

SPONSOR FAMILY HANDBOOK

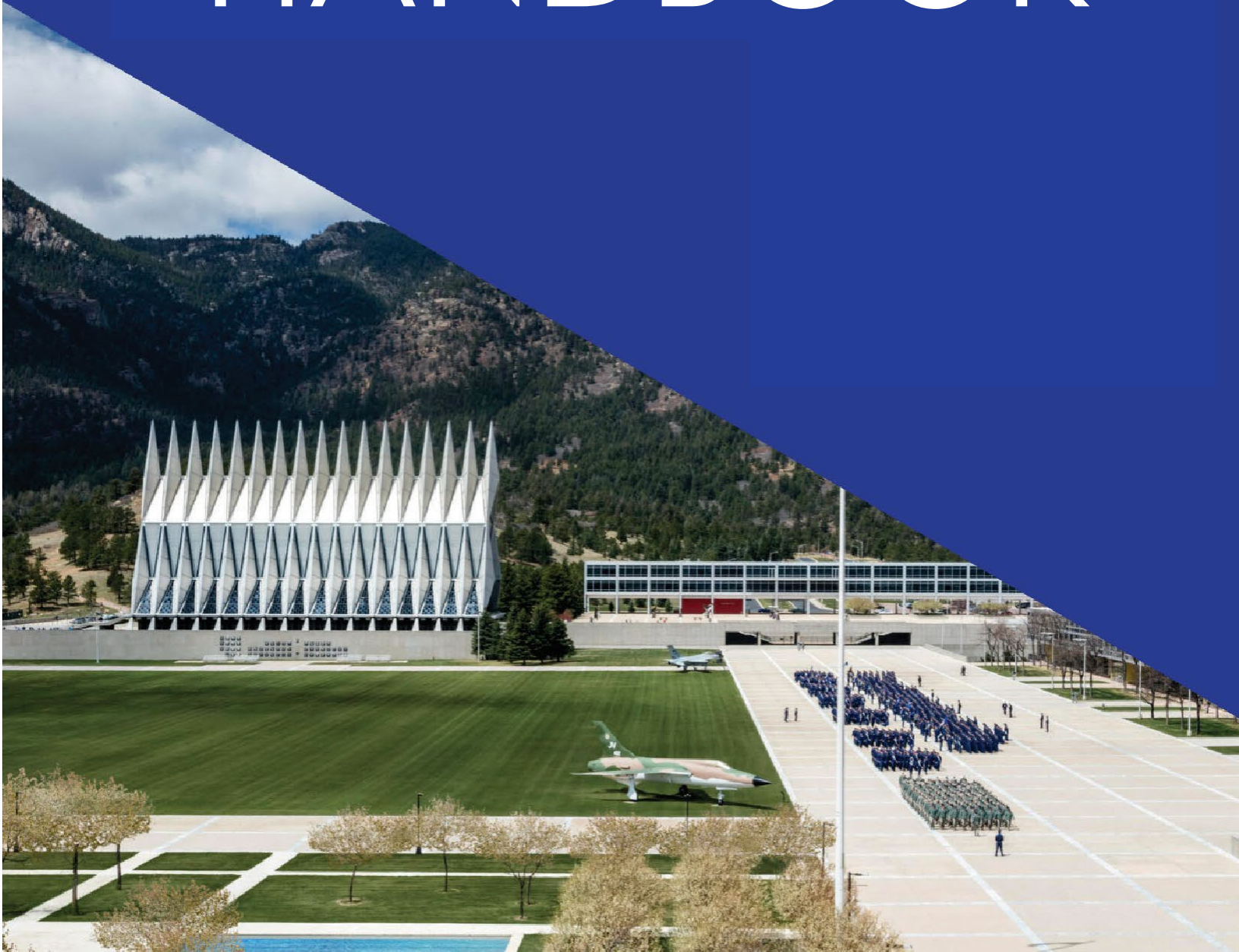


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One behalf of the United States Air Force Academy staff, the cadets, and their parents, we wish to express our appreciation to you for your active involvement in the Cadet Sponsor Program. As a partner in caring, not only will you play a significant role in the life of a cadet, but you may find it to be a rewarding experience for you and your family.

