

Sea Cadet Summer Training

One of the really great opportunities within the Sea Cadet Program is summer training. You may be familiar with the concept of summer camps through other youth groups, but summer training in the cadet program is a little different. Although there is time set aside for “fun” activities, the majority of the training time is dedicated to learning the valuable skills and acquiring the knowledge and attributes specific to being a good Sea Cadet. This means participating in a highly structured and disciplined program that challenges cadets to be their absolute best.



Why do we have summer training?

Summer training exists solely for two reasons:

- to support training at the local corps by producing knowledgeable instructors
- to produce qualified staff to run summer training

It is not necessary for a Sea Cadet to attend summer training to do well at their corps. The summer training program is not a Local Headquarters requirement but it is very rewarding and most cadets consider it to be one of the best parts of our program.

All summer training is conducted at [Sea Cadet Summer Training Centres \(SCSTCs\)](#). They are located near lakes or oceans where training is conducted on the water in all types of vessels, sail and motor, small and large. This enables cadets to build upon the knowledge they have gained at their home units in a sea environment that is conducive to providing lots of “hands on” experience. Because of the geographic diversity of Sea Cadet training across British Columbia, many corps do not have the resources to put their training into practice. A SCSTC is the place to experience the thrill of putting Sea Cadet training into practice.

[What is an average day like?](#) (link to **A day in the life of a Quadra Cadet**)

A standard daily routine is established for the cadets that includes:

- set wake-up and lights-out time
- regular training throughout the day
- ongoing fitness activities
- scheduled meal hours
- time for the care and cleanliness of uniforms, personal hygiene and living quarters

All of this is conducted in a highly supervised environment where the safety and welfare of all cadets comes first.

How is the safety of cadets ensured?

The safety of cadets is of an utmost importance to the Cadet Program. These initiatives are in place to provide a safe and secure environment:

- all activities go through a planning process before they are authorized
- all qualified professional instructors that supervise and conduct all summer training activities are screened to ensure their suitability to work with youth
- a security staff is hired to conduct regular rounds and monitor the safety of all personnel at

the SCSTC

- rules and regulations are followed by all staff and cadets and disciplinary matters are dealt with accordingly
- cadets under training are expected to follow a Code of Conduct that encourages the exemplary behavior associated with Sea Cadets
- the [Cadet Harassment and Abuse Prevention Program](#) educates and protects cadets from harassment
- all on-water activities are conducted in accordance with Watercraft Safety Orders for Cadets
- medical emergencies are handled by professional medical personnel on site in accordance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's)
- all staff have first aid training.

Where is the training conducted?

This training is conducted at several SCSTCs across Canada under the direction and support of the Department of National Defense. Each of the SCSTCs is unique in terms of geography and physical layout. Some of the SCSTCs are co-located at military bases, some work out of schools and conference centres, but each place ensures the cadets are provided with:

- decent accommodations, separated by gender
- nutritious food
- supervised leisure activities
- health care
- phone, postal, laundry and banking services
- spiritual guidance if needed

It is natural for some cadets to be homesick when they first go to a SCSTC, but the staff is well trained in dealing with the needs of the lonely, and it won't be long before most cadets adjust and have the best time of their lives.

BC Cadets will usually attend training at [HMCS Quadra](#), but they may also have an opportunity to attend an [SCSTC](#) elsewhere in the country. Each of the SCSTC's is called Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS), the same as our Canadian Navy's ships. Life at the SCSTC is conducted similar to what life is like onboard a ship, observing the customs and traditions of the Navy. The cadets will attend parades, learn Naval terms, and participate in ceremonies that reflect life onboard a ship. This is part of what makes being a Sea Cadet unique.

Who is in charge of the training and supervision?

SCSTC's are run under the supervision and direction of [Cadet Instructor Cadre Officers](#), Non-Commissioned Officers and Staff Cadets, many of whom also work with cadets at a local corps. The staff is highly qualified and trained to help instruct, supervise, and support the cadets under training. As at the local corps, they all work for the Commanding Officer of the SCSTC. Cadets are **always supervised** whether it is during training, meals, off-hours, or lights-out.

