



Located in  
building 1071  
(CDC Annex)

# MCAS Yuma School Liaison Program

Newsletter  
Apr-Jun 2024

welcome



**Greetings from the  
MCAS Yuma School Liaison Program!**

Greetings from your MCAS Yuma School Liaison and installation point of contact for all PK-12 school related questions. School Liaisons are uniquely qualified to help address your school related questions and concerns during times of transition and anytime while aboard MCAS Yuma.

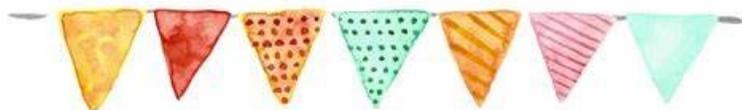
In this quarterly edition of the SLP newsletter, you will find:

- ◆ Helpful Parent Resources & Enrolling in School
- ◆ PCS Smooth Move & Welcome Aboard Briefs
- ◆ Education Transitions—Military Interstate Compact
  - ◆ Month of the Military Child Awareness
    - ◆ Early Literacy Calendars
    - ◆ College & Career Tips
- ◆ Summer Camps & Educational Programming
- ◆ Homeschool Resources & Call for the Arts!

*USMC School Liaisons are the critical link between families, commanders, communities, and schools to improve educational outcomes, quality of life, and operational readiness.*

Visit MCCS Yuma on Facebook [@MCCSYuma](#)





# Parent Resources



## School PCS Checklist

Schools & Calendars for Yuma County

Bus Map & Schedules for MCAS Yuma

Arizona Department of Education

Raising Special Kids

Homeschool Info for Yuma County

MCAS Yuma K-12 School Info Packet for Families

Tips for Parent-Teacher Conferences

Tips for Helping with Homework

Resources for Reading & Literacy

Khan Academy

## What do I need to register my child for school?

- ◆ Child's Original Birth Certificate
- ◆ Immunization Records
- ◆ Proof of Arizona Residency
- ◆ PCS Orders to Yuma
- ◆ Current IEP and/or 504 Documents (if applicable)
- ◆ Proof of Withdrawal (previous school)
- ◆ Last Report Card

## Know Your Rights—Interstate Compact Rules for AZ

The Military Interstate Compact has certain provisions for children of active duty military service members regarding school enrollment, registration, and other K-12 education related issues that are impacted by frequent PCS moves. Read the full compact in Arizona to know your rights as a military family. *These statutes only apply to Arizona public and charter schools and do not cover children enrolling in private or homeschool programs.*

## Attend and Get the Info You Need

Are you just arriving to MCAS Yuma? Come check out the **Welcome Aboard Brief**, held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 8-10 a.m. at Sonoran Pueblo! Meet the School Liaison and talk about schooling options and resources.

Getting ready to PCS? Attending **PCS for Success Brief** is an excellent step towards getting yourself and your family ready for your next move. School Liaison will share best practices and tips for smooth schooling transitions.

Call (928) 269-6499 to register or request a sponsor.

<https://yuma.usmc-mccs.org/calendar-of-events>



# Military Interstate Compact

Most military families with school age children are unaware of the benefits afforded them under the Military Interstate Compact. Known colloquially as “the compact”, these are rules that are codified into state law in all 50 states and specifically address common K-12 education transition related issues.

[Watch a 4-Minute Video Summary of the Military Interstate Compact](#)

[Read the Military Interstate Compact Rules](#)

[Take Free Self-Paced Training to Get to Know the Compact](#)



## WORKING THROUGH TOUGH TRANSITIONS WITH CHILDREN

For military-connected students, who on average move 6-9 times during their K-12 academic career, moving can be difficult and stressful. Everyone handles moving and transitions differently. Transitions are a process or a period of changing from one state to another. Be aware of signs that may have negative impact on your child's transition and try some of these best practices to help ease theirs and your Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move.

### TYPICAL SIGNS OF A TOUGH TRANSITION

**DENIAL:** When your child shows no interest in the upcoming move. Will refuse to acknowledge the transition is happening.

