

USAFA Taste of Home

16 March 2023 – Arnold Hall

USAFA Taste of Home



What: *NEW* Senior Leadership initiated Parent-hosted *MORALE EVENT* for entire Cadet Wing

- Completely run and executed by USAFA State Parent Clubs
 - Sue Walker is Lead Event Coordinator
- Modeled after International Fair held at Maxwell Air Force Base
 - Parent Clubs assigned to one of 6 Regions
 - Each Region plans and executes their specific regional experience

When: Thursday, 16 March 2023, evening event

- Falls after Recognition and before Spring Break

Where: Arnold Hall

Overall Vision

"Think Big, Think Differently, Think of Home"



- Regions will have their own space to create their regional experience
 - **EPCOT-like experience** where cadets will “visit” a region to sample food, play games, etc.
- Request has been made to have Gary Sinise and the Lt Dan Band perform as the culminating event
- This is the INAUGURAL event – you’ll be setting the bar for future parent-hosted events

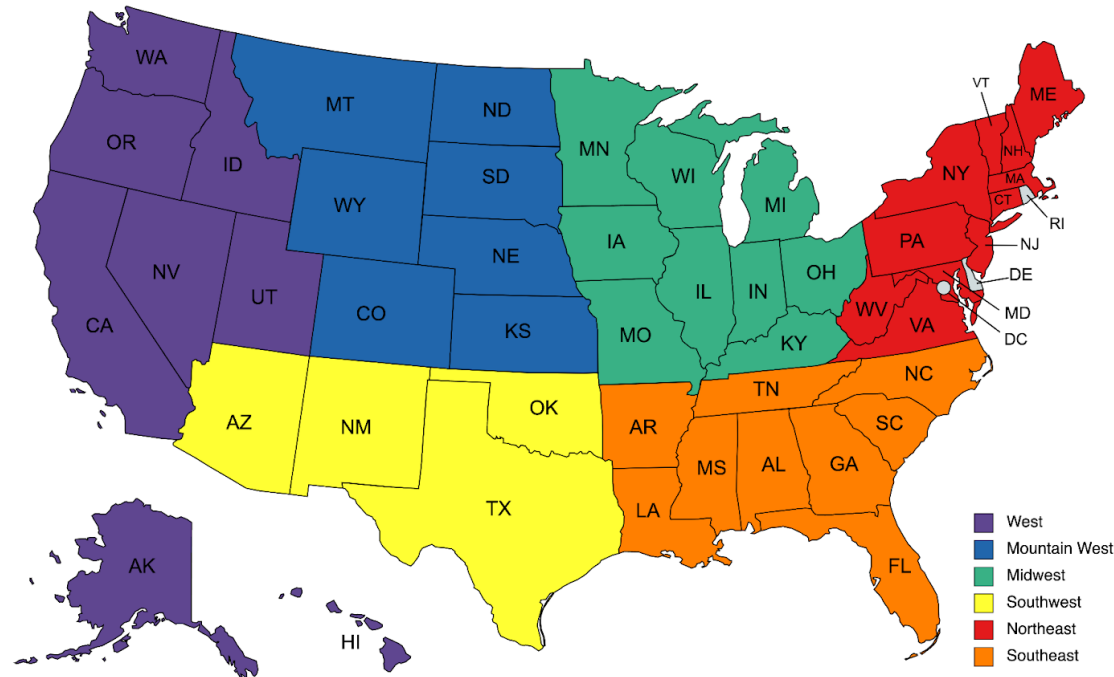


Constraints



- Arnold Hall
- Abide by USAFA rules

Six Regions That Our Cadets Call Home



Created with mapchart.net

- Europe Parent Club included with Northeast Region
- Guam Parent Club included with Pacific Region
- Virtual Club included with Mountain West



Regional Leads



- West- Rocio Watkins
- Mountain West- Kathy Puseman
- Southwest- Will McLaughlin
- Midwest-TBD
- Northeast-Susan Chan-Peter
- Southeast-Kevin Divers

Thanks for stepping up to help make this event great!