How much does it cost?

Nothing! Courses are completely funded and supported by DND. There is absolutely no cost to the cadet. Funding support includes:

- all transport to and from the SCSTC
- food
- accommodation
- uniforms
- supervision,

- special equipment and training

Cadets will also receive a cash training bonus when they have completed their training course. Training bonuses are paid in the amount of \$60.00 per week. In later years, after their courses are finished, they will then have the opportunity to apply for staff and get paid a daily rate to work at a SCSTC.

Cadets can bring spending money with them to a SCSTC as there will be time to buy items at the cadet canteen, including snacks, basic necessities, souvenir items, etc.

When does it take place?

Summer training is conducted over six weeks starting the first week in July and finishing the middle of August. Courses vary in length from a two-week basic, three-week intermediate, or a six-week advanced course. Several courses are conducted during this timeframe.

How does the summer training program work?

There are several courses available to apply for depending on the cadet's age and training completed at the corps. Basically, the cadet will attend [one course per summer](#). (link to Trades Training flowchart) After completion of all training courses they will be eligible to apply for a Staff Cadet position:

- General Training – first summer
- Trade Group 1 – second summer
- Trade Group 2 – third summer
- Trade Group 3 – fourth summer

General Training:

- the first course a cadet will attend
- two weeks in length
- cadet must be enrolled by 1 January of the current training year
- completed Phase 1 training at the corps
- provides an introduction to SCSTC life while offering the cadets an insight into the four different Trades of Boatswain, Gunnery, Sailing, or Music available for choice in future training
- training includes sailing, drill, canoeing, outdoor adventure training, camping, air rifle familiarization and music introduction.

Trade Group 1

- the second course a cadet will attend
- three weeks in length
- must have completed Phase II training at the corps
- recommended 13 years of age by 1 January of the current training year
- designed to teach the basics of the chosen trade.

Trade Group 2

- the third course that a cadet will attend
- six weeks in length
- must have completed Phase III training at the corps
- recommended 14 years of age by 1 January of the current training year
- designed to teach the advanced skills in the chosen trade.

Trade Group 3

- is the fourth course that a cadet will attend
- six weeks in length
- must have completed Phase IV training at the corps
- recommended 15 years of age by 1 January of the current training year
- designed to make the cadet an instructor in the chosen trade.

How does a cadet choose a Trade?

Upon completion of General Training cadets will be asked to choose a Trade for future training. The General Training Course will have allowed the cadets to sample a little bit of each Trade. The choices available include Boatswain, Gunnery, Sailing and Music. Specifics of each Trade include the following:

The **Boatswain** Trade is designed to provide cadets with skills in seamanship, small boat maintenance, small boat operation and marksmanship training. Cadets applying for this Trade must show an interest and aptitude for small boat repairs and firing the air rifle. Successful completion of this Trade awards cadets with Standard 1st Aid, Small Craft Operators License, Restricted Radio Operator License, and Rifle Coach



Boatswain



Gunnery

The **Gunnery** Trade is designed to provide cadets with skills in adventure training, physical fitness training, drill and ceremonial. It is a physically demanding Trade and cadets must be prepared to meet the challenges of the courses, including a 3-day adventure training exercise. Cadets applying for this Trade must show an interest and aptitude for precision drill and physically challenging activities. Successful completion of this Trade awards cadets with Standard First Aid, Restricted Radio Operators License, and Canoe Qualification Levels.

The **Sail** Trade is designed to provide cadets with skills in dinghy sailing. Cadets applying for this Trade must show an interest and aptitude for sailing in small boats and also be comfortable in and around the water. Successful completion of this Trade awards cadets with Standard First Aid, Canadian Yachting Association Bronze Sail V and Sail Instructor



Sailing



Musician

The **Music** Trade is designed to provide cadets with skills in music training. Some of the finest musicians in the country provide the quality instruction for this Trade. Cadets applying for this Trade must show an interest and aptitude for developing their musical ability. The level of music instruction is equivalent to the Royal Conservatory of Music standards. Successful completion of this Trade awards cadets with Musician Levels from Basic up to Level V

Are there other summer training courses?