**RESISTANCE:** When a child will actively resist the PCS move. They may withdraw, act out of anger, try to avoid the problem through escape, or become open to outside influences and unhealthy choices. After a PCS move, your child may refuse to make new friends and explore their new environment.

**ANXIETY:** Children often feel restless and begin to worry about this PCS. They may experience trouble sleeping and develop anxiety about the new environment.

**DEPRESSION:** Is a result of the previous characteristics not being managed, supported, or addressed. Building trust in a new environment for a military-connected child is not an easy one. They might be thinking...Will this new environment be dependable, trustworthy, can I rely on the schools and others here?

### RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

CURRENT INSTALLATION	RECEIVING INSTALLATION	SCHOOL TRANSITION ASSISTANCE	CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAMS TRANSITION ASSISTANCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connecting with Installation School Liaison (SL) to provide warm handoff to receiving installation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connecting with Installation SL for resources and referrals</li> <li>Installation social media channels to learn about community engagements</li> <li>Marine &amp; Family Programs</li> <li>Attend the Welcome Aboard workshop to learn of resources that can support your family</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purple Star schools</li> <li>Peer-led transition programs</li> <li>Welcome Committees</li> <li>School Military and Family Life Counseling(MFLCs)</li> <li>Ambassador programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation Youth Sponsorship Program</li> <li>School Age Center</li> <li>Youth Centers</li> <li>Youth Sports</li> <li>CYP MFLC</li> </ul>

As a parent/guardian of a military-connected child, it is important to acknowledge concerns with any PCS move. Help with giving your child's feelings a name so that you both can work through and address the change. Be patient with your child as they go through these transitions. Create a safe place to reassure and validate your child's feelings.

Be aware of MCCS resources (CYP, SLP, MFLC) available to help you and your child cope with this transition.



# MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

DID YOU KNOW?



1. April is the Month of the Military Child and was established in 1986 by Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger.
2. Purple is used to show support for military children because it represents all the colors of the services mixed together.
3. The dandelion is the official flower of military children because its seeds are scattered by the wind, but, like military kids, the seeds always bloom where they are planted.
4. Military children may change schools up to nine times between the start of kindergarten and high school graduation.
5. Use the following hashtags on social media to show your support: #MOMC, #MonthoftheMilitaryChild, #purpleup #purpleup4militarykids, and #purpleupday.
6. Local installations, schools, and CYP programs host Month of the Military Child events to recognize our children and youth for their sacrifices.
7. Since 1996, The Secretary of Defense has required a youth sponsorship program at every installation to facilitate the integration of military-connected youth into their new surroundings.
8. Child and Youth Programs and School Liaisons help support local youth and connect youth and families with local resources and programs that facilitate social and emotional adjustments, academic success, and leadership opportunities.
9. There are roughly 36 states in the U.S. that have legislation promoting the “Purple Star Designation Program” within their schools.
10. The Purple Star Designation Program recognizes and reinforces peer-led transition groups to support transitioning military-connected students within their local schools.

You can learn more about Youth Sponsorship programming through installation outreach events such as Welcome Aboard/Newcomers Briefs, Smooth Moves, and Newcomer Events/Orientations.



