

## Cadet Sponsor Program information

The Cadet Sponsor Program encourages active duty, retired and reserve officers, senior noncommissioned officers, USAFA alumni, Department of Defense (DoD) civilians and selected local civilians to become volunteer mentors to cadets. Families must live within 50 miles of the academy. Through this personal involvement, cadets interact with individuals who counsel and advise them on military life and the positive aspects of a military career. It also exposes cadets to the military lifestyle and positive adult role models, while providing them with a home away from home.

Sponsors develop an individual, yet professional, relationship with their cadets, and are not paid in any way. This interaction is essential to the cadets' professional and social development.

The Sponsor Program is offered for all four years at the Academy, but is especially encouraged for fourth-class cadets. Cadets also have to option to "Opt Out" of the program. The OptOut option is available through the Appointee Portal. There is a box they may check if they are not interested in being assigned to a sponsor family. The second opportunity would be after BCT when they are given their computers. Basic cadets may send us an email via their new personalized email addresses and request to Opt Out. We will then place a code in their files to ensure they are not assigned to a sponsor family.

Cadets and sponsors may make by-name requests for their sponsor or cadet, and the Cadet Sponsor office will attempt to honor the requests. Cadet requests have priority. Appointees should inform their requested sponsors that they **MUST** be formally enrolled in the sponsor program through the Cadet Sponsor Office; otherwise, they will not be matched. If by-name requests are not made, the Cadet Sponsor office uses common interests/criteria to match cadets with sponsors.

Cadet candidates from the Prep School who wish to keep their sponsor families will need to have the families contact our office. Prep School sponsors must register with us to continue sponsoring their former Preppies at USAFA.

Doolie Day Out 2018 is on Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. All recruited athletes will be hosted by their sport's coaches (all but a few smaller teams participate); all others will be assigned to participating sponsor families for the one-day event. The basics will only be released to registered sponsors with proper credentials. The basics will not be released to parents and non-sponsors, so please do not make a special trip to USAFA on this day. Doolie Day Out is an essential part of BCT and is part of their military training, not a regular "day off".

For more information on the program, please contact the Cadet Sponsor office and leave an email address where a sponsor packet may be sent. Email inquiries to: [cadet.sponsor@usafa.edu](mailto:cadet.sponsor@usafa.edu) or call 719 333-2727. Sponsor Packets are sent via email only.

Note: USAFA's Cadet Sponsor Program is not affiliated with the Preparatory School Sponsor Program, the DF International Programs (DFIP) Sponsor Program.