In addition to the four Trades, there are [specialty](#) (link to Specialty Training Flowchart) courses that are also offered.

The 8-week **Marine Engineering** course is designed to teach basic knowledge of machinery systems used on SCSTV's. It enables cadets to serve as watch-keepers in the engine room and to run these spaces in an orderly and efficient manner. Cadets applying for this Trade must show an interest and aptitude for academics. Successful cadets will receive an "A" Certification which will qualify them as an engineer onboard a YAG 300 class Naval Training Vessel



Marine Engineer



Shipwright

The 6-week **Shipwright** course is designed to prepare the cadet for a role as a member of boatshed, either at the SCSTC or corps. The cadet will be able to maintain and make minor repairs to the hulls, spars, sails and rigging of small boats. Cadets applying for this Trade must show an interest and aptitude for small boat repairs.

The 6-week **Athletic Instructor** course is designed to develop the skills required to implement and teach a physical training program both at the corps and SCSTC. Cadets must be physically fit and free from any limiting disability or medical condition that would preclude their active participation in a wide variety of sport activities of a demanding nature.



Athletic Instructor

The 6-week **Silver Sail** course is designed to train sailors to the Canadian Yachting Association Silver Sail VI level of certification. Cadets applying for this course must have their Bronze Sail V and show an interest and aptitude for learning the racing techniques associated with dinghy sailing

Who can apply and how?

All Sea Cadets, who have completed, as a minimum, 75% of Phase training at the corps can apply for summer training. Cadets must have their Commanding Officer's recommendation and parental/guardian permission to attend any summer training. Attendance at a SCSTC is a privilege, not a right, and we strive to select only the best cadets for training.

Application for summer training is made on a form called a CF51. The corps Commanding Officer does not make selections for summer training, but the Area Cadet Office does, where they try to ensure that the best cadet from the area is chosen for the course. Cadets will then be informed of the selections by the Commanding Officer, usually in April.

Once selections are made, cadets will be given travel orders detailing transportation arrangements, and Joining Instructions, specific to the SCSTC they will be attending.

Are there any other types of summer training available?

Although most of the summer training conducted is at SCSTCs, there are a number of other exciting training opportunities available during the summer months.

The International Exchange Program

One of the best ways to see the world is through the International Exchange Program, jointly sponsored by the Canadian Forces and the Navy League of Canada. Exchanges offer Canadian cadets the opportunity to participate in local cadet training and experience the unique culture of the host country.

Cadets must be prepared to participate in activities that are sometimes quite physically challenging. Prior to leaving the country, Canadian cadets will meet in either Vancouver or Ottawa for three days to meet their Escort Officers and other cadets in preparation for the exchange. While in the host country, there will probably be Sea Cadets from other countries participating as well. This is an amazing chance to meet and develop friendships from all over the world.

Exchanges are normally 2-3 weeks in duration and to the following countries;

- **United Kingdom;**
- **United States (East);**
- **USA (West);**
- **Australia;**
- **Japan;**
- **Sweden;**
- **Korea;**
- **Netherlands; and**
- **Bermuda.**

Prerequisites

- Sixteen years of age at the time of the exchange
- Completed Phase IV training at the corps
- Have 75% or better corps attendance
- Completed, as a minimum, Trade Group 3 or Specialty Course
- Be strongly recommended by Commanding Officer

The exchange program is a reward program meant for our best cadets. They will be seen abroad as ambassadors for Canada and Royal Canadian Sea Cadets. Although there are only a few billets available nationally each year, all deserving cadets are encouraged to apply for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The National Tall Ship Deployment

The National Tall Ship Deployment is conducted for three weeks each year at the end of August and beginning of September out of HMCS QUADRA. 15 very deserving cadets will experience the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to sail approximately 1600 kilometers up and down the

picturesque British Columbia coast onboard the tall ship STV Maple Leaf. With a focus on Eco-tourism, cadets will gain a 21st century appreciation for the age-old traditions of sailing in a tall ship.

