

## COMMUNITY CORNER

# Activities available to keep kids busy, safe this summer

By Col. Kevin Brown  
GARRISON COMMANDER

Schools out. Kids are enjoying the time off from classes and homework, but parents might be feeling a little apprehensive about all of the down time.

During the school year, parents take advantage of programs through School Age Services and the Middle School Teen Center to keep kids occupied and out of danger. While these programs still offer services in the summer, schedules change, family vacations happen, and parents search for new and creative ways to keep kids busy and safe. Fort Riley offers a plethora of opportunities and activities for youth through our Child, Youth and School Services and our Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

As there are many activities out there for our children, there are many



Col. Brown

dangers to watch for, from heat to traffic. Parents need to be aware of dangers when supervising and making arrangements for their kids. Fort Riley in recent years has lost children in fires when a parent left a child unsupervised at home. Simply

keeping kids at home doesn't necessarily mean they will be safe.

On Fort Riley there are specific rules and regulations pertaining to protection and control of minors. All children under the age of 10 must not be left unsupervised in Family housing for any period of time. An adult or certified baby sitter over the age of 12 must supervise children under 10 at all times. Children between ages 10 and

11 may be left alone in Family housing for a maximum of two hours, and children from 12 to 15 may be left for a maximum of four hours. Children 16 to 18 years old may be left alone for a maximum of 48 hours.

Another important rule is that children under the age of 10 years old may not be left alone in a motor vehicle. This is especially dangerous in the hot summer months.

Children cannot be allowed to play in streets and traffic ways. If a child is not old enough to attend kindergarten, an adult or baby sitter (12 years or older) must be with them at all times when the child is outdoors.

There are some single-parent households on post, whether by choice or through deployment, and this makes supervision of children especially difficult and challenging. Fort Riley has many options available to help. As part of the Army Family Covenant, CYSS

provides up to 16 hours of free hourly child care at the Warren East Child Development Center for Families of Deployed Soldiers. Register in advance by calling 240-0822.

Also, free care is provided two Saturdays per month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for Families of Deployed Soldiers. Contact CYSS Central Registration at 239-9885 for more information.

The Middle School Teen Center also recently ramped up its summer activities to include trips to a Kansas City water park, art museum and baseball game. For more information on the teen center, call 239-9222 or visit <http://www.rileymwr.com/web-content/subpages/cysmst.html>. There is a small fee associated with the summer trips.

Take time to enjoy the many activities in the Central Plains Hills Region. Activities like on-post swimming pools and the marina out at Milford Lake. If you are a Family with a deployed

Soldier, make sure and sign up for the Hearts Apart program sponsored by the Army Community Service Relocation Readiness Program. Join in for activities, support, fun and friendship. For more information about the Hearts Apart Program, call 239-9435.

As we enjoy the remainder of the summer, keep these tips in mind. We do not want to have our easygoing, relaxing summer ruined by an accident or tragedy. The safety of all of our post residents remains my number one priority. For more information about supervision of children, the Family Advocacy Program has education and resources available. Call 239-9435 or visit them on the Web at <http://www.rileymwr.com/web-content/subpages/acsfap.html>.

*If you would like to comment on this article or suggest a topic for the Community Corner, send an e-mail to [rite.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil](mailto:rite.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil).*

## IN BRIEF

The Exceptional Family Member Program will host a support group July 28 for Families to meet others in their situation. Participants will be encouraged to share their needs and learn how EFMP can help them. The meeting will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Army Community Service, Building 7264. For more information, call 239-9435.

Get down July 31, during the Victory Week festival, with Muf-fers and Music at the Outdoor Recreation Center. Entrance to the event is free and open to the public. The first band will strike up at 5 p.m. and will play for 20 minutes. Bands wishing to enter this competition should mail or drop off their demos no later than July 17 to Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers at Building 253 Cameron Ave., Fort Riley, KS 66442.

Top prize for the competition is \$600, second prize is \$300, and third place will receive \$100. Music will be screened, and profanity is not permitted.

While the music is playing, the car and bike show competition will be taking place with categories such as Classics, Muscles and Customs. The cost is \$15 to enter your ride, and prizes will be awarded to the top three places in each category. Call 239-6398 for more information.

As part of an ongoing effort to emphasize the commissary is a benefit for the whole military family, the Defense Commissary Agency launched new initiative: the L1 Heroes Baby Program. The L1 Heroes Baby Program is featured on a special section of <http://www.commissaries.com> that offers articles from the DeCA dietitian and the agency's home economist, as well as links to other government sources providing tips and advice to new parents.

The highlight of this new program is DeCA's newest e-newsletter: the L1 Heroes Benefit Bulletin. This monthly e-newsletter provides access to military-exclusive vendor Web pages offering special savings for readers.

Vendors also are offering special thank-you gifts to subscribers. For more information on the program, and to subscribe to the L1 Heroes Benefit Bulletin, please visit <http://www.commissaries.com/baby>.

## USO provides No Dough Dinners to Soldiers, Families before payday

By Lyndsey Born  
STAFF WRITER

To help Soldiers and Family member stretch their dollars until the next paycheck, USO Fort Riley held its second No Dough Dinner June 30 at Fort Riley's Wyman Park.

No Dough Dinners are free dinners held the last business day before paydays for Soldiers.

This dinner consisted of sub sandwiches donated by Subway along with cookies and other refreshments. Subway donated about 150 subs, said April Blackmon, USO Fort Riley director. To make sure there was enough food, Blackmon said, about 150 more subs were made for the event.

Along with being able to enjoy a free meal before payday, Army spouse Carissa Pifer said it was a way for kids to meet friends.

"It's a great service to the military especially for those who are new to the area," Pifer said.

The USO is a non-profit organization so everything was donated, and the

## DINNER DATES

July 30 - 5 to 7 p.m. at McCormick Park, west pavilion

Aug. 13 - 5 to 7 p.m. at McCormick Park, west pavilion

Aug. 31 - 5 to 7 p.m. Wyman Park

For more information, visit [www.uso.org/fortriley](http://www.uso.org/fortriley)

food was served by volunteers, Blackmon said.

Volunteer Paul Plunkett helped draw more people to the dinner by waving a sign and yelling, "Free dinner!" on the street near the park.

"My volunteer on the side of the road yelling 'free dinner' was solely responsible for at least 100 of the diners attending," Blackmon said. "He was awesome."

For the date and location of the next No Dough Dinner, visit [www.uso.org/fortriley](http://www.uso.org/fortriley).



USO volunteers serve sub sandwiches during the No Dough Dinner June 30 at Wyman Park. No Dough Dinners are the last working day before a payday for Soldiers to enjoy a free meal.

Lyndsey Born | POST

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