# Daily Fun with Your Little One!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <b>1 Songs</b> It's April Fools' Day. Make up a silly song with your child about innocent pranks you could play.	<b>2 Reading</b> It's Peanut Butter and Jelly Day. Read <i>When PB Met J</i> written by Katelyn Aronson and illustrated by Sarah Rebar.	<b>3 Songs</b> It's Film Score Day. Listen to some of your child's favorite songs from his favorite movies.	<b>4 Science</b> It's Vitamin C Day. Talk to your child about the importance of taking vitamins to grow strong and stay healthy.	<b>5 Writing</b> On Read a Road Map Day, help your child read and then draw her own road map of the United States.	<b>6 Math</b> It's Caramel Popcorn Day. Count how many kernels of popcorn your child can throw into your mouth.	
<b>7 Play</b> It's No Housework Day. Put off some of your chores for the day and play your child's favorite board game.	<b>8 Rhymes</b> It's Zoo Lover Day. Ask your child to list as many words as she can think of that rhyme with "zoo".	<b>9 Sounds</b> It's Unicorn Day. Run around the house pretending to be a unicorn with your child and ask him what noise he thinks a unicorn would make.	<b>10 Stories</b> It's Siblings Day. Ask your child to tell you an imaginary story about where she would go with her siblings if she could go anywhere.	<b>11 Math</b> It's Pet Day. Walk around the neighborhood with your child and count the number of pets you see.	<b>12 Science</b> It's Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day. Make a grilled cheese sandwich with your child and explain how heat causes the solid cheese to melt.	<b>13 Reading</b> It's Thomas Jefferson Day. Talk about the Declaration of Independence and read <i>The Story of Thomas Jefferson</i> by Lisa Trusiani.
<b>14 Writing</b> It's Gardening Day. Encourage your child to draw his idea of a perfect garden.	<b>15 Science</b> It's Rubber Eraser Day. Ask your child to draw a line with a pencil and talk about why the eraser makes the lines disappear.	<b>16 Rhymes</b> It's Bean Counter Day. See how many words your child can come up with that rhyme with bean.	<b>17 Play</b> Hold a tea party for your child and his stuffed animals.	<b>18 Math</b> It's Exercise Day. Count how many jumping jacks you and your child can do together.	<b>19 Sounds</b> Hold a contest to see who can make the best monkey sounds.	<b>20 Stories</b> It's Look Alike Day. Ask your child to tell a story about what she would do if she had an identical twin.
<b>21 Reading</b> Ask your child to help you read simple directions as you prepare a meal like macaroni and cheese.	<b>22 Play</b> It's Earth Day. Go outside on a scavenger hunt with your child to find a rock, a leaf, a feather, and more.	<b>23 Sounds</b> To celebrate Picnic Day, go outside to eat with a blanket to sit on. Ask your child to describe what he hears around him.	<b>24 Rhymes</b> While reading a book together, look for words that rhyme on the page.	<b>25 Math</b> Ask your child to gather and sort her stuffed animals by size and color.	<b>26 Stories</b> Ask your child if she could have any superpower, what would it be. Then have her make up a story about how she would fight crime.	<b>27 Play</b> It's Gummi Bear Day. Buy a pack of gummi bears for your child and help him act out a scene using the bears as characters.
<b>28 Writing</b> It's Great Poetry Reading Day. Work with your child to help her write a short poem of her own.	<b>29 Sounds</b> It's Zipper Day. Listen to the sound of a zipper with your child and make up lyrics and dance moves.	<b>30 Songs</b> It's Bugs Bunny Day. Listen to the Looney Tunes theme song and make up lyrics and dance moves.	<p>Help your child get ready to learn to read!</p> <p>Each day features a fun activity that will help your child build pre-reading skills. Activities are color-coded by skill. Ask your children's librarian for more ideas on how to promote early literacy skills with daily activities at home.</p>			

