

OFFICIAL MEMBER

OPERATION BUCKEYE GUARD

School

Mailing Address

Primary POC

Title

Phone/E-mail

Welcome to Operation Buckeye Guard! We are a proud group of Ohio high school football teams who want to recognize our state's service members, especially in light of the 10-year anniversary of 9/11 this September. Operation Buckeye Guard teams will be wearing patriotic decals on our helmets this football season, including the American flag and the patch for the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The 37th IBCT is planning to mobilize, then deploy to Afghanistan more than 2,200 National Guard Soldiers from Ohio. The scheduled mobilization will be the largest deployment for the Ohio Army National Guard in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Operation Buckeye Guard began with Mohawk High School, with its adoption of the 37th's 1-148th Infantry Battalion, and has grown into a state-wide effort in a few short weeks. See how to get started below:

GETTING STARTED - LEVEL 1

You checked "Level 1," which entitles you to a starter kit of patriotic decals and a school banner.

Patriotic Decals: Please have all your players secure the stickers to their helmets before your first game.

School Banner: The school-specific banner describes the significance of the decals and explains why your team is wearing them. Please hang this banner in a high-visibility location inside the school during the week (front lobby, main office, cafeteria, etc), and move it to the football field for each Friday night game.

Your School's National Guard Contact: If your team is interested in expanding its level of participation in Operation Buckeye Guard or simply wants more of a military presence at one of your games, please contact the local National Guard representative assigned to your school:

Name

Phone

E-mail

GETTING STARTED - LEVEL 2

You checked "Level 2," which entitles you to a starter kit of patriotic decals and a school banner, as well as information about adopting a National Guard unit.

Level 1 Info: Review information provided for "Level 1" partnership.

Adopted Unit Information: Call your school's National Guard contact listed above, and he/she will be able to identify a unit your school can adopt, and provide you with the information below.

Unit Name and Mailing Address

Unit Mission

Unit Contact Name

Phone

E-mail

Partnership Ideas: See page following for ideas to connect your school to its adopted unit.

OPERATION BUCKEYE GUARD

Partnerships between organizations in our communities and our schools make both of them better places to live, work, and learn. Through an all-American past time of Friday night football, we can increase community pride with the partnership of our local National Guard Units.

COMMUNITY EVENT IDEAS FOR OBG PARTNERSHIP

1. Request an individualized school banner (FREE!) from school recruiter to hang at school events.
2. Invite the local media at your public events for positive coverage of military support efforts.
3. Have students / guardmembers unfurl a large American flag for the National Anthem at a game.
4. Find your former students who are in the Guard, and honor them at a game.
5. Find your local Guard Unit and introduce yourself to the full-time force.
6. Host a Military Appreciation Night for members and their families.
7. Host a Military Appreciation Night for families of DEPLOYED members.
8. Have the American Legion / VFW/ Guard Unit do the Color Guard for the National Anthem at a game.
9. Have a former student / guardmember present the game ball mid-field for kickoff.
10. Have your local Guard unit bring out military vehicles for display.
11. Have school recruiter / local military member be a guest speaker at special events like Veteran's Day.
12. Have a military member be in the Homecoming Parade
13. Hand out personalized dog tags to senior students at special "Senior night."
14. Have military rep hand out plaques to honorable mention / seniors / special members.
15. Have school recruiter hand out military back-packs to team MVPs.
16. Have recruiters set up inflatable spider tent / smoke machine for the field run on.
17. Have Guardmembers do a basic training field day (with students).
18. Have them do presentations on diversity, leadership, job skills, deployment experience.
19. Create a Leadership Professional Development Day for students / league.
20. Ask school recruiter to conduct team-building activities.
21. Have your local Recruiters / Guard bring out inflatable ball toss / interactive assets.
22. Have a military member discuss American flag on protocol.
23. Tour local military facility (hangar, armory, or nearby training sites)
24. Have public service day with Police, Fire, Military displays
25. Have school recruiter support a special project at school such as a Physics Bridge Building Competition and hand out goodies to the winner.

OPERATION BUCKEYE GUARD: MOHAWK STYLE

The first event at Mohawk will be when the school dedicates the first league game to Charlie Company of the 148th Infantry, and honor all those in the military with a National Guard Appreciation Night (free admission in uniform and a valid military ID); some of our local Guardmembers will be honored at halftime. After this initial event, the teams will start to assemble care packages with DVDs from all four league games played that night, which will be included in care packages that are sent to Soldiers after they deploy. The goal is to have football teams adopt deployed Soldiers, create public support and send care packages containing items from home that Soldiers will miss, such as a recording of their local football games. Mohawk High School encourages each and every team to simply dedicate the first home game to all of those that serve in the military. Have a press release that will announce why you are wearing the stickers on the helmet. Fly your personalized banner for all to see at your games. Start small and grow with the season. Questions about Mohawk High School's partnership can be directed to Erik Baker at erik.baker@mohawklocal.org.