

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL BRIGADE



## OVERVIEW

Operation Homefront's Back-to-School Brigade (BTSB) provides military children with backpacks filled with school supplies, helping to relieve families of this cost and enabling them to use their income for other household expenses.

In 2020, families with students in grades one through 12 spent an average of \$690 on back-to-school supplies. In addition, many schools also asked parents to contribute up to \$100 per family for general-use classroom materials.

When combined with other childcare costs, many military families face difficult choices about whether to ensure their children are well supplied for school or whether to purchase other essential items for their family, including clothing and food.

Families are grateful for the supplies they receive, including pens, pencils, paper, scissors, and binders.

## AT A GLANCE

Average school supply cost per U.S. family | \$600 per student\*

Total value of BTSB supplies collected by Operation Homefront in 2019 | Over \$5.1 million

Who is eligible? | Eligibility requirements vary by location, please visit [OperationHomefront.org](https://OperationHomefront.org) for more details

\*Source: Center for Digital Education

## RESULTS

35,458  
BACKPACKS  
DISTRIBUTED  
IN 2020

426,057  
BACKPACKS  
DISTRIBUTED  
SINCE 2008

## WITH YOUR SUPPORT

The Back-to-School Brigade program is made possible through the generosity of **CSX**, **Dollar Tree**, **Nike**, **SAIC**, and other partners and donors. The need continues.

Find out how you can help at [OperationHomefront.org](https://OperationHomefront.org).



Codie Maile describes herself as an Army brat. Ten years ago, when her husband, also named Cody, decided to enlist in the Army, she knew even better than him what to expect. The moves, deployments, and stretching a budget.

She was ready for the adventure.

Cody is a now a sergeant and the couple have 2 children. He deployed once in 2011 and have moved four times.

As Codie expected, the family often has to stretch their budget but she found support through Operation Homefront's Back-to-School Brigade (BTSB). She first got involved three years ago both as a volunteer and recipient when they were stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia.

In July, the family was back for the BTSB event held in Clarksville, TN. The event was modified to adhere to restrictions and protocols related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's been a huge help to us," Codie said. "My kids' birthdays are both in August so it can be a really stressful month. I didn't have to buy their school supplies and specially as they got older and their school supply list got larger. It is definitely helpful because I was able to give my kids better birthdays."

Codie wants the donors to know that they are giving more than physical items.

"I think donors don't always know it's beyond the monetary value of what they are giving. People showing that they do care, it renews you."

## PROGRAM EFFICIENCY

90%

of Operation Homefront's expenditures go directly to programs supporting military families.

## TRUSTED & RESPECTED

[OPERATIONHOMEFRONT.ORG](https://OperationHomefront.org)