SECTION I - Sponsor Program Overview

The Cadet Sponsor Program offers a unique and rewarding opportunity for members of the local community to provide cadets exposure to family life and a home-away-from-home during their time at the United States Air Force Academy. The program also offers an opportunity for the community to support the Academy and meet the fine young men and women of the Cadet Wing, our Air and Space leaders of tomorrow. The Sponsor Program is designed to provide cadets with an avenue to form friendships and gather support beyond the formal Academy environment. Rigorous Academy standards can be taxing, often causing significant stress and moments of loneliness, homesickness, and doubt. Cadet Sponsors serve as mentor, friend, and advisor, while providing a caring and comfortable environment to relax away from the pressures of the Academy. Sponsors are also in the position to serve as a positive adult role model, helping cadets understand their role as Air and Space Force officers and reinforce positive social values.

The Sponsor Office strives to match cadets with sponsors who share the same interests and hobbies. “By name” requests can be submitted by cadets and sponsors. When two sponsor families request the same cadet, the Sponsor Office will honor the wishes of the cadet.

Academic Year sponsoring starts from Parents’ Weekend (Labor Day weekend) to Graduation (Memorial Day weekend). Once a cadet is assigned to a family, he/she will remain so until the cadet’s graduation year or until either party requests a reassignment.

Sponsor Qualifications

The Sponsor Office encourages the participation of active duty commissioned officers (O-3 and above) and non-commissioned officers (E-6 and above) to expose cadets to career oriented military members. While these categories receive priority, Reserve, National Guard, retired officers and NCOs, Civil Servants (grades GS-05 and above), USAFA graduates, Academy professors, and local civilians are also encouraged to apply. All applicants, regardless of military affiliation, must complete a Sponsor Questionnaire and submit a family biography (referred to as the Family Introduction Letter). Local civilian families (non-military/non-DoD affiliated) will need to submit two letters of recommendation in addition to the sponsor questionnaire, and family biography. All sponsors, regardless of military affiliation, must be a minimum of 28 years old, complete the required training, and pass an annual background check. The Cadet Sponsor Office can be contacted by phone at 719-333-2727, or email at cadet.sponsor@afacademy.af.edu for details regarding the application process and requirements.

Defense Biometric Identification System (DBIDS) Badge

DBIDS Badges are required for all non-DoD, non-military, and retired military sponsors. Primary and secondary household members will be submitted for badges after completing mandatory training. Before the badges are issued, a background check will be completed on all members of the household who are over 18 years old. DBIDS Badges are issued for a year at a time and a background check will be completed prior to renewal. If anyone in the household has a pending investigation, the family cannot actively sponsor a cadet until the investigation is closed.

DBIDS Badges give sponsors access to pick up and drop off cadets on base, though it does not grant them access to the Cadet Area. The Southgate is manned 24/7, the Northgate is open from 0530 to 2200 daily.

Requesting DBIDS Badge Renewal

DBIDS badges can be renewed 3 weeks prior to the expiration date by submitting a DBIDS renewal form to the Cadet Sponsor Office. Training must be current and remain current through the next expiration date to get the badge renewed. There is a waiting period of between 10-15 business days after submission of completed form. A confirmation email with instructions will be sent to those who qualify for renewal within the above timeframe.

SECTION II - Understanding Cadets

The Admissions Process

Young men and women apply for admission to the Academy through several programs and the selection process is competitive. Selection criteria include, but are not limited to, evaluation of scholastic records, physical testing, and athletic participation. All criteria are designed to select individuals possessing the character necessary to become career Air and Space Force officers. Some cadets may arrive directly from high school, others have served as prior enlisted service, and some will have completed a year at the USAFA Preparatory School. Having completed the admissions process, the cadet enters the Academy where the pace is hectic, and the responsibilities are demanding.

Academy Demands

The defense of the United States and its strategy for deterring war depend significantly on the Air Force and Space Force's ability to execute their missions effectively. The Academy plays a crucial role in developing officers with exceptional ability, skill, and judgment. These future leaders are the cadets that sponsor families will encourage, advise, and support. The self-discipline, mental resilience, knowledge, and leadership skills needed to serve the country require rigorous and demanding training. The time, care, and support that sponsor families offer can make a significant impact, especially when a cadet is feeling homesick or exhausted, but continues to persevere with their studies and responsibilities. Sponsors' willingness to invest their time, listen with empathy, and show genuine concern is essential to the cadet's experience and the development of the Air and Space leaders of tomorrow.

