executive director and CEO of the Young Marines on Thursday, March 21 on the steps of the United States Capitol surrounded by Young Marines.

our impact on the nonprofit sector and showcasing our unwavering commitment to our missions before the American public," said Kate McCauley from WWFS.

A big THANK YOU to the Young Marines National Foundation and Wounded Warriors Family Support for their generosity in supporting the betterment of the youth of our country!

"The Young Marines National Foundation is honored to support the Young Marines program," said Col Reed. "Our pride comes from the presentation

Thank You

To Our Giving Society

Leadership Level - \$50,000+ annual gift (Lifetime)

Daniel Morgan Graduate School of National Security
GEICO Military Department
Glock, Inc.

Partner - \$25,000 - \$49,999 annual gift (Lifetime)

Frederick Smith
W. Russell King

Friend - \$10,000 to \$24,999 annual gift (Lifetime)

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James Kessler
David Webb
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Donor Society - \$1,000 - \$9,999 annual gift (Lifetime)

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