The **Maple Leaf** is extremely safe and comfortable. She has a rich history of operation on the BC coast and an enviable reputation as both a beautiful and sea-worthy vessel. Completely restored from 1980-1986 to new condition, **Maple Leaf** is fully inspected and certified by the Canadian Coast Guard as a passenger vessel, and is manned by a certified, competent crew. She is fully-equipped with the latest safety and navigation equipment including radar, GPS, Ioran C, E.P.I.R.B. and radio-telephone.



Her accommodations are very comfortable. The spacious main cabin is open and airy by day and is divided by curtains into four "cabins," providing the sleeping accommodations. Cadets often dine on deck (on occasion, a picnic or barbeque ashore), however, the comfortable dining area provides a perfect atmosphere for sharing the day's experiences with new friends. The ship's extensive library includes excellent references covering marine biology, ornithology, flora, fauna, native history and art, environmental issues, and some novels.

The Challenge

The emphasis is on developing leadership under sail. Each day cadets are given the opportunity to sail 8-10 hours along the pristine BC coast, rich with nature and breathtaking beauty. The anchorages are superb as the cadets explore nature and enjoy the abundant wildlife on land, as well as experience the unique diversity of first nations culture. Be prepared to work hard and reap the benefits of good teamwork. The expectations are high for the cadets who are selected, but the rewards are priceless. Successful completion of the deployment entitles cadets to proudly wear the Tall Ship Proficiency Badge.



Tallship

Prerequisites

- 16 years of age
- medically fit, having no dental or medical problems which could require treatment during the period at sea
- completed at least one 6 week course
- high level of maturity
- ability to work with others under crowded and sometimes uncomfortable conditions for extended periods of time
- good representative of the Sea Cadet movement
- full understanding of the type of vessel he/she will be sailing in
- completion of a daily log of events
- permission from the appropriate school authorities if the cadet is a student

Annual Seamanship Concentration (ASC)

Conducted annually at HMCS QUADRA for one week during March, this national seamanship training provides the opportunity for cadets to practice seamanship skills learned over the winter at the Local Headquarters. There are two elements to ASC:

- The YAG/Tall Ship Squadron operates in the waters around southern Vancouver Island. Cadets will live aboard either one of the Navy's 75 foot YAG training vessels or aboard the tall ship STV Maple Leaf. These cadets will have a week of fun seamanship training performing drills such as man overboard and fire exercises; and
- The Cutter Squadron is based at HMCS Quadra and operates in the and around the approaches to Comox harbour. Cadets in the cutter squadron learn seamanship skills while sailing 32 foot wooden cutters.

Cadets selected for participation are chosen based upon the basis of who will benefit most from the experience. Cadets who have no access to open water for the majority of the year will gain invaluable skills from this exercise. Generally, this is excellent training for cadets who have completed Phase II or III of the Local Headquarters training.

National Sea Cadet Regatta

The National Sea Cadet Regatta is co-sponsored by the Navy League of Canada and DND. It is held for approximately five days each August, after summer training, in one of the five regions across Canada. Crewmembers compete based upon the results of the provincial or regional regattas held locally earlier in the summer. There are a total of 24 crews across Canada that compete for the coveted title of National Sea Cadet Regatta winners!

Conclusion

The expectations are high, but the rewards that the cadets reap as a result of their hard work and efforts during summer training are priceless. Most cadets that go to a SCSTC say it is the best thing that they have ever done. Their sense of accomplishment and the pride they have when they return home is unequalled. The training provides them with a strong value base to build upon and take them into their adult years. The work ethic most cadets obtain is recognized and sought after by employers all over the country. Cadets will achieve greatness, make friends and leave with wonderful memories that will last a lifetime.