The Honor Code

In accordance with our Strategic Plan, USAFA considers a culture of dignity and respect for all fundamental to the cadets educational and development environment. In fact, USAFA endeavors to develop leaders of character who embrace dignity and respect as essential personal and leadership qualities. The Academy expects all the faculty, students, staff, Airmen/Guardians across USAFA, in all situations (the

classroom, in the squadron, the sports field, the flight line, etc.), to create a culture of dignity and respect. This expectation extends to sponsor families.

Dignity and Respect

In addition to the academic, physical and military responsibilities cadets undertake, they are also charged with moral responsibilities. Cadets accept and live by a simple statement of military values: “We will not lie, steal, or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does.” This code is based upon the traditional concept that an officer’s word is a bond and that cadets must be uncompromising, forthright, and honest in all activities throughout life.

Cadets come from increasingly different communities across our nation, representing the nation’s best and brightest. The USAF, USSF and USAFA believe this is a strength, opening the door to creative solutions to complex problems and providing a competitive edge in air, space and cyberspace. When cadets are treated with dignity and respect, they have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential in service to their nation. Sponsor families can play a critical role in helping students by creating a culture of dignity and respect within their homes and in each interaction with our cadets. By showing dignity and respect for their unique backgrounds, culture and identities, sponsor families can help develop cadets into leaders of character for our nation.

Daily Cadet Life

From overviews on academic requirements to survival training, it will be evident how vital a sponsor is in the development of a cadet through the off duty support they provide.

Academics

The academic year runs from August to mid-May. The average cadet academic load is about 18-21 credit hours per semester. Cadets may major in diverse areas such as political science or management, but are required to take many technical, core courses such as computer science, mechanical engineering, thermodynamics, etc.

Athletics

Athletic participation is required of all cadets attending the Academy. Approximately 1,000 cadets are involved in competitive intercollegiate athletics. All other cadets participate in Cadet Wing Intramurals or certain Cadet Clubs to meet the athletic requirements. Intramural contests between squadrons are common and designed to promote not only physical strength and flexibility but serve to instill esprit de corps among cadets.

Aviation

Cadets have the opportunity to participate in both mandatory and voluntary aviation programs. Activities involve both academic classes and hands-on experience. The airfield offers basic airmanship courses in

powered flight, soaring and free-fall parachuting. There is also an opportunity for cadets to be part of "advanced" teams including the Flying Team, the Wings of Blue Parachute Team, the Aerobatic Demonstration Team, and the Sailplane Racing Team. The Academy airfield is unique in the fact that most of the cadet training is accomplished by upper-class cadets.

Cadet Clubs

Cadet Clubs enhance cadet professional development; provide opportunities to practice academic, athletic, military, and personal skills necessary to produce officers of character. Clubs provide hands-on leadership opportunities alongside Air Force officers, in addition to opportunities to manage personnel and financial resources and learn administrative and logistics skills. They also provide morale and welfare opportunities, encourage lifetime participation in recreational and service activities, and teach wise use of leisure time.

Military

Organization of the Cadet Wing is similar to that of a regular Air Force Wing comprised of groups and squadrons. Most cadets have a staff or command job in their assigned group/squadron and subsequently are occupied with off-duty responsibilities ranging from the complete coordination of ceremonial events to training other cadets.

Summer Programs

The summer period for cadets is divided into three training programs: Basic Cadet Training, Combat Survival Training, and Flying. When not in training, cadets may participate in Off-Base programs or take leave.

Basic Cadet Training ("BCT" or "Beast")

Basic Cadet Training is a 5 ½ week transition period to transform civilians into motivated and disciplined warrior Airmen and Guardians. In addition, each basic cadet candidate will gain foundational military information to be successful as a cadet at USAFA. The upper-class trainers, called "cadre", provide basic cadets with their first exposure to the United States Air Force Academy.

Combat Survival Training (CST)

Enrolled third-class cadets receive Code of Conduct training with an emphasis on expeditionary skills, Survival, Evasion, military operations in an austere environment, and personnel recovery tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) enabling them as potential isolated personnel to "Return with Honor." The program curriculum utilizes academic and laboratory learning, culminating in application-based field exercises to reinforce newly acquired skills supporting CSAF's intent for USAFA graduates to be "Full Spectrum Readiness" trained. Upon completion of MT-220, members will receive credit for Long Term Survival and Evasion training (SV98-A) and Emergency Parachuting Water Survival Training (S-V85-A). Many

cadets return during subsequent summers to work the program as CST cadet cadre to satisfy leadership credit aligned with the PITO model.