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April 2024

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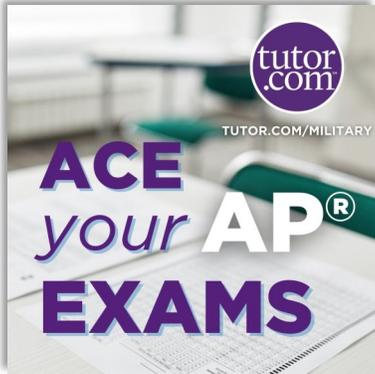
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <b>Help your child get ready to learn to read!</b> Each day features a fun activity that will help your child build pre-reading skills. Activities are color-coded by skill. Ask your children's librarian for more ideas on how to promote early literacy skills with daily activities at home.	<b>1 Writing</b> Happy May Day! Work with your child to write a spring bucket list.	<b>2 Rhymes</b> See how many words your child can rhyme with the word "May."	<b>3 Math</b> It's Space Day. Play mission control. Start by counting backwards: 5-4-3-2-1 blastoff!	<b>4 Stories</b> It's Share a Story Month. Exchange favorite stories with your child. Maybe they're silly stories, pet stories, or travel stories?		
<b>5 Play</b> It's Cinco De Mayo. Celebrate by learning the <i>Mexican Hat Dance</i> together.	<b>6 Reading</b> Children's Book Week begins today. Attend a storytime with your child at your local library or just read her favorite story at home.	<b>7 Writing</b> With some chunky sidewalk chalk, have your child draw shapes or letters outside on your patio or walkway.	<b>8 Science</b> Explore insects outside with your child. Use magnifying glasses to observe them and discuss their characteristics.	<b>9 Songs</b> Make a May playlist together including songs that mention sunshine, spring, or butterflies. Then have a listen and dance around.	<b>10 Sounds</b> There are so many sounds of spring. Go on a walk and play guess the sound with your child.	<b>11 Writing</b> What's the weather outside? Have your child draw what he sees: sunshine, rain, rainbows, clouds, etc.
<b>12 Rhymes</b> Today is Limerick Day. Work with your child to write a five-line poem, the sillier the better.	<b>13 Reading</b> Read spring-themed stories to your child and ask her to share her thoughts.	<b>14 Play</b> Act out the lifecycle of a butterfly with your child: crawl like a caterpillar, chomp up some food, go into a chrysalis (blanket) and then turn into a butterfly and flutter about.	<b>15 Reading</b> It's Get Caught Reading Month. Read as many books as you can with your child and take book selfies together.	<b>16 Science</b> It's Love a Tree Day. Go on a nature walk in your neighborhood and point out the trees. Talk with your child about how the leaves and bark look different.	<b>17 Math</b> It's Pizza Party Day. Make a pizza with your child. Have him count the toppings: 1,2,3 pieces of pepperoni. Will you slice it into squares or triangles?	<b>18 Songs</b> Go online with your child and listen to Jack Hartmann's <i>It's the Month of May</i> song
<b>19 Writing</b> Have your child gather sticks or rocks and help her use them to create shapes or letters.	<b>20 Sounds</b> It's World Bee Day. Bees are important to all life. Go outside with your child and listen for the gentle buzzing as bees visit May flowers.	<b>21 Rhymes</b> It's Pet Month. Help your child write a fun poem about his dream pet.	<b>22 Stories</b> Have your child tell you what made them laugh today.	<b>23 Play</b> May's full moon is at its peak today. Ask your child if she'd like to go to the moon? Why or why not?	<b>24 Science</b> It's Scavenger Hunt Day. Print out some pictures of bugs and go outside with your child to look for them.	<b>25 Songs</b> Have a pretend picnic with your child and keep the ants away by singing <i>The Ants Go Marching</i> .
<b>26 Math</b> Talk (and count) May numbers with your child: May is the fifth month of the year with 31 days, and it's the second month of spring.	<b>27 Writing</b> While at the beach or in the sand box, have your child trace letters in the sand.	<b>28 Reading</b> It's Hamburger Day. Follow along to a burger read aloud like <i>The Dinosaur Who Discovers Hamburgers</i> by Adison Books	<b>29 Science</b> It's Alligator Day. Gather some gator facts with your child by reading <i>All About Alligators</i> by L.E. Arning.	<b>30 Play</b> It's beach season! Play ocean animal charades with your child.	<b>31 Sounds</b> Listen to the sounds of different birds with your child and see if he can describe the different calls or songs.	

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May 2024

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# COLLEGE & CAREER



## New FAFSA

Big changes are coming to the 2024-2024 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Families of high school children applying for federal student aid for college are encourage to check out the resources below or speak with their child's high school guidance counselor to ensure they understand current changes to the FAFSA.

[Understanding the new FAFSA Submission Summary](#)

[Parent Guide to Federal Financial Aid—February 2024](#)

[7 Key Changes Coming to the 2024–25 FAFSA® Experience – Federal Student Aid](#)

## EXPLORE POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS FOR YOUR CHILD



Through the collaboration of the School Liaison Program and local community, military families can get the information and support they need for post-secondary planning and experiences. Some services are available through a variety of formats to include:

### PURPLE STAR DEDICATED PROGRAMS

**Partners In Education (PIE):** Commanders program that suggests a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement between the commander and local schools. Installation can host field trips for local schools to visit and explore education centers and career opportunities within the installation.

