



## U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PERFORMING UNITS

The U.S. Air Force Academy's performing units appear at public and military events nationwide before a myriad of audiences. These units are made up of mainly Academy cadets with one unit of active duty personnel. Whether providing military honors or performing precision drill, singing, music, showing the school mascot, flying or parachute jumping; these volunteers represent a commitment to excellence in their performances. Each unit has received national recognition for outstanding performances and unit members excite audiences with their skills and enthusiasm. They participate at various open to the public or community events, for schools, veterans' organizations, civic groups, youth groups, air shows, sporting events and more. A limited schedule for performing units is formed around Academy classes and training requirements from mid August through mid May.

The Strategic Communications Directorate (USFA/CM) for community outreach is your only point of contact for scheduling these units to perform at any event. Do not contact any of these unit personnel directly. The following information will explain what is needed by your organization to host or sponsor one or more of these units in the Colorado Springs area or nationwide. There are a lot of details to go over, which will answer many of your questions so print and read through this information **before** making a request.

### The Academy Performing Units include:

Cadet Sabre Drill Team - Cadet Honor Guard - Cadet Drum and Bugle Corps  
Cadet Chorale - Cadet Show Choir - In the Stairwell Choir  
Wings of Blue Parachute Team - Cadet Falconers - Base Honor Guard

The Academy is a military school which places emphasis on academics, military and athletic training and character development which take up much of the cadets' time. This structure can be different from many colleges and universities, which may affect their availability. During the school year (early August to end of May), daily class schedules, school finals, school breaks, cadet military training, graduation or base restrictions **will take precedence** over any request so these units **may not** be available to perform at your event.

It will be unlikely for them to leave campus and may decline your invitation if the event is:

- During the school day or on weekends while classes or training are in session. Any possible availability during the school week would be after 1:00 pm. Weekends may be more flexible.
- During evening study periods and training time starting at 7 pm.

Cadets will not be available:

- November: during Thanksgiving break.
- December: during finals followed by winter break.
- March: during spring break.
- May: during finals followed by summer/graduation prep week.

Most units will not be available during summertime, beginning after graduation day through mid-August.

See each individual unit below for summer availability.

Cadets must maintain high academic grades and military standards to remain on these teams and are only allowed to miss limited classroom hours during each semester. Although events during the

school day are not typically approved, you may increase your chance of their acceptance if the performance is between 1 and 5 pm. Weekends may offer more flexibility. If possible, list several date and time options.

Accepting requests are determined on a case by case basis and cadets do their best to support as many as possible; however, not every request can be accommodated.

A unit canceling their attendance to an event due to unexpected circumstances is rare but may happen.

Requests should be submitted at least 30-60 days in advance of the event date. Some units will require more notice depending on their needs. Late submissions are less likely to be approved. Due to the Academy's military structure, processing requests to determine an answer takes time. Each request must be reviewed, semester schedules checked for cadet availability, cadet chain of command notified, paperwork submitted to an Academy Committee for their approval and so a yes or no response back to (you) the requestor may take several weeks. If you have set a deadline for an answer we may not be able to meet it. Since the request could be declined, you might want to consider contacting local National Guard/Reserve units, veterans' groups or scouts to support your event.

As noted most of the cadet units are unavailable during the summer. During this time, cadets will be on leave, training at other bases or training the incoming class. Teams come together at the start of the new school year, so they won't be available to take requests or attend events during the summer. When they return in early August the lengthy review process begins again. If someone wanted to send our office a request in April or May for an August or later event, the cadets would not receive your request and begin to review or consider it until the first or second week of August.

**Once approved, any date or time change you make to the event could prevent the unit from attending.**

Due to the many factors involved, it is not possible for us to determine an actual cost to your group to host one of these units. Whether you're inviting them for a local event or one across the country, you will need to look at the unit's host requirements to estimate the number of people that might be attending from the Academy to your location (and returning) with the other factors to estimate a minimum and maximum cost.

Paying for or providing round-trip transportation from the Academy to the event is the responsibility of the host. Depending on the distance to the event, the use of ground transportation would be considered on a case by case basis. Commercial air transportation costs for long distance travel could be a factor and the only option for you. Contacting AF Reserve or Air National Guard units throughout the country for possible roundtrip military aircraft assistance might be helpful. To locate a base to learn of their requirements go to [www.airshows.pa.hq.af.mil](http://www.airshows.pa.hq.af.mil) and click Find an Aircraft.

Academy units may be able to provide their own transportation if the event is in our local area. Units asked to provide their own transportation would have to consider this on a case by case basis. If the unit makes their own arrangements which then fall through, the responsibility for transportation returns back to the host.