Flying

Davis Airfield is extremely busy during the summer with most third-class cadets accomplishing either soaring or basic free-fall parachuting. Other cadets participate in powered flights and potentially solo an aircraft for the first time.

Off-Base Programs

Numerous off-base programs have been designed to give cadets an understanding of the operational Air Force and how it functions. The summer session is ideal for this type of training, allowing cadets the time and opportunity to see the Air Force and Space Force at work at installation sites.

Leave

Unless the cadets are scheduled for summer academics, they are normally allowed to take one, three-week summer period as leave.

Uniform Designation and Insignia

Although they differ somewhat in detail and shade of blue, the cadet uniform is similar to regular Air Force uniforms. The shoulder boards worn by cadets denote both class (first, second, third, or fourth class) and rank (dependent upon the job the cadet holds in the group/squadron). Class designations are as follows:

C1C	C2C	C3C	C4C
First Class	Second Class	Third Class	Fourth Class
(Senior)	(Junior)	(Sophomore)	(Freshman)

Religious Accommodation

The First Amendment of the Constitution grants the right to freely exercise religious faith. Military professionals (cadets, active duty, and civilian employees) are afforded the great privilege of religious expression but must always temper the privilege of religious expression with the obligation to respect the rights of others to hold their beliefs. USAFA asks that cadet sponsors be respectful of the beliefs of the cadet(s) they sponsor.

Military members are obligated by Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1300.17 to accommodate individual expressions of sincerely held beliefs (conscience, moral principles, or religious beliefs) unless it could have an adverse impact on military readiness, unit cohesion and good order and discipline. This means that religious accommodation is an institutional responsibility, and it is the policy of the Commandant of Cadets to standardize religious accommodation for all USAFA/CW personnel in the five

areas outlined in Department of Defense policy—worship, holy days, immunizations, dietary issues, and dress/apparel. Religious accommodation for these areas is institutionalized and incorporated into the standing guidance for the Cadet Wing found in the Cadet Standards.

Occasionally military training will take precedence over religious observance or practice, but this will be the exception rather than the norm. While religious accommodation is an institutional responsibility, no single commander can know all the religious accommodation needs of all the religions (over 200) recognized by the DoD. To ensure that commanders and supervisors are aware of specific religious accommodation needs, all personnel are encouraged to make specific requests known to their chain of command so that specific religious accommodation needs may be considered and coordinated while pursuing the unit's mission.

The USAFA Cadet Wing Chapel Staff are available to assist in matters regarding religion. Chaplains serve people of all faiths and those who do not practice any religious faith. If there are any questions regarding matters of religious expression or accommodation regarding cadets, contact the Cadet Wing Chapel Staff at 719-333-2636.

The Commandant has developed standing Schedule Committee Actions (SCAs) to allow cadets to coordinate an opportunity to attend worship or other like meetings according to the tenets of their faith or of a widely recognized personal belief system. Every attempt will be made to accommodate the religious expression of all faith groups represented within the Cadet Wing.

Holy Days

The USAFA Chaplain's Office (HQ USAFA/HC) will identify major faith holy days observed by the diverse population of the Cadet Wing. HQ USAFA/HC will provide recurring guidance regarding acceptable accommodation practices for holy days. SQ/CC and AMTs will accommodate the observance of holy days consistent with mission requirements.

Immunizations

Cadets must go through the chain of command for waiver of immunizations request. Reference DAFI 52-201, Religious Freedom in the Department of the Air Force for additional guidance.

Dietary Issues

Mitchell Hall provides vegetarian meals for cadets who, for personal or religious reasons, cannot or do not consume certain meat products. These arrangements are to be initiated by the supported cadet through the Mitchell Hall Nutritionist (10 FSS/FSLFN10 FSS/FSVMD). The Mitchell Hall Nutritionist will validate these special meal requirements with a USAFA Chaplain (USAFA/HC).

Dress/Apparel

Cadets may request religious accommodation for religious apparel, grooming, and personal appearance standards in accordance with DAFI 52-201, Religious Freedom in the Department of the Air Force and DAFI 36-2903, Dress and Personnel Appearance of Air Force Personnel.