West Region – Rocio Watkins



- Alaska – **Shelly Miller**
- California
 - CA1 – Central
 - CA2 – Tri County
 - CA3 – Northern Cali
 - CA4 – LA: **Stefany Forsey, Jason Guzman**
 - CA5 – Orange County
 - CA6 – Sacramento: **Alan Mitchell**
 - CA7 – San Diego
 - CA8 – Inland Empire
- Hawaii
- Idaho – **Charlie Silva**
- Nevada
- Oregon
- Utah
- Washington – **Sheryl Medeiros**
- Guam – **Jean Chabanne**





Mountain West Region – Kathy Puseman



- **Colorado**
- **Kansas**
- **Montana**
- **Nebraska**
- **North Dakota**
- **South Dakota – Cory Diedrich**
- **Wyoming**
- **Virtual Parent Club**

Southwest Region – Will McLaughlin



- Arizona – **Katie Brethour**
- New Mexico – **Erin Jerry**
- Oklahoma – **Deana Carey**
- Texas
 - TX1 – West TX
 - TX2 – North TX – **Will McLaughlin**
 - TX3 – South TX – **Diane Nemecek**
 - TX4 – SE TX
 - TX 5 – Central TX – **Soyoung and Abe Choi**



Midwest Region – TBD



- **Illinois**
 - IL1 – Northern- **Anne Schwaab**
 - IL2 - Central
- **Indiana**
- **Iowa**
- **Kentucky – Debbie Setzer**
- **Michigan**
 - MI1 - Western
 - MI2 - Eastern
- **Minnesota**
- **Missouri**
 - MO1 –
 - MO2 – Metro St Louis – **Alli Kietz**
- **Ohio**
 - OH1 – Northern
 - OH2 – Central
 - OH3 – Southwest – **Anne Hess**
- **Wisconsin**

Northeast Region – Susan Chan-Peter



- Connecticut – **Liz Lord**
- Delaware – **Rachel Workman**
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts – **Mary Beth Walsh**
- New Hampshire – **Ray Miclette**
- New Jersey – **Monika Miranda**
- New York
 - NY1 – Central
 - NY2 – NE – **Bill Martin**
 - NY4 – Metro – **Kari Johnson, Julie Chen**
- NY5 – Western
- Pennsylvania
 - PA1 Central - **Mike Sharkey**
 - PA2 South Philly
 - PA3 West – **Tracy Smoley**
- Rhode Island
- Vermont
- Virginia
 - VA1 – National Capitol – **Lynne Niggel-Conroe**
 - VA2 – South VA
- West Virginia – **Darleen Zobrist**



Southeast Region – Kevin Divers



- Alabama – **Matthew McFall**
- Arkansas – **Stacy Walz**
- Florida
 - FL1 – Gulf Coast
 - FL2 – South – **Denise Brown**
 - FL3 – Big Bend
 - FL4 – Northeast
 - FL5 – Central
 - FL 6 – SW
 - FL7 – Emerald Coast
- Georgia – **Terri Davis**
- Louisiana – **Douglas Wingo**
- Mississippi – **Allison Diers, Melanie Morgan**
- North Carolina
 - NC1 – Eastern
 - NC2 – Piedmont – **Vila Fleming**
- South Carolina
 - SC1 – **Robin Halus**
 - SC2 –
- Tennessee – **Jerry Lyons**

Rules of Engagement



- All parent clubs are encouraged to participate and have a voice in determining their regional experience
- Fundraising is not expected nor required
 - Parent Clubs have the autonomy to determine how their own club funds will be used or to solicit donations from community partners in their regions
 - Parent Clubs decide what contribution they can make to the event based on the number of cadets their club has at USAFA
 - Keep in mind gift limitations (see Fundraising/Gift FAQs)
- Parent Clubs may choose to provide goodie bags for just their cadets or all cadets
 - Must adhere to gift giving/fundraising guidelines
- Regional volunteers are responsible for set-up and clean-up of their assigned space

