



Pacific Region Cadets

ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADETS



ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADETS IS A NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE CANADIAN FORCES
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CIVILIAN ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA

BACKGROUND

DOCUMENTATION

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GENERAL

Royal Canadian Army Cadets is a national co-educational youth organization sponsored in partnership by the Canadian Forces and the civilian Army Cadet League of Canada. Nationally, 20,000 young men and women aged 12 to 18 years take part in training programs at 450 local corps during the school year. Authority for the program is found in Section 46 of the National Defence Act and Queen's Regulations and Orders for the Canadian Cadet Organizations. Army cadets are **not** members of the Canadian Forces, but participation in the program requires the young person to agree to a high standard of personal deportment and dress and regular attendance. Cadets must leave the program before reaching their 19th birthday.

CADET ACTIVITIES

The aim of Royal Canadian Army Cadets is to:

- a. develop in youth the attributes of good citizenship and leadership;
- b. promote physical fitness; and
- c. stimulate an interest in the activities of the Canadian Forces.

The program is not a recruiting vehicle for the Canadian Forces. Former cadets who choose to make the military their vocation do particularly well just as the majority of cadets who go on to other activities often do very well in their chosen occupations. Some cadets maintain a military connection in the Canadian Forces Reserve, often joining the Cadet Instructors Cadre and returning that which they have been afforded. Most former cadets credit their cadet experience for their success later in life.

ADULT SUPERVISION

Officers of the Canadian Forces Reserve, Cadet Instructors Cadre (CIC) administer, train and supervise cadets. The Canadian Forces provides these officers training specific to their unique role as youth leaders. Many are graduates of the cadet program others are former members of the CF and yet others are interested parents. Regular Force, Primary Reserve, and Supplementary Reserve personnel, as well as civilian instructors and staff cadets assist them. Adults working with the cadet program are subject to a stringent selection process that includes in depth interviews, enhanced reliability and criminal records checks to determine their suitability to supervise, train and take care of and ensure the welfare of youth in the program.



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CADET TRAINING

From September to June Army Cadets participate in local training one evening during the week and irregularly on weekends. Army cadet activities are centred on adventure and leadership. The program has a sports component that includes outdoor activities. Most cadet units have a band program that is also supported by summer training. Many aspects of cadet training have life long value such as organization of community projects, first aid training, bush craft and firearms safety. Cadets learn skills and qualifications that may lead to employment later in life including athletic leadership, public speaking, and outdoor skills. Uniforms are loaned at no charge and the opportunity for all cadets to attend summer training is included.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In addition to the supervisory sponsorship of the Army Cadet League, local sponsors, including service clubs, veteran's organizations, schools and parent's groups support individual cadet units. These local sponsors provide support and equipment for optional training activities local administration, insurance and accomodation.

THE PROGRAM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

In British Columbia there are about 2,300 Army Cadets enrolled in 49 corps in an equal number of communities. The BC Ministry of Education, Skills and Training recognizes the cadet program as a "Ministry-accepted External Course" for which students may receive graduation credit. Cadets attending grades 10, 11, and 12 can earn four credits each year by meeting specific levels of cadet training or qualification. Most corps feature a band with professional music instructors.

ARMY CADET SUMMER TRAINING

The Canadian Forces is responsible for the selection, training, employment and payment of summer training staffs. Summer training involves courses lasting from two to six weeks, depending upon the previous experience of the cadets. Approximately 8,500 Army cadets attend the ten Army Cadet Training Centres in Canada each summer. They participate in activities such as parachuting, outdoor survival training, music studies, space studies, and leadership training. Senior cadets have the opportunity to be employed as summer training centre staff to supervise junior cadets in a similar manner as young camp counsellors might at a civilian summer camp.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES

In addition to travel within Canada, international exchanges provide a unique experience for selected senior cadets each summer. Selected on merit, these cadets visit foreign locations such as the United Kingdom, several European countries, including Norway, Sweden, Germany, and the Netherlands. Cadets on exchange represent Canada as youth ambassadors abroad, and participate in training or cultural activities with their foreign cadet counterparts.



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Army Cadet Summer Training Centre Vernon is the Army cadet summer training location in BC, although you may find Army cadets at the other cadet summer training centres as staff cadets or in the band program. In addition to the benefits of experiencing different cultures and meeting new people from all over Canada and the world, cadets undergoing summer training receive a weekly training cash bonus. Cadet summer training represents an accumulation of annual corps training and is an incentive to participate in future cadet, community, and Canadian Forces activities. The combination of local unit training and summer camp offers a high standard of instruction and presents a challenge to society's future leaders.

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