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

For allegations of sexual assault, the Academy has a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) and victim advocates (VA) available to ensure the respectful and holistic care of the victim. The sponsor is not required to notify law enforcement, investigators (OSI), or VAs, as sponsors are not considered to be "mandatory reporters". Only individuals in the cadet's chain of command (such as their SQ/CC and AMT) are mandatory reporters, that is, those individuals who are required by Air Force instruction to report a sexual assault once they become aware of it.

If a cadet victim of sexual assault confides in a sponsor that they were sexually assaulted, the victim should be encouraged to call the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response 24/7 Hotline at 333-SARC (333-7272) to discuss restricted (confidential) and unrestricted (non-confidential) reporting options. The sponsor's primary responsibility is to listen and refer. SAPR personnel are available 24/7 to speak to when this number is called.

When sexual assault does occur, the Air Force will provide exemplary support throughout victim reporting, response, victim advocacy, investigations, and offender accountability.

The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC). The SARC serves as the single point of contact for integrating and coordinating sexual assault victim care from an initial report of sexual assault, through disposition and resolution of issues related to the victim's health, safety, and wellbeing. Whether a victim comes forward through restricted or unrestricted channels, the immediate priority is victim care. The SARC and VA are trained first responders that will help the victim understand the dynamics of sexual assault, put them in touch with other helping agencies to facilitate recovery and help the victim through the investigative and legal processes.

Restricted Report of Sexual Assault

Restricted (confidential) reporting enables cadets, prep school candidates who are victims to report allegations of sexual assault to the installation SARC without chain of command notifications or triggering a law enforcement investigation. This reporting option gives the victim access to medical care, counseling, chaplain services and a victim advocate, but does not initiate command notifications or the investigative process. Due to the confidential nature of this reporting option, it is critical that a victim's chain of command (SQ/CC, AMT) and law enforcement not be notified of the sexual assault as they are considered mandatory reporters. If a disclosure is made to the victim's chain of command, Inspector General, Equal Opportunity or law enforcement, a victim will lose the option for restricted reporting and an unrestricted report will have to be made.

Unrestricted Report of Sexual Assault

Unrestricted (non-confidential) reporting enables victims to report allegations of sexual assault through standard reporting channels including the victim's chain of command, law enforcement (SF and AFOSI), and the installation SARC. Unrestricted reporting is the preferred reporting method by the Department of Defense and the Air Force because it makes available the widest range of support services to the victim and enables prosecution of alleged perpetrators when investigations warrant those charges. In an unrestricted report, law enforcement investigates after, which commanders and legal authorities may pursue prosecution for the alleged perpetrator. Though the report is not confidential, Information about the case is only shared with those that have an official need to know. Unrestricted reporting entitles the victim to the full menu of SAPR Services.

Independent Investigation

Should the victim's chain of command, OSI, or Security Forces receive credible information that a sexual assault has occurred, an independent investigation will be initiated, effectively eliminating the victim's right to choose reporting options. As a sponsor, it is critical to respect the victim's choice of if, when and how to report.

Exceptions to Reporting. If your cadet discloses having been sexually assaulted, chooses not to report, and asks you to keep it confidential, you should honor their wishes and provide support. If you believe there to be a situation of serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of the victim or another person, call 911. After calling 911, contact USAFA Security Forces.

Bottom Line

All victims of sexual assault can have their questions answered confidentially and receive assistance by contacting the SARC at 333-SARC (333-7272). The SAPR office is located in Arnold Hall, Room 180. Contacting the SARC first preserves options for the victim!

SECTION III - Sponsor Family Role

Sponsor Family Activities

There are no requirements for a cadet sponsor to attend everything the cadet is involved in. Cadets do not expect to be entertained or taken out to expensive meals or events. On the contrary, they are looking for the warmth and friendship of their sponsor family in their home-away-from home. Letting them become part of the family is the greatest gift a sponsor can give. Sponsors may provide favorite snacks or meals the family do not normally eat (like junk food here and there) but shouldn't feel obligated to overextend themselves financially. Ultimately, the freedom to make a sandwich, drink a soda, sleep, watch TV, or study without interruption combined with the sponsors willingness to listen and their concern for the cadet as individuals are the most precious gifts cadets can receive.

