



*Mission Critical for the Parents
Club*

Tips on How to Support Parents

2021 USAFA Presidents Club Conference



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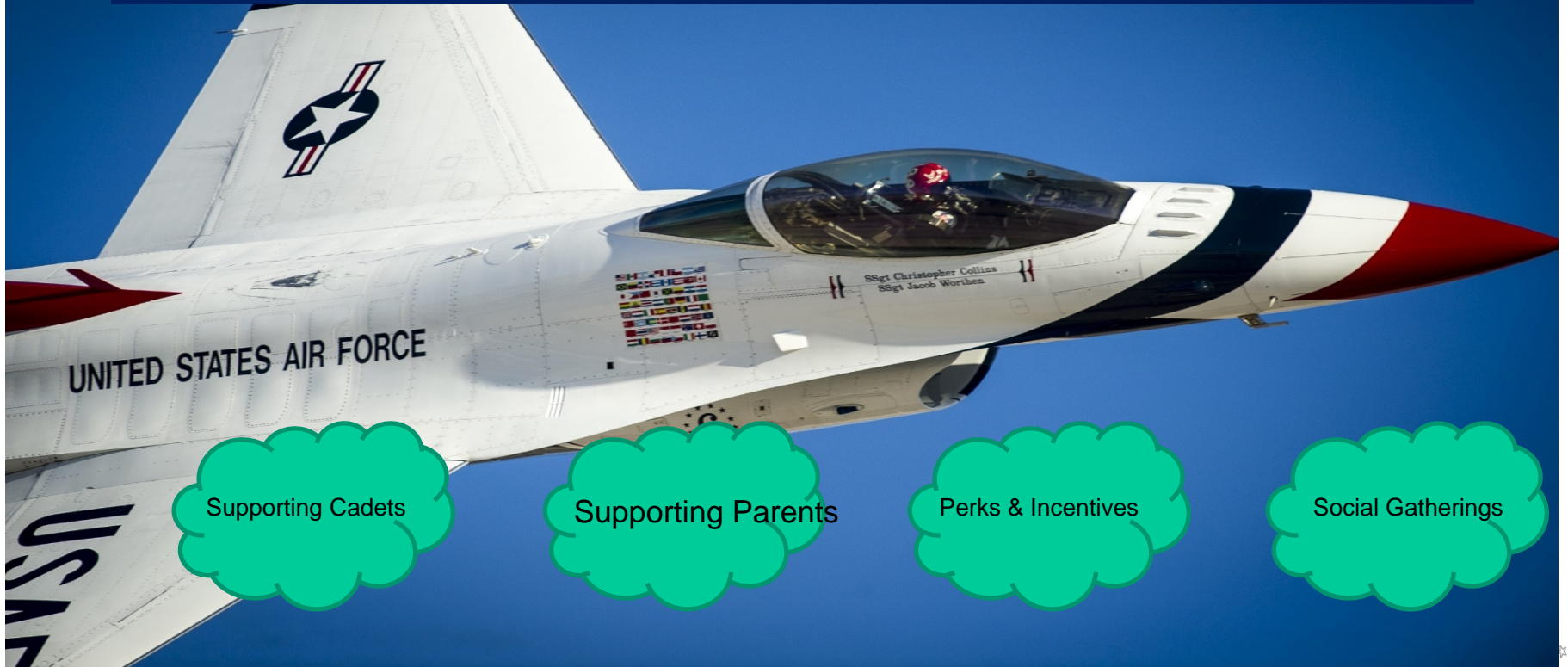


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Roadmap



Supporting Cadets

Supporting Parents

Perks & Incentives

Social Gatherings



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Getting Started...New Parent Support

- Offer support early after the appointment to help new parents on upcoming events
- The power of the warm welcome -
 - Phone contact is key
 - Suggest a text using the phone numbers supplied from the USAFA CUI Cadet Privacy Release Rosters
 - “Hello, my name is XXX and I am president of the XXX. Congratulations on (insert name) appointment to USAFA. We are an organization supported by USAFA that supports parents and cadets from our state on their journey. Please call or text me at XXX. I look forward to speaking with you.”





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- Communicate/send emails with updates from USAFA
- Communicate/send emails from Parent Liaison
- Send emails to just reach out to Doolie parents
- Let parents know we are here for them and if we can't help, we will find help
- Conference calls (suggest videoconference): I Day, A Day, Parents Weekend, Graduation
- Group football tickets for Parents Weekend
- Share helpful links/websites



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Things You Can Do as a Club

- Foster another Club (start/restart)
- Keep parents “in the know” with information from USAFA
- Put yard signs in family yards as we get notified, they have accepted the offer to attend
- Send birthday cards
- Send uplifting cards
- Send encouraging cards during Finals Weeks



Supporting Cadets

- Letters from hometown club
- Re-enforcing the fact that they are not alone
- Letting them know we care (sympathy, encouraging, empathy)
- Birthday cards
- Cards/letter of support during finals
- Graduation gift
- Donations to clubs (follow proper channel)
- Host gatherings/tailgating when teams come to town
- Cadet Store Gift Cards





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- Hail & Farewell - June
- Pot Luck Social - Aug
- Care package gathering - Oct
- Holiday Social/Military Ball - Dec
- Family Fun Days
- Food truck gatherings
- Zoom cocktail/mocktail parties - year round
- Parent Weekend club dinner (Thursday night)



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Perks & Incentives- the “Club Added Value”

You are joining ‘ The Long Blue Parent Line’

- Community
 - Friendships that last a lifetime
 - Alumni Parent Network
 - New parents will start learning the military life

- Information
 - Share information as it comes in from USAFA
 - Monthly update of club activities/events

- Support of Cadets through Parents
 - Yard signs
 - Shipping of care package



Special Support Calls for Classes

- Tips and tricks for C3C to C2C year
 - Cars
 - Buying
 - Registration
 - Insurance
 - Commitment
 - Class Rings
- C1C Graduation year call
 - Tips and tricks





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Graduation Gifts/Ideas

- Flags/Certificates
- Uncirculated silver coins
- Yearbook Ad
- Congratulations Yard Signs
- Yeti product
- Plaque
- Other ideas?



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Support Parents through the *Rough Times*

- Acknowledge USAFA can be difficult
- Normalize
 - It can be embarrassing and hard for parents to step forward and admit that their cadet is struggling or in trouble
- Ensure confidentiality



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Be Ready to be a Listening Ear in Tough Times

- Be there for when cadets are in trouble and struggling and parents don't know what to do
 - Medical issues
 - Honor charges
 - Commitment jitters
 - Other legal issues - DUI
 - Academic Probation
 - Alienating themselves from their family
 - Mental Health/Addiction
 - Medical or physical disqualifications



Encourage a Climate of Support for All Cadets and Parents

- Don't foster competitiveness/bragging
 - Kids that don't want to fly (there is no one right career at USAFA)
 - Rated vs. Non-rated career selection
 - Class rank and "lists" - Deans, Sup etc. - praise sensitively





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- What are your best practices?
- What works for your club?
- What ideas do you have?



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