



# Pacific Region Cadets

ROYAL CANADIAN SEA CADETS  
ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADETS  
ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADETS

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THE CANADIAN CADET ORGANIZATION IS A NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE CANADIAN FORCES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CIVILIAN ARMY CADET, AIR CADET, AND NAVY LEAGUES OF CANADA

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## BACKGROUND

## DOCUMENTATION

### ROYAL CANADIAN SEA, ARMY AND AIR CADETS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### GENERAL

Royal Canadian Sea Army and Air Cadets are national co-educational youth activities sponsored in partnership by the Canadian Forces and the Civilian Air Cadet, army Cadet and Navy League of Canada. Nationally, about 55,000 young men and women aged 12 to 18 years take part in training programs at more than 1,100 local corps and 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.

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 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### CADET ACTIVITIES

The aim of the Cadet Organization is to:

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

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 as Canadian Forces Officers in Cadet Instructors Cadre and returning that which they have been afforded as cadets. 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 cadets participate in local training one evening during the week and irregularly on weekends. Sea Cadet activities are centred on seamanship and leadership, army cadet activities emphasis the outdoors and adventure training, and air cadet training is directed towards aeronautics and flying. The program has a sports component that includes outdoor activities. Most units have a band program that is supported by summer training. In BC 1,600 teenage musicians perform with 90 cadet unit bands. Many cadets perform in school and community bands as well. Four hundred cadets attend 6-week summer music courses where they receive daily professional instruction. Many aspects of cadet training have life long value such as leadership and organization, first aid training, outdoor survival, and firearms safety. Cadets learn skills and qualifications that may lead to employment alter in life including diesel mechanic, cook, medical attendant and pilot. 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, Air Cadet and Navy League, local sponsors including service clubs, veteran's organizations, schools and parents groups support individual cadet units. These local sponsors provide support and equipment for optional training activities, local administration, and accommodation and insurance.

## THE PROGRAM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

In BC there are about 8,000 cadets enrolled in 132 corps and squadrons in 75 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 may earn four credits each year by meeting specific levels of cadet training or qualification.

## SUMMER TRAINING

The Canadian Forces is responsible for the selection, training, employment and payment of summer training centre staff. Summer training involves courses that may last from two to eight weeks, depending upon the experience of the cadets and the nature of the instruction.

## SEA CADET SUMMER TRAINING

Approximately 4,100 cadets attend the eight Sea Cadet Summer Training Centres in Canada each summer. Sea Cadets from across Canada come to HMCS QUADRA at Comox, BC. They participate in activities such as sailing, seamanship, and cruises in HMCS ships. Two person sea cadet crews from across Canada participate annually in the national sea cadet regatta that is held at Kingston, Ontario each year.



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## ARMY CADET SUMMER TRAINING

More than 8,000 army cadets receive training in leadership, citizenship, and teamwork during summer training. In order to achieve this training they participate in mountaineering, parachuting, wilderness trips, firearms safety and leadership and challenge courses. Army Cadet Summer Training Centre, Vernon, BC has hosted thousands of army cadets each summer for more than a half-century.

## AIR CADET SUMMER TRAINING

Courses offered to the 8,500 air cadets who attend summer training include powered flight and glider pilot training, athletic instructor training and instruction in air traffic control, aircrew survival and space exploration. Air Cadet Training Centre Albert Head, near Victoria, BC is the centre of air cadet summer training in BC with the flying scholarship program centred at Canadian Forces Base Comox.

## 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, Japan, Singapore, and the United States. Sea cadets are eligible to sail in Canadian Navy ships on extended deployments to Europe and Asia. Cadets on exchange represent Canada as youth ambassadors abroad, and participate in training or cultural activities with their foreign cadet counterparts.

## SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Senior cadets have the opportunity to be employed as summer training centre staff to supervise junior cadets in a similar manner as young camp counselors might at civilian summer programs.

Cadet summer training represents an accumulation of annual corps training and is an incentive to participate in future cadet, community and Canadian Forces activity. In addition to the benefits of meeting new people from all of Canada and the world and experiencing different cultures, cadets undergoing summer training receive a weekly training cash bonus. The combination of local unit training and summer training offers a high standard of instruction and presents a positive challenge to society's future leaders.

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