Regional Lead Responsibilities



- Point of Contact for your region
- Help identify state leads by 15 April 2022
- Collect information on state leads, email and phone number
- Facilitate meetings with state reps
- Communicate with Chair, needs/wants
- Provide a flag from each state
- Submit regional proposal to Sue Walker by 15 July 2022
- Help execute regional experience on 16 March 2023

Parent Club Representative Responsibilities



- Liaison between your parent club and the Regional Lead
- Be the voice for your state or area of your state
- Provide support to Regional Lead (bringing ideas for the experience, food, entertainment, decorating, finding volunteers for your state, etc.)
- Facilitate gifts (if desired), for your state cadets, following gift-giving guidelines
- Help execute the USAFA Taste of Home on 16 March 2023

Timeline



15 April 2022 – all Parent Club Points of Contact identified

- Send Name and Contact information to Parent Liaison

15 July 2022 – Regional Proposals due to Sue Walker

- Provide overall concept for the regional experience, space required for your region, AV or electrical requirements, estimate of number of volunteers

15 Aug 2022 – Regional Plan approval

31 Aug – 1 Sep 2022 – Breakout Sessions for in person planning at Presidents' Conference

15 Feb 2023 – Entry Authorization List requests due, if needed

16 March 2023 – USAFA Taste of Home Event

Ideas – Think outside of the box!



- Host an “experience” (BBQ master given demonstrations at set times)
- Games (casino type, volleyball)
- Karaoke
- Food trucks
- Outdoor fire pits
- Celebrities
- Deployed Haps

Additional Volunteer Needs



- Webmaster (help maintain USAFA Taste of Home Website)
- Treasurer
- Volunteer Coordinator (to collect info from all regions, assist with EAL if needed)
- Other roles to be determined by Regional Leads

Frequently Asked Questions



1. Can we serve food?
2. Do we have to provide enough food for the entire cadet wing?
3. Do I have to come on 16 March to participate?
4. Can Alumni volunteer?
5. Do we fundraise for this event?
6. Can we play games?
7. Will each region have the same amount of space?
8. Can I bring gifts for my state's cadets?

Regional Breakout Sessions

With Regional Leads and/or Parent Ambassador Facilitators



West – Hosted by Mark Hamilton, Regional Lead – Rocio Watkins

Mountain West – Hosted by Laura Gallagher, Regional Lead - Kathy Puseman

Southwest – Hosted by Bill Preston, Regional Lead – Will McLaughlin

Midwest – Hosted by Sue Walker, Regional Lead TBD

Northeast – Hosted by Katrina Claydon, Regional Lead - Susan Chan-Peter

Southeast – Hosted by Scott Damon, Regional Lead – Kevin Divers

Regional Breakout Session Action Items



- What defines our region? As a group, identify 20 words that reflect your region
 - Please give to Sue Walker at the end of the session
- What do you want your regional experience to be? Brainstorm ideas (consider most visited landmarks, celebrities affiliated with your region, music of your region, regional foods) Entertainment? Activities? Food? Decorations?

**Keep in mind that all 4 classes will be attending. What can you provide that will draw upperclassmen and underclassmen?

- What are your Website needs?
 - Do you want your region to have their own visible page? What do you want that page to look like? List of reps/regions? Email?
 - Do you want a planning page only visible to your regional team?
 - Does your region want a donate button? Which club would be responsible?

Points of Contact



Sue Walker – AOG Parent Ambassador and Event Coordinator

Email: usafatoh@gmail.com (817) 300-0187

Carrie Clancy - AOG Parent Program Liaison, Association of Graduates

Email: carrie.clancy@aogusafa.org (719)510-2484

Marie Nikovits – USAFA Parents' Liaison

Email: usafa.ParentLiaison@afacademy.af.edu

(719) 333-3828 or Toll Free: (877) 268-3383

Bill Preston – Director, Parent and Family Programs, Association of Graduates

Email: bill.preston@aogusafa.org (719)373-2050

Katrina Claydon – Member Engagement Specialist, Association of Graduates

Email: katrina.claydon@aogusafa.org (719)654-4639

Thank you!

Together we'll set the bar high for future events!

