

Cadet Program mandate = Aim + mission + vision + participant outcomes

So, you ask, “What about the Cadet Program has been updated?” The answer is, “Five things!”

- Although unchanged, the aim has been amplified to provide greater clarity.
- The mission statement is new to the program.
- The vision statement is updated.
- We have established a clear set of 'participant outcomes'—in other words, the benefits for cadets.
- Collectively the aim, mission, vision and participant outcomes are referred to as the “Cadet Program mandate”—a new term we should all get accustomed to using because it provides strategic direction and the basis for a common language for everyone who works in support of the Cadet Program.

In the last issue of *Cadence*, we discussed the amplified aim. This article includes the mission and vision statements, as well as participant outcomes. Detailed information is available in the new CATO 11-03 released this past May. Over the next several months, you will start to see elements of the Cadet Program mandate published in other forms, such as on posters and the Cadet Program websites. *

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Mission — Focus on today!

A mission defines the core purpose of an organization or program—why it exists, or its *raison d'être*. A famous mission you have probably seen before is Star Trek's “To boldly go where no one has gone before”.

Cadet Program mission:

“To contribute to the development and preparation of youth for the transition to adulthood, enabling them to meet the challenges of modern society, through a dynamic, community-based program.”

Vision — Focus on the future!

A vision outlines what we want an organization or program to look like, in ideal terms, in the future—what we can work towards achieving. A former vision of General Electric, for instance, is “We bring good things to life”.

Cadet Program vision:

“A relevant, credible and proactive youth development organization, offering the program of choice for Canada's youth, preparing them to become the leaders of tomorrow through a set of fun, challenging, well-organized and safe activities”.

Participant outcomes —

Benefits for cadets (skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours) during or after their involvement with the program.

- 1. Emotional and physical well-being.** Cadets develop an ability to:
 - display positive self-esteem and positive personal qualities; and
 - meet physical challenges by living a healthy and active lifestyle.
- 2. Social competence.** Cadets develop an ability to:
 - contribute as an effective team member;
 - accept personal accountability for actions and choices;
 - exercise sound judgement; and
 - demonstrate effective interper sonal communication skills.
- 3. Cognitive competence.** Cadets develop an ability to:
 - solve problems;
 - think creatively and critically; and
 - display a positive attitude toward learning.
- 4. Proactive citizenship.** Cadets develop:
 - (an ability to) exemplify positive values;
 - (an ability to) participate actively as a valued member of a community; and
 - commitment to community.
- 5. Understanding the CF.** Cadets develop:
 - a knowledge of the history of the CF; and
 - a knowledge of the CF's contributions as a national institution.