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Camp Bob at Kanuga chosen to host National Military Family Association's popular *Operation Purple*[®] summer camp
Camp for military children doubles in size for Camp Bob's second year as host

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C.---The National Military Family Association announced today that Camp Bob at Kanuga was chosen to host two sessions of its popular *Operation Purple* summer camp in 2009. The Association developed this free summer camp program in response to the need for increased support for military children, especially those whose parents are or will be deployed.

“The goal of *Operation Purple* summer camps is to let these young heroes know that ‘Kids Serve Too!’ Military children who attend camp will have the opportunity to learn the skills to cope with the stress of a deployment and make friends with other kids who are also missing their mom or dad,” said Mary Scott, the Association’s Chairman of the Board. “The National Military Family Association is excited to work with Camp Bob on this very worthwhile program.”

Operation Purple sessions will be held June 28-July 3 and Aug. 2-7 at Camp Bob. Each session can accommodate 75 campers ages 8-15. An outreach program of Kanuga Conferences in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina, Camp Bob hosted its first *Operation Purple* session in 2008.

“The National Military Family Association was very pleased with Camp Bob’s implementation of the *Operation Purple* Summer Camp and we’re excited to work with them to extend the program to accommodate more children in North Carolina,” said Joyce Raezer, the Association’s executive director.

More than 70 children from seven states attended Camp Bob’s inaugural *Operation Purple* session.

“I’m very excited about *Operation Purple* returning to Kanuga this summer,” said David Griffin, Camp Bob director. “It’s a safe place for military children to bond with each other and know they aren’t alone. Campers attend small group sessions where they can talk about what it’s like to have a parent in a war zone.”

Campers also get plenty of time to just be children. Most of the session is spent enjoying traditional camp activities including hiking, swimming, rock climbing, canoeing, archery and arts and crafts.

“Time to have fun is exactly what they need,” Griffin said.

Registration for *Operation Purple* camp begins March 16, 2009. Applications will only be accepted online. Sign up at www.operationpurple.org to receive email notices and camp updates. Each camp is “purple” and open to children of service members of any branch of Service, active duty, National Guard or Reserve, as well as children of members of the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service and National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration.

Camps are free to all participants thanks to support from the Sierra Club and The Sierra Club Foundation.

About Camp Bob at Kanuga

Camp Bob is located at Kanuga Conferences, a 1,400-acre camp and conference center affiliated with the Episcopal Church and open to all. In addition to cabins and a dining hall, Camp Bob has a lake for swimming, fishing and boating, a climbing tower, hiking trails and many other recreation areas. The program employs extensively screened and rigorously trained counselors chosen for their ability to serve as caring role models and to impart an appreciation for the outdoors. For more information, visit www.kanuga.org.

About the National Military Family Association

The National Military Family Association is the leading nonprofit organization committed to improving the lives of military families. Our 40 years of service and accomplishments have made us a trusted resource for families and the nation’s leaders. As the only nonprofit organization that represents the families of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Association protects benefits vital to all families, including those of the deployed, wounded and fallen. For more information, visit www.nmfa.org.

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