

Dear Parents,

Our method for applying Army Family Covenant (AFC) Benefits to SKIESUnlimited classes and Youth Sports will be changing effective 14 April 2010.

Currently, Mission Level 1 families receive 4 free SKIESUnlimited classes and 2 free Youth Sports per deployment cycle. Mission Level 2 families receive 2 free SKIESUnlimited classes and 1 free Youth Sport. The process of determining what qualified as 'one' SKIESUnlimited class was often confusing for both parents and staff.

The benefits will be changing to a dollar amount. In most cases, the dollar amount of the benefit will equal or exceed what you are currently receiving. The new benefit amounts are:

**Mission Level 1** (Families of Fallen Warriors, Wounded Warriors, Warriors in Transition and Deployed Soldiers). **SKIES** – up to **\$300** in free classes, **Youth Sports** – up to **\$100** in free sport activities.

**Mission Level 2 and 3** (Families of eligible PCS, TCS, TDY and Rear Detachment/Warriors in Transition Cadres). **SKIES** – up to **\$150** in free classes, **Youth Sports** – up to **\$50** in free activities.

If you are currently enrolled in SKIESUnlimited classes or Youth Sports (or have already used some of your benefits), the dollar value of any AFC classes/sports taken will be subtracted from your total eligibility for the current deployment or annual cycle. You can then apply the AFC credit to as many different eligible activities as the remaining benefit dollars will cover. Unused benefits will not be refunded or carried over after the end of the deployment period.

This change is being implemented across the entire Army and will coincide with the scheduled upgrade to our Child and Youth Management System (CYMS) software. The change should make using and keeping track of your SKIES/Sports benefits much easier for you as a customer.

- If you are eligible for a SKIES/Sports benefit, available credits will be automatically applied when you sign up for one of these activities. The process is very similar to the way your monthly free hourly care is tracked in the system.

- Your receipt will show exactly how much of the benefit you have used to date – and how much you have left.
- You will finally be able to sign up (and use your AFC benefit) for classes offered on-line through WebTrac (<https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil>). You no longer have to come into the office to enroll. If the activity you want is offered on-line, you will be able to sign up from your own home computer!

Another important AFC-related change is also taking place at this same time. To assist families with their reintegration needs, all Mission Level 1 benefits will be extended from **60 days** after return from deployment to **90 days**.

During the installation process, which will take place approximately April 11-14, CYMS will not be available for use, therefore payment receipts will be hand-written and a manual sign-in and sign-out process will be used.

If you have any questions or concerns about your AFC eligibility or the conversion of your SKIESUnlimited or Youth Sports benefits please feel free to contact Mr. John Stapleton, Functional Technology Specialist at 526-1643 or Mr. Steven Hanchett, Program Operations Specialist at 526-1236.

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