The performing units do not charge a fee to perform (no honorariums); however, the host requirements listed with each unit are the items that you and your organization must agree to provide in order to sponsor a unit. Read those details to determine what you can afford to provide. Some of these requirements may be waived on a case by case basis if your event is in the Colorado Springs area.

Once a unit has accepted your invitation, someone from that group should contact you prior the event to confirm and make detailed arrangements. To make the trip or event go as smoothly as possible the unit may need:

- A map or detailed directions to the performance site showing where the unit will be met by the host point of contact and where to off load and park their vehicles.
- Vehicle parking and entrance passes or event credentials if required.
- A copy of the event itinerary or script.

Before sending a request read carefully through the **host requirements** for each unit.

To send a request, complete the questionnaire and send it to the email below.

Email: <b>performers@afacademy.af.edu</b> (preferred method)	HQ USAFA/PAC Visitor Center
Phone: 719-333-7482/ DSN 333-7482	Attn: Performing Units 2346 Academy Drive USAF Academy, CO 80840-9400

If you have any questions, please contact the USAFA/CM office at the email above.

### **Restrictions:**

The USAFA/CM office is your question and scheduling point of contact. Please do not contact members of these units directly about scheduling a performance for an event even if the unit has attended your events in the past.

Commercial agencies: All contact and coordination for any request will be done directly between the CM office and the organization that we would be providing support to. Requests through a commercial services agency or commercial intermediary will not be accepted. If you have a client wanting an Academy performing unit please have them contact our office using the email above or give us their name and phone number.

Under a variety of circumstances the Air Force prohibits Academy personnel from participating in some events. These not all inclusive restrictions may apply to your event.

1. Your request will be disapproved if the program:
  - a. Is commercially sponsored and intended to increase sales and business traffic (such as a Christmas parade, motion picture premiere or beauty pageant).
  - b. Is intended, or appears to endorse, selectively benefit, or favor, any private individual, special interest group, business, religious, ideological movement, commercial venture, political candidate, or organization, membership drives or fund-raising activities.
  - c. Is in a situation where the real or apparent purpose is to state controversy or public confrontation.
  - d. Is for the purpose of soliciting votes in a political election.
2. Your request will be disapproved if the sponsor:
  - a. Is an organization which excludes anyone from its membership because of race, religion, color, national origin, or sex, unless the organization is based on sex or national origin and the program is for the entire community and not to promote the organization's objectives.
  - b. Is an organization that excludes any person from its membership or practices any form of discrimination in its functions based on race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

c. Is a commercial enterprise, unless Air Force support is patriotic, incidental to the primary program and does not selectively benefit the commercial activity, whose role must be clearly civic in nature.

d. Is an organization whose constitution, by-laws, membership qualifications or rituals is not available to the general public. Examples are secret societies and many fraternal organizations.

e. Is a sect, partisan political organization or ideological movement.

3. Your request will be disapproved if our support:

a. Might interfere with customary or regular employment of civilians in their art, trade, or profession.

b. Is, or could be considered, the primary or major attraction for which admission is charged.

c. Would be in fact, or could be perceived as, unfair competition with commercial sources that are readily available.

d. Involves using of military personnel in uniform outside military bases as guards, parking lot attendants, runners, messengers, baggage handlers, for crowd control or in any other unlawful or inappropriate capacity.

4. Your request will be disapproved if the site is not open to the general public, and admission, seating, or other accommodations are barred to any persons because of race, creed, color, national origin or sex.

For the men and women in these units listed below important considerations are made on how these engagements supplement Academy recruiting efforts and if the trip will be rewarding for the cadets. Since cadets volunteer to participate in these performing groups, the enjoyment they gain from the performances and travel is essential to retaining members.

## Requirements of Performing Units

### FALCONERS

Most public appearances are in conjunction with U.S. Air Force Academy Falcon football games, military appreciation days or patriotic holidays during collegiate and professional sporting events or air shows providing flying or non-flying demonstrations.

Cadet falconers in flying demonstrations use gyrfalcon and peregrine falcon hybrids. The Air Force Academy's flying mascot has intrigued and delighted audiences across the nation. Trained and handled by cadet falconers, the birds soar and dive around stadiums or other open areas, sometimes zooming low over the heads of spectators at speeds of more than 150 mph. Flying demonstrations are usually not performed during the birds molting season from May through August.

For non-flying demos the cadet falconers go to K-12 schools, scouting events, air shows, Air Force recruiting events, patriotic holidays, civic events, parades and other community open to the public events to provide educational, on-the-fist appearances, answering questions about the cadet falconry program and the Academy.

