

# *United States Marine Corps*

# **Press Release**



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## **Temecula Valley Young Marines receive national recognition**

TEMECULA VALLEY, Calif.--The Temecula Valley Young Marines received National Recognition at the Young Marines Adult Leader's Conference April 30.

Out of 290 Young Marine Units across the country and abroad, the Temecula Valley Young Marines received top honors by coming in a close 2nd for Unit of the Year. The Battalion Commander, Michael Guiles, received one of the highest honors that Young Marines National Headquarters awards.

The Golden Eagle Award for Volunteer of the Year was presented to Michael Guiles by Col. Michael Kessler, the National Director of the Young Marines, for his dedication to the program. Michael Guiles has been with the Temecula Valley Young Marines for the past two and a half years and has dedicated countless hours to strengthening the lives of America's youth.

The Temecula Valley Young Marines have received the National Directors approval to adopt a sister unit in Australia. The South Australian Young Marines, known as the Twin Eagles, received financial support from the Temecula Unit to become the first Young Marine unit in Australia and one of only a handful of units to be located outside of the United States.

The children from the Temecula Valley Young Marines come from all over the valley and have worked hard to earn the reputation of being a unit that all others should emulate.

The Young Marines is a non-profit youth education program for boys and girls ages eight through high school. The program focuses on character building through a combination of self-discipline, teamwork and leadership, and promotes a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The Young Marines' parent organization is the Marine Corps League. The Temecula Valley Young Marines pride themselves on their community service and Veteran's appreciation. You will find the Young Marines at most of the community events including parades, city cleanups, celebrations, fireman appreciation BBQs, and many more.

A current project for the Young Marines and the Library of Congress is the Veteran's History Project. The Temecula Valley Young Marines have been interviewing past and present military veterans to document their stories. We are losing our World War II and Korea War Veteran's at an alarming rate and their stories are an important part of history that needs to be preserved. If you are a veteran who would like to tell his/her story, please contact the Temecula Valley Young Marines for an interview. Continue to be a part of history, tell your story for the Library of Congress Veteran's History Project. Please contact the unit Adjutant Mrs. Guiles for more information (951) 587-6002 or TVYMADJUTANT@VERIZON.NET.

Another project The Temecula Valley Young Marines are doing is in appreciation of our fallen Vietnam Veterans. The Young Marines will be going to the Memorial Day Parade May 30, 2005, to march in a Military Parade. Our American troops have not marched through the streets of Washington DC in 60 years. During our trip, the Young Marines will be taking name rubbings from the Vietnam Memorial Wall for anyone who would like to have their loved one's name. They will also deliver memorial items to the wall such as pictures, flowers or other sentimental items and preserve the image with a picture. The Young Marines are offering these services free of charge because they have a deep dedication to preserving the memory of fallen vets. Please contact Mrs. Guiles at (951) 587-6002 for more information.

As you can imagine, the Temecula Valley Young Marines are very busy. They are rapidly growing and their only obstacle at the moment seems to be that they are outgrowing their current training facility. The Young Marines have a great rapport with the City of Murrieta and the Fire Department. They train, drill, and hold meetings at the Fire Station on Juniper. However, the space is limited and we are limited to the number of Young Marines that can train at that facility. The Young Marines are actively searching for a facility that offers a large room-big enough for at least 200 with restrooms for both males and females, and is available for use on Saturdays and Sundays. Adults that are registered with the National Young Marine Headquarters supervise the Young Marines and they can provide services in return for the facility.

The Young Marines is a non-profit 5019 (c) 3 youth education program and your donation is tax deductible. The Temecula Valley Young Marines have a large list for the next recruit training and they are waiting for a new facility that can accommodate their growing numbers.