



MILITARY KIDS  
**BACK TO  
SCHOOL  
SQUAD**

Summer 2022

## Military Kids Back to School Squad – Campaign Toolkit

Military Kids - Back to School Squad is 100% dependent on support from the community.  
Military Kids programs simply could not exist without the community's generosity.

The kids of our Veteran families living in our community need you!

### What is Operation Military Kids?

The program brings together communities and generous hearts to collect brand new backpacks filled with school supplies. The backpacks are shared with PTSD disabled, low-income, and minority veteran's children living in Lorain County.

Let's join together to help our Military Kids start their school year ready to chase their dreams and take on the world! When you join Operation Military Kids-Back to School Squad you help relieve some of the financial burdens and stress many of our PTSD combat disabled, minority, and low-income veteran families experience getting their children ready for back to school. We know you will be putting smiles on the faces of our community's Military Kids when they receive their backpack filled with school supplies.



Many of our community's Veteran families exist on tight budgets and backpacks and school supplies for their children can become last on the list when they are balancing food, utilities, mortgages, rent, and so on.

When you give a backpack and school supplies, you are helping children *and* their parents, giving hope to the entire family who is working hard just to make ends meet! You are giving hope and helping military kids dream big. This one small act of generosity on your part will ripple through the entire family giving releasing some of their burdens and giving them the hope to dream.

## Operation Military Kids Facts & Figures



- Each year, local teachers spend on average \$750 buying supplies for their classrooms.
- Ninety-four percent of public-school teachers pay for school supplies, without being reimbursed, according to the U.S. Department of Education.
- One in five school children in the U.S. lives below the federally defined poverty line. In many school districts, teachers do not hand out supply lists because they know parents cannot afford to purchase the supplies.
- There are 18,798 veterans living in Lorain County.
- 6,203 Lorain County veterans have a service-connected disability
- 1, 315 veterans live in poverty

## You Can Support Us from Home By Shopping On-Line, Organize Your Own Drive or Donate and We'll Shop for You!

### I. Support from Home & Shop Online.

You can help kids in Lorain County from the comfort of your own home! Shop through our online, wish list below.

**A Hearts of Patriots Wish List has been set up online: AmazonSmile - [Back to School Squad – Hearts of Patriots](#)**

The supplies will be delivered straight to us. No hassle, no fuss. (List will continually be updated as we receive donated supplies)

### II. Organize your own Drive through your work, place of worship, club, or organization.

Distribute information and set up a collection site at the designated location of your campaign. We'll pick up items from your location at the end of the campaign. **Email: [backtoschool@vetspouse.org](mailto:backtoschool@vetspouse.org)** to arrange for a pick-up from your location.

### III. Donate to the Campaign online and We'll Shop for You [vetspouse.org/donate-to-the-campaign](https://vetspouse.org/donate-to-the-campaign)

As cash donations in support of the School Brigade campaign are received HOP will purchase items still needed and the Wish List will be updated to reflect changing needs of the school drive.

## Tips For Purchasing Items for the Campaign

Every new backpack filled with supplies helps at-risk kids succeed in school. Because of you, they will be able to focus on their studies, beginning the new school year with confidence and ready to learn.

1. **IF PURCHASING ON AMAZON** -Fill out your **Individual Contact Form** – check items ordered and *click submit* so we know what supplies you have purchased for the Drive.
2. **IF RUNNING A CAMPAIGN** – Fill out and submit the **Group Campaign Form** at the onset of the campaign. **Email: [backtoschool@vetspouse.org](mailto:backtoschool@vetspouse.org)** to arrange for a pick-up from your location.
3. Take pictures of your supplies and Share your photos using **#HopBackToSchool, #HopMilitaryKids** and tag us **@Heartsofpatriots**.

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## Thank you for your support!

## SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Backpack                | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors rounded tip | <input type="checkbox"/> Crayons, 24-Count |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spiral notebook             | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors pointed tip | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitizer         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Ring Binder               | <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil Sharpener     | <input type="checkbox"/> Eraser            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notebook Paper narrow-ruled | <input type="checkbox"/> Folders, 2-pocket    | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Pen           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notebook Paper wide-ruled   | <input type="checkbox"/> Markers, 8-Count     | <input type="checkbox"/> Ziploc Bags       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Puffs                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Clorox Wipes         | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand Sanitizer    |

### PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

Hearts of Patriots has already purchased in bulk the following 7 items:

1. #2 pencils
2. Expo Dry Erase Markers
3. Sharpie Permanent Marker
4. Sharpie Highlighters
5. Blue and Black pens
6. Elmer's Glue Stick
7. Elmer's Liquid Glue

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Thanking Veteran Families for their service by supporting Military Kids – Back to School Squad Website: [vetspouse.org](http://vetspouse.org)

### Be Social

Spread the word on social media by following [@HeartsofPatriot on Twitter](#), [heartsofpatriots/Facebook](#), and [@heartsofpatriots on Instagram](#)

**Social Hashtags** and tag us [@heartsofpatriots](#)

[#HOPBacktoSchoolSquad](#) [#HeartsOfPatriots](#) [#HOPMilitaryKids](#)

### Sample Social Posts

**Instagram, Facebook and Twitter**

<Your organization/company handle> is giving hope to children in the community by supporting [@heartsofpatriots](#) [#HOPbacktoSchoolSquad](#). Empower every child with hope. Learn more:

[heartsofpatriots/back-to-school-squad](#)

One of the favorite things we do at <your org/business name> is giving love and support to the military kids in our community. We're proud to support [@heartsofpatriots](#)

[#HOPBackToSchoolSquad](#). Join us and learn more: [heartsofpatriots/back-to-school-squad](#)

Proud to join [@heartsofpatriots](#) Join us by helping military kids in need go to school ready to succeed. [#HOPBacktoSchoolSquad](#) [heartsofpatriots/back-to-school-squad](#)

We're empowering every child to succeed by collecting school supplies for [@heartsofpatriots](#) [#HOPBacktoSchoolSquad](#)