**The cadet holds the falcon on a gloved hand with a leash during the event.**

### Host requirements

For a flying demonstration, the sponsor should plan to provide for **five** cadets and **one** officer escort including equipment and luggage:

- Round trip ground or commercial air transportation
- Government or rental vehicles
- Meals and lodging (per diem)
- On hot weather days, an air-conditioned room near the exhibition area
- A large open performing area that should be about the size of a football field

For a non-flying demo:

- To host a falcon with **one** cadet handler and **one** officer escort for an educational on-the-fist appearance, the same host requirements exist but for only two people.

Performing season:

- September through December is usually dedicated to support of the Academy's football games. January through April is the best months for demonstrations or appearances away from the Academy.
- Some requests for appearances can be accommodated during the summer months but they are limited.
- Approval of short notice requests is seldom possible; therefore, it is best to submit your request for their support at least 30 days but not more than 60 days prior to the event.

## **CADET CHORALE**

While the Chorale maintains a repertoire with a wide range of style and content representing a cross section of America and feature folk music, patriotic songs, Broadway hits, in addition to holiday, popular and classical music and the National Anthem, the men and women of the Cadet Chorale has shifted to primarily a cappella music. It performs material from the traditional as well as contemporary a cappella arrangements, typical of the popular style of collegiate a cappella groups prevalent on campuses across the nation and the world. In addition to performing at the Academy, the Chorale historically travels two times each year for public performances in major cities nationwide. A typical trip includes concerts for events civic in nature and open to the public, military appreciation days or patriotic holidays during collegiate and professional sporting events.

### **Host requirements**

Sponsor must provide for up to 30 members, a director or officer in charge; equipment and luggage:

- Round trip ground or air transportation
- Government or rental vehicles
- Meals and lodging (per diem)
- Performance facilities: at least a 32-foot-wide by 20-foot-deep stage with overhead lighting, a grand piano and six units of three-step choral risers

Performing season:

- The Chorale performs away from the Academy from September through April.
- Not available during the summer months.
- Approval of short notice requests is seldom possible; therefore, it is best to submit your request for their support at least 30 to 90 days prior to the event.
- The number of choir members available to participate at any given event will vary throughout the year.
- Please note on your request if you will accept a smaller group should the entire Chorale not be able to attend.

## **IN THE STAIRWELL**

In The Stairwell is an all-male a cappella group. Throughout the group's growth in the past decade, they have performed in a variety of social gatherings including an appearance at the White House, annual performances at the Superintendent's and Dean's homes, military organizations, America's Got Talent and numerous other events.

In The Stairwell started in 2004 when several freshman cadets decided to start a singing group. Because of the restrictions on freshman cadets, the dormitory stairwells were the one place they could meet and perform.

A typical trip includes concerts for events civic in nature and open to the public, military appreciation days or patriotic holidays during collegiate and professional sporting events.

### **Host requirements**

Sponsor must provide for up to 20 members, a director or an officer in charge, equipment and luggage:

- Round trip ground or air transportation
- Government or rental vehicles
- Meals and lodging (per diem)
- Performance facilities: at least a 32-foot-wide by 20-foot-deep stage

Performing season:

- In The Stairwell perform from August to May.
- Not available during the summer months.
- Approval of short notice requests is seldom possible; therefore, it is best to submit your request for their support at least 30 to 90 days prior to the event.

### **CADET SHOW CHOIR**

The Cadet Show Choir presents a visually stimulating program of song and dance celebrating patriotic and popular music. The Choir draws from a repertoire of popular, patriotic, seasonal, traditional, contemporary, and Broadway selections. The Show Choir has often responded to special requests from sponsors for musical programs tailored to the theme of the event. A performance is normally about 30-35 minutes, 20 in some circumstances, performed in costumes specially designed to complement the choreography of the musical selections. Performances may open with the National Anthem, followed by several high-energy, audience-grabbing song-and-dance routines, some chosen and choreographed by the cadets. In addition, solo, duet, and small group numbers may also be performed, by these young men and women depending on the venue and availability of amplification (microphones and sound system).

### **Host requirements**

Sponsor must provide for between 16-20 members and the officer-in-charge:

- Round trip ground or air transportation
- Government or rental vehicles
- Meals and lodging (per diem)
- Performance facilities: a flat, non-carpeted stage (ideally) at least 25-foot-wide by 15-foot-deep. Microphones (at least two) and an amplifier or sound system to amplify the group for larger performing areas. A piano/keyboard is also required for locations other than the Colorado Springs area. When accessible, the group may also bring their custom-built risers for the performance.