Basic Cadet Day Out (BDO)

Basic Cadet Day Out (BDO) is a one-day event offering basic cadets their first chance to leave USAFA since beginning Basic Cadet Training. It provides an opportunity for cadets to unwind and relax while forming meaningful connections with local sponsor families. BDO typically takes place toward the end of BCT. Sponsors are welcome to host as many or as few cadets as they choose for this event, and participation does not require a commitment to sponsoring a cadet for the academic year. However, hosting a cadet for BDO is highly recommended for those considering Academic Year sponsorship, as it allows an opportunity to build a connection prior to making a commitment.

Cadet/Sponsor Relationship

Cadets are expected to be courteous guests and show their appreciation with thoughtful thank-you notes or kind gestures. Cadets are also trained to address military superiors and elders as "Sir" or "Ma'am." While the relationship between sponsor and cadet need not be overly formal, USAFA trusts sponsors' good judgment in this regard. Should any issues arise with a cadet, please don't hesitate to contact the Cadet Sponsor Office.

Passes and Privileges

The number of passes each cadet receives per month is determined by their class year.

- **First- class cadets: 6 passes per month**
- **Second-class cadets: 4 passes per month**
- **Third-class cadets: 3 passes per month**
- **Fourth-class cadets: 2 passes per month**

Cadets may earn additional passes based on individual and squadron performance in all facets of Academy life. However, the total number of passes a cadet can earn and use per month is capped at ten passes. Pass counts reset on the first day of each month, and carryover of unused passes is not permitted.

Permanent Party (PP) Group Commanders (or Squadron Commanders, if delegated) may issue discretionary passes on a case-by-case basis. These discretionary passes are meant for unique, extenuating circumstances and should not be issued to blanket groups, used for everyday conveniences, or to supplement regular passes.

Sign-out logs are either open or closed. When open, cadets may travel outside of the cadet area. Sponsor families can also visit cadets in designated locations within the cadet area. For example, Arnold Hall offers an auditorium, food court, and snack bar where cadets can host their sponsors. Additionally, the Academy has picnic areas and other social gathering facilities available for visits.

Cadets Alcohol Usage

Effective 1 Jul 05, Colorado Law makes it a crime to provide alcohol to minors -- It is a Class 1 misdemeanor to distribute alcohol to someone under 21. Penalties include 6 to 18 months in jail and/or a

fine of \$500 to \$5,000; Driver's License will be suspended for 6 months for providing alcohol to minors. Alcohol use as it relates to the cadet is in accordance with state laws; the individual must be 21 years of age or older to buy or consume alcohol. While those over 21 may drink alcoholic beverages, it is not encouraged. Do not condone situations where alcohol use can lead to criminal activity.

Cadet Off- Duty Clothing Standards

Sponsors should be aware of clothing standards specific to cadets, especially fourth-class cadets. Fourth-class cadets are not permitted to wear civilian clothing until they have completed upgrade training.

Cadets may wear civilian clothing only when signed out on a pass and immediately departing the cadet area. Intercollegiate & Club "team gear" is considered civilian clothing. When transiting to and from workouts or practice, cadets must wear the uniform of the day (UOD) or cadet physical training uniform (PTUs). Cadets may change into team gear or team uniforms for practice but must return to the cadet area wearing UOD or PTUs.

For first-class, second-class, and third-class cadets, appropriate civilian attire is authorized from 1800 on Fridays until TAPS on Sundays (or Monday if it is a holiday).

Additionally, fourth-class cadets must wear Service Dress when transiting to and from the Academy and when leaving their sponsor's home. Sponsors may wish to remind cadets before their visit to bring appropriate uniform items.

Cadet Cars

Academy policy states that cadets may own/maintain no more than one automobile and that privilege is offered to cadets ONLY as they enter their last two years at the Academy. This privilege is extended to cadets who are in good standing, i.e., cadets not on probation or punishment. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the cadet to ensure the vehicle is licensed, insured, and registered on the Academy. It is not a requirement for the sponsor family to lend their car to their cadet, nor is it the sponsors' responsibility. If the sponsor chooses to do so, they must realize that they do so at their own risk with possible negative outcomes in terms of damage to property belonging to others. Safe alternatives to borrowing are commercial transportation, carpooling, and prior coordination of rides with sponsors. Normally, sponsors may have to pick up cadets as third- and fourth-class cadets are not permitted to own or maintain cars. Cadets and sponsors should designate a specific area for pick-up, as sponsors are not permitted within the cadet area. Any sponsor family member may pick up the cadets.