**Adopt-A-School Program:** Marines and/or Civilian Marines supporting local schools in career exploration through tutoring services, mentoring, special events, career days, etc.

**Student-led Transition programs:** Create social-emotional safety nets for students through student-led transition programs such as Youth Sponsorship, Student Ambassadors, Military Kids Clubs, and Anchored 4 Life to create a welcoming environment and caring culture.

### MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDRENS COMPACT COMMISSION (MIC 3)

**Placement:** Receiving school initially honors placement of military-connected students in educational programs based on current academic assessments conducted. Examples of this, but not limited to, are International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, vocational, technical, and career pathways courses.

**On-time Graduation:** Local educational agencies (LEAs) will support students to graduate on time. This may happen due to waiver of requirements, such as waiving specific courses for graduation if similar coursework has been completed at another LEA. This also speaks to exit exams and or state exams. Seniors transferring during their senior year, sending and receiving LEAs work collaboratively to ensure students receive the receipt of diplomas.

### PROFESSIONALS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO CONNECT WITH FOR COLLEGE, CAREER OR MILITARY READINESS

- MCCS Lifelong learning center
- Tutor.com/military
- Service branch recruiting offices
- Big Futuræ through College Board
- School counselors

For more information, visit or contact your local School Liaison.





MCAS Yuma Youth Center  
3 June – 2 Aug. Registration opens 15 April, [www.militarychildcare.com](http://www.militarychildcare.com)  
Contact CYP Resource and Referral for assistance, (928) 269-3251/3234

Boys & Girls Club – Yuma Branch  
June-August, ages 5-12  
<https://www.bgcaz.org/summer-camp/yuma-branch/>

Yuma ABEC Career Exploration Camp – 3-6 June, current 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade students  
Contact (9278) 302-2125 for information or email [tyndall@stedy01.org](mailto:tyndall@stedy01.org)

Humane Society of Yuma – Weekly camp dates TBD (typically offered in June)  
<https://hsoyuma.com/summer-camps.html>

Yuma Heat  
Summer Swim Team for ages 5 and up  
Session I: 3-28 June; Session II: 1-26 July  
[www.heatswimteam.org](http://www.heatswimteam.org)

Ballet Yuma  
Various camps for new and experienced dancers  
<http://www.balleteyuma.org/yuma-ballet-academy/program-overview/summer-2024-program-information/>

Yuma Proving Ground - Gains in Education of Mathematics and Science (GEMS) Camps  
Open to rising 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade students, applications due 7 April  
2 Sessions: 3-6 June & 10-13 June  
<https://www.usaeop.com/program/yuma>

City of Yuma Parks & Recreation – Activities Guide  
<https://www.yumaaz.gov/government/parks-recreation/programs-activities>

Arizona Western College (AWC) Athletics – Matador Camps and Clinics  
<https://www.awcmatadors.com/Camps - Clinics>

Yuma Community Theater  
STAGE Youth Program – 3 -29 June (Ages 8-13)  
STAGE Teen Program – 17-28 July (Ages 13-18)  
[www.yctaz.org](http://www.yctaz.org)

Children's Museum of Yuma  
Weekly camp options in June (ages 6-9); Art Camp is 8-11 July (ages 8-10)  
<https://summercamp2024.givesmart.com>

Camp Invention – STEM Summer Camps 2024  
Grades K-6 - Limited camps available in Yuma; at home camp experience available for a fee  
<https://www.invent.org/programs/camp-invention>

More Summer Camp Resources (May not be local to Yuma):

Online List: <https://summercamphub.com/best-arizona-summer-camps/>

Raising Arizona Kids Magazine: <https://www.raisingarizonakids.com/summer-camp-list/summer-camps/>