Performing season:

- The Cadet Show Choir is available for performances away from the Academy from September through April.
- The group is not available during the summer months; however, occasionally a small group/soloist may be available for performing at official ceremonies (military retirements, awards, etc.).
- Approval of short notice requests is not possible; therefore, it is best to submit your request for their support at least 30 to 45 days prior to the event.

### **CADET HONOR GUARD**

The Cadet Honor Guard consists of The Color Guard, Rifle Drill Team and a Sabre Team. The unit was established in 1974 and what was once strictly a drill organization, evolved into the Cadet Wings

military ceremonial detail unit. Unit responsibilities include reveille and retreat, color guards for presenting and postings of the colors, 21-gun salutes during funeral details, rifle drill performances and a sabre team for military wedding arches.

The Cadet Color Guard and Rifle Drill Teams perform and compete in national exhibitions and college regulation level drill meets throughout the country. These teams perform at military functions and many public and civic programs and events such as, military appreciation days or patriotic holidays during collegiate and professional sporting events, parades and community celebrations, memorials or national conventions and events.

### **Host requirements**

The following number of cadets would be needed for a typical event; The Color Guard (4-8 members), Rifle Drill Team (20-35 members) and Sabre Team (6-8 members).

Sponsor must provide for the members attending, including equipment and luggage:

- Round trip ground or air transportation
- Government or rental vehicles
- Meals and lodging (per diem)
- Rifle Drill Team-A large performance area up to 150-feet by 150-feet
- Flags - If you need posting/retiring of the colors state in the request if you have flags available to use at the event or not. (Depending on your event it may be necessary for you to provide them).

Performing season

- The Cadet Honor Guard performs away from the Academy September through November, February to mid May.
- Not available during the summer months.
- Approval of short notice requests is seldom possible; therefore, it is best to submit your request for their support at least 30 to 60 days prior to the event.

### **CADET SABRE DRILL TEAM**

The Cadet Sabre Drill Team demonstrates professional military skills and discipline through the performance of intricate sabre manual. The team was formed in 1961 by cadets who wanted an organization that would exemplify the highest standards of excellence and discipline in the use of edged weapons. The Cadet Sabre Drill Team is one of the few U.S. military units that perform drill entirely with sabres.

The team performs throughout the academic year for a wide variety of military and patriotic activities; air shows, military appreciation days or patriotic holidays during collegiate and professional sporting events, parades and other community events and sabre arches for military weddings.

The sabres used by the team are the same as those carried by the cadet officers during military ceremonies and formations at the Academy. They are approximately three feet long, weigh about one pound, are made of stainless steel and bear a design unique to the Academy.

### **Host requirements**

The Cadet Sabre Drill Team travels with 6 members, a noncommissioned officer escort, luggage, and team equipment. Sponsors normally bear all travel costs and must provide the following support:

- Round trip ground or air transportation to include excess luggage authorization of up to 60 pounds
- Government or rental vehicles specifically reserved for the team

- Meals and Lodging (per diem)
- Performing area at least 30-feet by 30-feet with an overhead clearance of 15 feet

Performance season

- The Cadet Sabre Drill Team performs away from the Academy during the academic year from late August through mid May.
- Not available during the summer months.
- Approval of short notice requests is seldom possible; therefore, it is best to submit your request for their support at least 30 to 60 days prior to the event.

**BASE HONOR GUARD**

The Base Honor Guard of the Air Force Academy is made up of active duty Airmen, Non-Commissioned Officers and Officers; not cadets. This Honor Guard provides military funeral honors, for active duty, retired and veterans who served honorably in the Air Force. This priority does not allow them to accept other events at this time.

**CADET DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS**

The Cadet Drum and Bugle Corps presents a sensational experience in sight and sound. Known as the "Flight of Sound," the Corps has been part of the Cadet Wing since 1972 and has thrilled millions of people with its flash, sound and precision marching at Academy events, parades and other civic events open to the public, military appreciation days or patriotic holidays during collegiate and professional sporting events.

With distinctive brass and percussion instruments, the Drum and Bugle Corps performs a wide selection of music ranging from patriotic and traditional military marches to pop, jazz, big band, the classics and Broadway hits.

**Host requirements**

Sponsor must provide for 20-40 members and the officer in charge:

- Round trip ground or air transportation to include excess luggage authorization of up to 60 pounds
- Government or rental vehicles
- Meals and lodging (per diem)
- Performance facilities: a 30-feet by 50-feet performing area for concerts; football field for a 15-20 minute show.

Performing season

- The Corps actively supports Academy football and basketball games in the fall leaving little time for other performances from September through December. From March through May, additional trips may be arranged.
- Not available during the summer months.
- Approval of short notice requests is seldom possible; therefore, it is best to submit your request for their support at least 60-90 days prior to the event.