Unprofessional Relationships

Sponsors need to be aware that cadets are prohibited from developing relationships that involve or give the appearance of partiality, preferential treatment, or improper use of rank or position. For these reasons, unprofessional relationships, including dating between cadets and officers, enlisted personnel, or USAFA Preparatory School cadets and between cadets in each other's chain of command (those holding leadership positions within the squadron, group, or Wing) is prohibited. Additionally, fourth-class cadets are

not permitted to date or become too familiar with upper class cadets. This rule applies on and off the Cadet Area, including the sponsor's home.

The Sponsors' Role in Correcting Cadets

As part of their development, cadets need to learn from their mistakes. Ignoring an error or misstep only reinforces undesirable behavior. Experienced sponsors recommend setting clear house rules for cadets visiting their home. They also emphasize that it's unreasonable to expect cadets to follow rules if they haven't been clearly communicated. The rules should be specific and reflect the sponsor family's expectations for cadet behavior while in their home.

Example House Rules

- We all have the right to our own opinions and the freedom to respectfully disagree with others.
- If I ask for a phone call or text to confirm your plans for the weekend, please reach out early so I can adjust my schedule accordingly.
- If you're unable to visit for an extended period, please check in with a call or text from time to time to keep me updated on how you're doing.
- Be mindful when requesting timely responses to text messages or emails. Remember, cadets are in class during the day and often have extracurricular activities afterward, so they may not be able to respond until they return to their dorm rooms in the evening.

Open communication is essential! Be sure to discuss expectations early on to avoid misunderstandings!

Other Areas to Address

- Your policy on alcohol consumption.
- Your policies on the cadet arriving unexpectedly for a meal or bringing a friend for a meal
- Cleaning up after themselves while visiting your home (this may include a list of duties such as making the bed if they slept over).
- Putting things back where they found them. Using or borrowing anything with permission.
- Address your feelings on picking up the cadet at the Academy and how you feel about lastminute phone calls requesting a ride to the mall, airport, etc.
- You are not obliged to drive cadets to the airport; there are a few alternative options available:
 - The Vandenberg Outdoor Recreation Office (719-333-4602) typically takes sign-ups a couple of months in advance before the holidays (Thanksgiving break, winter break, spring break) when a busload of cadets is driven to Denver International Airport every hour during the day (best rate; cadets must go into the office to reserve their seats, parents can call to reserve. Seats need to be reserved early).
 - Renting a car (one-way) from ITT (719-333-7367) to share costs with other cadets is also an option.

Helpful Hints

- Be a sounding board.
- Communicate your house rules and expectations early on.

- Give cadets responsibilities as a family member.
- Expect the same courtesy from a cadet as you would a family member.
- Teach your cadet and learn together.
- If possible, have an open house to meet the cadet's parents.
- Take pictures for the cadet's family and future reunions.
- Enjoy your time together; cadets feel sponsors are influential and positively impact their future.
- Fourth-class cadets must be in uniform until they have completed upgrade training.
- Cadets must sign in and out of their squadron area.
- Cadets must stay within a 150-mile radius of the Academy on the weekends they are allowed to leave campus.
- When cadets visit sponsors, they are expected to always be with a member of the sponsor family.
- Only first and second-class cadets are permitted to own a car at USAFA.
- Cadets cannot ride on a motorcycle or ATV nor are they allowed to ride as a passenger on these types of vehicles.
- We do not recommend you buy alcohol for cadets and remember that if they consume alcohol in your home, they must be 21 years of age or older.
- Cadets in uniform must be seated at restaurants if drinking in public.

SECTION IV - How to Contact Cadets

Sponsors may contact cadets either by telephone, email, or text. Every fourth- class cadet is issued a computer at the beginning of the Academic Year (early August). For those who wish to contact cadets via email, please use the following format:

Example Cadet:

Class Year: 2029 (C29)

Cadet Name: Jane Smith

Email Address Format:

C29jane.smith@afacademy.af.edu

If a sponsor has attempted to reach their assigned cadet and has not received a response, please contact the Sponsor Program Office via email or phone.

