Six camps were held and evaluated in Delaware. One of the camps was a *Family Camp* in which youth and their family, particularly their military parent, participated. One hundred and ninety-one (191) campers, ages 6 to 17, participated and completed a survey at the end of the camp. Depending on the age of the camper, they received one of two age-appropriate surveys developed by the American Camping Association.

The Camper Learning Scale was administered to younger campers, ages 6 to 11 years old, and consists of 14 items related to improvements across six domains: Friendship, Family Citizenship, Teamwork, Perceived Competence, Interest in Exploration, and Responsibility. Each of these items are rated with a 4 point scale from 1 “I didn’t learn anything about this,” 2 “I’m not sure,” 3 “I learned a little about this,” to 4 “I learned a lot about this.” A mean scale score was computed for all participants who completed the 14 item scale.

The Youth Outcomes Battery was developed for older campers and was administered to youth ages 10 to 18 years old. This survey is comprised of five scales, which measure: Friendship, Independence, Competence, Responsibility, and Teamwork. Each of these items is rated on a 5 point scale from 1 “decreased,” 2 “did not increase or decrease,” 3 “increased a little bit maybe,” 4 “increased some I am sure,” to 5 “increased a lot I am sure.” For the *Family Camp*, older youth completed all five of these scales plus an additional scale measuring Family Citizenship. Social Support was assessed using an established scale with response categories ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree along with a neutral response choice. Items pertaining to stress levels and general satisfaction were also included. Mean scale scores are computed and compared to normative data collected by the American Camping Association.

Demographics and descriptive statistics were conducted using SPSS and are presented below in a results summary.

### RESULTS SUMMARY

#### Younger Campers

**Demographics:**
- 71 campers completed the Camper Learning Scale
  - 51% were boys and 49% were girls
  - The average age of these campers was 8.6 years with an age range from 6 to 11
  - 26% indicated that they are in a dual military family
  - 71% indicated only their father is in the military
  - 3% indicated that only their mother is in the military
  - 93% reported that their parent(s) had experienced at least one deployment

**Outcomes:**
1. **Camper Learning Scale:**
   - The mean score for the Camper Learning scale was 3.6 on a four-point response scale. [3.0 = that the respondent learned a “little” and 4.0 = that the respondent learned a “lot.”]
   - The mean scale score indicates that campers perceived “a little” or “a lot” of increases in learning across the represented six domains of the Camper Learning scale.
2. **Satisfaction:**
   - 99% indicated that they would “definitely” (96%) to “maybe” (3%) come back to the camp next year.
   - 100% indicated that they would “definitely” (94%) to “maybe” (6%) suggest that their friends should come to the camp.
Older Campers

Demographics:

120 campers completed the Youth Outcome Battery; 15 of these were in Family Camps and completed the additional Family Citizenship scale.

- 45% were boys and 55% were girls
- The average age of these campers was 12.5 years with a range from 10 to 17
- 35% indicated that they are in a dual military family
- 61% indicated that only their father is in the military
- 4% indicated that only their mother is in the military
- 96% reported that their parent(s) had experienced at least one deployment

Outcomes:

1. American Camp Association (ACA) Scales:
   - All six of the ACA scales mean scores were above 4.2 on a five-point response scale where ratings of 3 to 5 indicate graduated levels of perceived improvement from minimum to great.
     - Results indicate campers perceived improvement for themselves in all six domains.
     - Mean scale scores for all six domains were above the national norm, placing campers in the 70th-90th percentile.

Table 1. Comparison and Ranking of National Norms to Delaware Mean Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
<th>Percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friendship</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>4.68</td>
<td>.64</td>
<td>70-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>4.70</td>
<td>.66</td>
<td>80-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsibility</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>4.71</td>
<td>.62</td>
<td>80-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>4.72</td>
<td>.56</td>
<td>80-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Citizenship</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4.26</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>80-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competence</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>4.71</td>
<td>.59</td>
<td>90th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Social Support:
   - The mean scale score for Social Support was 4.8 on a five-point response scale where 4.0 = “agree” and 5.0 = “strongly agree”.
   - 97% of campers had a Social Support scale score of 4.0 or greater indicating that almost all campers agree or strongly agree that they have social support.
   - Campers were asked whether participation in the camp affected their stress levels in dealing with parental deployment(s):
     - 93% agreed that participating in the camp reduced their stress
     - 7% responded neutrally
     - 1% did not agree that participating in the camp decreased their stress.

3. Satisfaction:
   - 99% of campers either “agreed” (8%) or “strongly agreed” (91%) that they would recommend the camp to their friends.
   - 99% of campers either “agreed” (6%) or “strongly agreed” (93%) that they would like to return to the camp next year.