

TO PARENTS USAFA CADETS AND CADET CANDIDATES!

What are Air Force Academy Parents' Clubs? Why do we need them? Why should parents join?

There are currently 90 Air Force Academy Parents' Clubs around the country. Each club is independently "owned and operated" by parents who have cadets enrolled at USAFA.

Parents' clubs exist because the Service Academy experience is not like any other college. If you are not an academy graduate, it is difficult to comprehend it. While parents of cadets and graduates may not understand what it's like to be a cadet, they do know what it's like to be the parent of a cadet. Parents' clubs exist to pass on that experience to new parents so they can learn faster and be more supportive.

Parents' clubs exist to help parents support their cadets. The Academy experience is not designed to be "fun," at least not all the time, and especially not the first year! How do you support your cadet and encourage success? One thing has significantly changed the cadet way of life – e-mail. Cadets can (once the academic year begins) contact their parents daily, but this is a mixed blessing. It may make the cadet feel better to tell Mom and Dad what a miserable day s/he had, but Mom and Dad may be alarmed by what they hear. How do you know when your cadet is just "venting" and when s/he is saying, "I'm not sure this is right for me?" Parents' clubs can help. Parents' clubs are support groups for parents who want to help their children be successful in an environment with which the parents may be totally unfamiliar.

Parents' clubs exist because, try as we may, the hardships associated with the regimen cannot be adequately articulated. The pressures on the cadets and their parents are enormous from the very beginning and these pressures often disrupt communications between the students and the parents. Selection to attend the Air Force Academy is prestigious and comes with a full scholarship, but it is decidedly not for everyone. "How do I deal with the fact that my son/daughter may not want to stay at the Academy?" "How can I help my son/daughter make the right decision?" These are questions that parents' clubs can help answer.

Parents' clubs exist to have fun, and to have fun with their cadets. Shared experiences are usually more enjoyable than solitary experiences. Military balls, summer picnics, football parties, Parents' Weekend and trips to USAFA are just a few examples of activities that can be fun to do with your cadet and other cadets and parents.

Many clubs have orientations for the appointees and new parents prior to in-processing. This gives them the opportunity to ask questions of other cadet parents who have already "been there, done that." It's invaluable information!!

Parents' clubs exist to support the Academy. Parents' clubs help recruit other outstanding young men and women. They help host cadets when they travel for Academy-sponsored events. They sponsor tailgate parties at football games. They provide fans for "away" sporting events and cadet visits, and send goodie bags to cadets. They provide financial support for cadet activities, which make the Academy a more enriching experience.

There are a few recognized organizations that give gifts to cadets based on class year and by signing below you give permission for USAFA/CM to release contact information to those organizations. For example: coins or graduation gifts to all the cadets in a particular year class. These class year group organization points of contacts are carefully screened and briefed to not release privacy information. There is normally one class year group organization per class year. For example: 2020 Spirit Mission

PLEASE HAVE FILL OUT THE ENCLOSED CARD IMMEDIATELY SO WE CAN HAVE A LOCAL PARENT'S CLUB CONTACT YOU ABOUT PRE-INPROCESSING AND OTHER EVENTS. THIS PRIVACY ACT RELEASE IS USED FOR THE WHOLE TIME YOUR CADET OR CADET CANDIDATE IS AT USAFA.

For other information, please contact the USAFA Parents' liaison:

HQ USAFA/CM (Marie Nikovits)
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3100
USAFA CO 80840-5002
719-333-3828 toll free: 877-268-3383

e-mail: rose.nikovits@usafa.edu

Web site: <http://www.usafa.af.mil/Leadership/CadetDevelopment/ParentsClub.aspx>

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Please have a local parents' club or approved organizations contact my parents or myself. I give my permission to release the below information and my name, squadron, and P.O. Box number and my parents contact information.

Class Year: _____ (Year You Will Graduate)

Appointee's Signature: X _____

Parent(s) Signature: _____

Appointee's Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

Parents' Last Name _____ Dad's first name _____ Cell: _____

Parents' Last Name _____ Mom's first name _____ Cell: _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parents' Home Phone (_____) _____

Parents' E-mail _____

*****IF PARENTS LIVE SEPARATELY, COMPLETE THIS SECTION FOR THE OTHER PARENT*****

Parent Signature: _____

Parents' Last Name _____ Parent first name _____ Cell: _____

Parents' Last Name _____ Spouse first name _____ Cell: _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parents' Home Phone (_____) _____

Parents' E-mail _____

_____ **CHECK HERE IF YOU ARE GOING TO THE USAFA PREPARATORY SCHOOL INSTEAD OF THE ACADEMY**

_____ **PREPARATORY ACADEMIC CALENDAR YEAR (FOR EXAMPLE 2016-2017)**

Fill out and mail back to

HQ USAFA/CM (Marie Nikovits)
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3100
USAFA CO 80840-5002

Note: You can also sign/scan the form and send by e-mail to rose.nikovits@usafa.edu if that is easier.

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