Helping Agencies

Academy Counseling Center (ACC): 333-2107

Arnold Hall's Student Center Cadet Activities: 333-2710

Center for Character and Leadership Development: 333-4904

Directorate of Training Support: 333-2220

Cadet Clinic: 333-5180

Cadet Sponsor Office: 333-2727/cadet.sponsor@afacademy.af.edu

Cadet Wing Officer of the Day (719) 238-6541 On duty 24/7

Commandant of Cadets Command Center: 333-2910

Cadet Chapel Staff: 333-2636

Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI): 333-3305

PEER cadet hotline: 333-5929

SARC: 333-7272 (333-SARC)

Security Police Desk: 333-2000

USAFA main website: www.usafa.af.mil

Sponsor program info on USAFA website: <https://www.usafa.edu/cadet-life/cadet-supportservices/cadet-sponsor-program>

Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

ACQ - Academic call to quarters ---time cadets must be in their dorms studying

ACPRO - Academic probation. Restrictions placed on cadets who fail to meet a grade point average of 2.0

AF - Air Force

AFA - Air Force Academy

AFI - Air Force Instruction--the instructions provide a set of policies and guidelines outlining Air Force operating procedures

AD - Department of Athletics

A-Hall - Arnold Hall

AMI - A.M. Inspection; room inspection to ensure cleanliness and adherence to standards

AMT - Academy Military Trainer (Enlisted squadron leader)

AOG - Association of Graduates--the USAFA alumni association

Basics - New cadets just entering the Academy

Basic Cadet Day Out (BDO) - Basics' first opportunity to leave USAFA to spend a few hours with a host family

BCT/BEAST - Basic Cadet Training/Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training

C-STORE - Cadet term to refer to the AAFES Base Exchange outlet in Vandenberg Hall

CW - Cadet Wing

CIC - Cadet-in-Charge

C1C - Cadet First Class (senior cadet) -- "Firstie"

C2C - Cadet Second Class (junior cadet) -- "2 Degree"

C3C - Cadet Third Class (sophomore cadet) -- "3 Degree"

C4C - Cadet Fourth Class (freshman cadet) -- "4 Degree"

DF - Dean of Faculty--organization responsible for cadet academics

DoD - Department of Defense

Fairchild Hall - Building that houses the Commandant of Cadets, Dean of Faculty, library and academic facilities

GR - Graded Review/major exam

Grad - Short for graduation; also refers to an Academy graduate

Grad Week --the six-day period at the end of the Academic year, which encompasses all the graduation activities; starts with Ring Dance on Friday and culminates with Graduation in Falcon Stadium the following Wednesday

Harmon Hall - Building located due south of Arnold Hall. Houses the Superintendent, Finance Office, Legal Office, and other Academy administrative support functions

Jacks Valley - Wooded area on the north side of the Air Force Academy used for various summer field training events

Mitches - Abbreviation for Mitchell Hall (the cadet dining facility) --named in honor of General Billy Mitchell

NCOIC - Noncommissioned Officer-In-Charge

OI - Operating Instruction (outlines how an organization conducts business)

OIC - Officer-in-Charge

PA - USAFA Public Affairs Office--responsible for the official release of all Academy-related information

PCS - Permanent Change of Station

POV - Privately Owned Vehicle

Retreat - Military ceremony signaling the end of a duty day at 1645 Monday-Friday. In the event you are outside when retreat is sounded, you are required to stop and face the direction of the nearest flag

Reveille - Military ceremony signaling the beginning of a duty day at 0700 Monday-Friday. In the event you are outside when reveille is sounded, you are required to stop and face the direction of the nearest flag

SCA - Scheduling Committee Actions--cadet programs falling outside of the Schedule of Calls (below) must be approved by the interdisciplinary scheduling committee

Sijan Hall - Cadet Dormitory located on the south side of the Terrazzo

SFS - Security Forces Squadron

SOC - Schedule of Calls; the framework schedule governing how cadets may use their time; allocates time to the major mission areas—academics, athletics, military, as well as personal time to pursue their own areas of excellence

SQ/CC - Squadron Commander.

Squadron - A squadron typically averages 115 cadets of all class designations. Additionally, each squadron and group have a full-time Air Officer Commanding (AOC) who commands the unit. The Cadet Wing is approximately 5,000 strong and is composed of 4 groups of 10 squadrons each

Summer Prep Week - The week of preparatory activities preceding Graduation Week

Terrazzo - The open paved space between buildings in the cadet area. Also referred to as the “T-zo”

TDY - Temporary Duty

UOD - Uniform of the Day

USAFA - United States Air Force Academy

Vandenberg Hall - The cadet dormitory located on the north side of the terrazzo--the larger of the two cadet dormitory facilities within the cadet area. Also referred to as “Vandy”