



JBAB Youth Sponsorship

For military youth, moving from one installation to another is nothing new. It is a common occurrence that most families experience every one to three years. While these frequent relocations are something military youth become accustomed to, the transition to a new community and school is never easy. Leaving behind friends, neighbors, and supportive adults as well as familiar standards and environments can make kids more vulnerable to negative influences or risk factors. Youth may be more influenced by peer pressure to do things they would not normally do. Some youth may be uncomfortable meeting new kids and may be hesitant to seek out opportunities to get involved with their new school or community. This can lead to increased risk for isolation, depression, and loneliness. For these reasons, it is critical that incoming youth to any installation have access to positive peer groups and pro-social activities. Youth need to get connected to their community and have opportunities to bond with positive peers and adults even before arriving at an installation. Helping youth successfully make the transition from one installation to another is the role of the **Youth Sponsorship Program**. According to the Department of Defense (DoD), the primary objectives of the Youth Sponsorship Program are to ensure communities identify and reach out to incoming youth and help them get adjusted to their new surroundings.

To request a Youth Sponsorship sponsor contact the JBAB Youth Sponsorship Coordinator at the JBAB Youth Center or call **202-767-4003**.

Resources

[Military Youth on the Move](#)

A wonderful resource that reaches out to youth with creative ways to cope with issues that arise in the face of a move, such as transitioning to a new school, saying goodbye to friends, and getting involved in a new community.

[Staying Strong](#)

Staying Strong is designed to support the resilience of military-connected children and families through free on-line educational tools and guidance.

[Military Kids Connect](#)

This site helps military kids connect with each other and share common concerns.