



The Military Child World Expo
The National Association For Military-Connected Children
The Home of the Military Child

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Military Child World Expo Foundation Launches National Recognition Framework for Teen Caregivers

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The Military Child World Expo Foundation (MCWEF) announced the launch of a national recognition framework for teen caregivers, addressing a long-overlooked population of youth who provide ongoing care and support within their families.

The framework, known as Teen Caregiver Community Service Hours (TCCSH), formally recognizes caregiving responsibilities as legitimate community service, acknowledging the time, responsibility, and emotional labor carried by teen caregivers across military-connected and civilian communities.

Teen caregivers often assist with the care of parents, siblings, grandparents, or family members with illness, disability, or service-related needs. Despite the scope of their contributions, their caregiving work has historically gone unrecognized within traditional service and leadership pathways.

“TCCSH exists to make the invisible visible,” said Adrienne Schaffer, Esq. (Colonel Retired), Chair, MCWEF. “Teen caregivers are already serving their families and communities. This framework ensures their contributions are recognized with dignity, structure, and legitimacy.”

The TCCSH framework provides:

- A standardized method for documenting caregiving-based service hours
- Recognition pathways aligned with schools, youth programs, and community organizations
- Clear guidance for families, educators, and community partners

The initiative reflects MCWEF’s broader commitment to cultural stewardship, belonging, and equitable recognition for military-connected children and youth navigating complex family responsibilities.

About the Military Child World Expo Foundation (MCWEF)

The Military Child World Expo Foundation (MCWEF) serves as the National Association for Military-Connected Children, providing national leadership, cultural stewardship, and institutional coordination on behalf of children growing up in military-connected families worldwide.

MCWEF advances its mission through a flagship national convening, the Military Child World Expo, and targeted initiatives focused on cultural identity, caregiving recognition, and belonging.

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