

GUIDE FOR CADETS PREPARING FOR SUMMER ENCAMPMENT

This guide is published by the Colorado Wing Cadet Programs Office to provide unit commanders, Cadet Programs personnel, parents, and cadets with a basic understanding of what an encampment is, who should attend, why attendance should be stressed, and what should be done to prepare a cadet for the Encampment experience.

WHAT IS AN ENCAMPMENT?

An encampment is a basic introduction to the military way of life and an opportunity to experience leadership from both a follower's and leader's point of view. It is an excellent way of meeting new cadets from throughout the Wing and establishing an esprit de corps among the "next generation" of cadet leaders.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND AN ENCAMPMENT AS A PARTICIPANT?

Any cadet who is a current member of CAP as evidenced by the most recent CAP Cadet e-services member report (this will be checked immediately before the encampment due to liability) and has not previously attended an encampment. A minimum of squadron training is required to ensure that the cadet understands the basics of CAP customs and courtesies, the basics of CAP drill, and the basics of how to wear the CAP uniform, which will be discussed below.

WHY SHOULD A CADET ATTEND AN ENCAMPMENT?

- It is a requirement to achieve the Billy Mitchell Award.
- It is required for most National and Wing-sponsored special activities.
- It provides an outstanding leadership and training forum for new cadets and new cadet command/staff officers.
- It provides an opportunity to meet other cadets and begin lasting friendships with them.
- It provides an experience to show cadets what the military is about and gives the cadets an opportunity to live like military personnel for one week.
- Studies show that attending encampment in the first year increases retention of the cadet in the program.
- So the cadet can become the trainer of cadets at the next encampment and many other activities!

WHAT SHOULD A SQUADRON COMMANDER DO TO PREPARE A CADET TO ATTEND AN ENCAMPMENT?

Provide classes on the following topics (see manual references in parentheses):

- CAP customs and courtesies (Leadership: 2000 and Beyond, all volumes)
- Proper wear of the CAP uniform (CAPM 39-1)
- Basic drill maneuvers (drill and ceremonies)
- Personal hygiene and self care (basic first aid, cleanliness).
- Idea of what homesickness is for cadets who have never been away from home. Discuss with him/her the resources available at the encampment (Chaplain, TAC Officers, squadron members)
- Explain to your cadets what it is like to live with little privacy. This can be a shock.

ARE THERE ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION CONCERNING ENCAMPMENTS?

Yes. CAPR 52-16, Chapter 5, governs CAP Encampments. Cadets and seniors who have attended previous encampments are a great source for information as well as training. The Colorado Wing Encampment site also has the Encampment Training Manual available for review.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A CADET TO ATTEND AN ENCAMPMENT?

Cadets must have a current membership card, meet grooming standards, have a complete uniform, be a C/Amn or above and submit the necessary paperwork. All application instructions are detailed at the beginning of this information package.

WHAT ITEMS SHOULD A CADET BRING TO AN ENCAMPMENT?

The list on the website contains items that all cadets should bring as well as prohibited items. **The staff will secure any prohibited items that are brought to the encampment until the conclusion of the activity.**