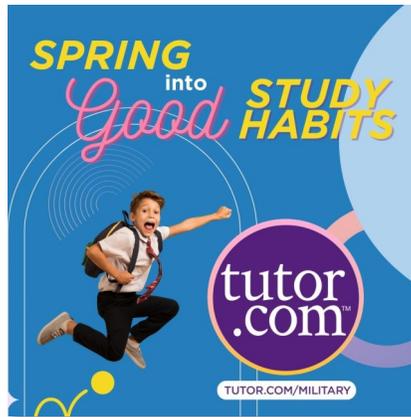
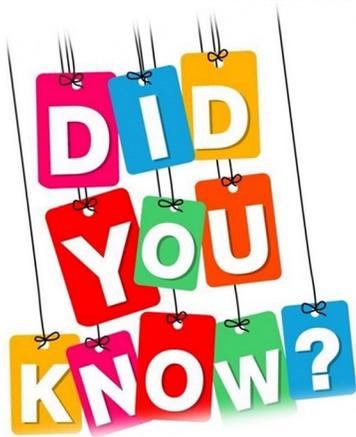
AZ Humane Society: <https://www.azhumane.org/summer-camp/>

U of A Engineering: [https://engineering.arizona.edu/k12/k12\\_SEA](https://engineering.arizona.edu/k12/k12_SEA)

ASU: <https://eoss.asu.edu/access/programs/summer/search>

U of A Cooperative Extension, 4-H Camp: <https://extension.arizona.edu/4h/james-4-h-camp>

Operation Purple Camps: <https://www.militaryfamily.org/programs/operation-purple/operation-purple-camp/>



## Arizona Families for Home Education

- ◆ Arizona Families for Home Education (AFHE) provides a local resource for families who are seeking guidance and support to home school their children.
- ◆ AFHE is a local compliment to the School Liaison Program and resources such as the Home School Legal Defense Association.
- ◆ AFHE is hosting their Home Education Convention from 12-13 July 2024 at the Phoenix Convention Center
- ◆ For registration information, visit Arizona Families for Home Education - Convention 2024 ([afhe.org](http://afhe.org))

We value your feedback! Take a moment to let us know what we're doing well and what you would like to see from the MCAS Yuma School Liaison Program

Complete the ICE Survey by going to:  
<https://ice.disa.mil>



## Call for the Arts!

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) Call for the Arts program invites military-connected children from all over the world, representing every branch of service, to share interpretations through art of what it means to be a military-connected child.

### ELIGIBILITY + SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Open to children in grades K-12
- Only original work will be accepted (no copies of artwork, songs or existing video)
- All submissions should be titled; if not, MCEC may title the work
- Creative writing, poetry, or prose must not exceed 500 words

### ART IDEAS TO CONSIDER

- Share global experiences, cultures, and friendships you've had as a military or veteran-connected child
- Celebrate what makes you proud of being a military kid
- Highlight a time when you overcame a challenge
- Show how you thrive with the support of your family, friends, school, or community

### WHAT TO DO

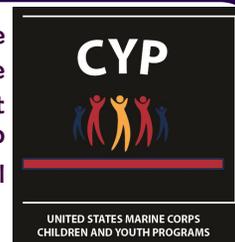
- Using any medium (paint, pencil, photography, performance, writing, etc.), share what being a military-connected child means to you.
- Complete the Entry and Release form with an adult signature.
- Mail your art and completed form to: **MCEC, Call for the Arts, 909 Mountain Lion Circle, Harker Heights, TX 76548**
- Digital art, poetry/writing, photography, or performance art videos may be submitted with completed forms to: [CallForTheArts@militarychild.org](mailto:CallForTheArts@militarychild.org)
- Winners will be selected from each category (grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12)

[The Call for the Arts - Military Child Education Coalition](#)

Looking for installation support for a child who already has an IEP? Reach out to the MCAS Yuma EFMP at (928) 269-2949.



Families who have childcare needs are encouraged to contact MCAS Yuma CYP Resource & Referral (928) 269-3234/3251.



## Family Care Program

**MCAS Yuma School Liaison Program**

[yumaschoolliaison@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:yumaschoolliaison@usmc-mccs.org)

(928) 269-5373

[www.mccsyuma.org](http://www.mccsyuma.org)