



# Pacific Region Cadets

## ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADETS



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

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## BACKGROUND

## DOCUMENTATION

### ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADETS

#### GENERAL

Royal Canadian Air Cadets is a national co-educational youth organization sponsored in partnership by the Canadian Forces and the civilian Air Cadet League of Canada. Nationally, 25,000 young men and women aged 12 to 18 years take part in training programs at 460 local Squadrons 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. Air 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 their 19th birthday.

#### CADET ACTIVITIES

The aim of Royal Canadian Air Cadets is to:

- a. developing 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 Air Cadets participate in local training one evening during the week and irregularly on weekends. Air cadet activities are centred on aeronautics 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 has life long value such as organization of community projects, first aid training, outdoor survival, and firearms safety. Cadets learn skills and qualifications that may lead to employment later in life including pilot's license, athletic leadership and public speaking, air traffic control 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 Air 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 and local administration.

### THE PROGRAM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

In British Columbia there are about 3,600 Air Cadets enrolled in 51 Squadrons 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.

### AIR 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 10,000 cadets attend the seven Air Cadet Training Centres in Canada each summer. They participate in activities such as gliding and power flying qualifications, outdoor survival training, aeronautic studies, space studies, leadership training, and air traffic control.

### INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES

In addition to travel within Canada, international exchanges provide a unique experience for 70 selected senior cadets each summer. Selected on merit, these cadets visit foreign locations such as the United Kingdom, several European countries, Japan, Singapore, and the United States. 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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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.

Air Cadet Summer Training Centre Albert Head is the air cadet summer training location in BC, although you may find air cadets at Canadian Forces Base Comox for the pilot license program and at the Vernon Army Cadet Summer Training Centre 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 a summer course offers a high standard of instruction and presents a challenge to society's future leaders.

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