PREPARING for OFFICERSHIP

With Emphasis
on
Air Force Academy
and
College AFROTC





Officer-Enlisted Focus

Line Officer

- Set up the plan
- General supervision
- New situations
- Scientific and engineering specialties

Enlisted

- Carry out the plan
- Detailed actions
- Routine situations
- Technical and vocational specialties

Some of 150 Line Officer Careers

- Operations
  - pilot
  - navigator
  - astronaut
  - air weapons control
  - ops management
  - air traffic controller
- Support
  - Finance
  - Personnel
  - Contracting
  - Manpower
  - Public affairs
- Science & Technical
  - Science and engineering
  - Acquisition management
  - Communications and computers
  - weather
- Sortie Generation & Logistics
  - Aircraft maintenance
  - Logistics
  - Intelligence

USAF Pilot & Navigator Vision Requirements



AF Vision Requirements

- For flying duties
  - uncorrected distant visual acuity of no worse than 20/50 (pilot) and 20/200 (navigator), correctable to 20/20 in each eye
  - uncorrected near visual acuity of no worse than 20/20 (pilot) and 20/40 (navigator), correctable to 20/20 in each eye
  - no color blindness
  - refractive error of +2.00/-1.00 in any meridian and 0.75 astigmatism (pilot) and =3.00/-2.25 in any meridian and 2.00 astigmatism (navigator)

AF Vision Requirements

- Changing refraction disqualifies you from all military programs
  - radial keratotomy (RK)
  - similar alteration to the cornea (orthokeratology)
  - possible waiver 12 months after
    - photorefractive keratectomy (PRK)
    - laser in-situ keratomileusis (LASIK), but permanently disqualifying for flying or special duty career fields
- Pilot and navigator qualified status is not determined until the year of graduation

Officership Begins Early



- *Page* at age 7 or 8
  - Left home
  - Run errands
  - Helped lady of household
  - Promptness, patience
  - Sword, lance, bow, hunting
- *Squire* at age 14
  - Silver spurs, helmet
  - Lived with knight as companion and servant
  - Strength, endurance
  - Social graces, manners

Suggested Preparation

Cumulative and Back-Fill

Grade	Action	Academics	Leadership (CAP)	Athletics
6	Adjust to being away from home, talk to military people	Chores, play a musical instrument	Encampment as airman, Phase I, II	Community Sports, Swimming
7	Visit military installations, develop inter-dependence and self-discipline	Touch typing, Foreign language, First Aid, CPR	Encampment as NCO, Phase II, CAC, NCO of Year	Intramural Sports
8	Visit academies	Foreign language, Computer suites	Mitchell, Summer Activities	Intramural Sports
9	First year grades count. Use ACT/SAT study books. Is college for you? Attend Grass Roots & ROTC Open House in late Fall	National Honor Society, Career Planning Course	Earhart, Encampment as junior officer, Summer Activities	Junior Varsity
10	Research post high schools. Is Science or Engineering for you?	National Honor Society Select major PLAN/PSAT Driver Education	Eaker, Encampment as field grade officer, Summer Activities, Phase III	Junior Varsity, Falcon Sports Camp
11	Apply to post high schools	National Honor Society ACT 29/SAT 650, Summer Seminar	Spaatz, Phase IV Scholarships, Summer Activities	Varsity
12	Paperwork follow through. Selection	National Honor Society ACT 29/SAT 650	Wing, Region, National Projects and Activities	Varsity

Preparation
Grades 6, 7, and 8





Grades 6, 7, and 8

- Work on inter-dependence & self-discipline
  - Food
    - Selecting and cooking
  - Clothes
    - Selecting, washing, ironing, sewing and mending
  - Money
    - Opening and using a savings account
    - Budgeting money and free time
    - Trading time and work for money (house, yard, car, odd jobs)
  - Relationships
    - Holy book study
    - Adults (parents, adult relatives, teachers, etc.)
    - Picking, keeping, developing friends
    - Watching out for others who look up to you

Grades 6, 7, and 8

- Work with other people
  - as follower, and as leader
- Learn not to be homesick
  - Travel away from home and parents, with peers, under responsible adult supervision
  - Examples are scout camping trips, band camps, CAP bivouacs, Summer Encampment, Cadet Conference
- Visit the Academy
  - Call first USAFA Visitors Center, 719.333.7745/7746
  - Talk to as many people as you can about the Academy, military life, etc.

Grades 6, 7, and 8

- Academics
  - Good study habits, study hard, get best grades
  - especially in highest English, math, science available
- Athletics
  - join sports team in school, park, recreation center
  - basketball, football, swimming, wrestling
  - no alcohol, marijuana, or illegal drugs
  - Falcon Sports Camps (although 10th to 11th grade recommended)
- Leadership
  - CAP, scouting, clubs
  - seek leadership positions

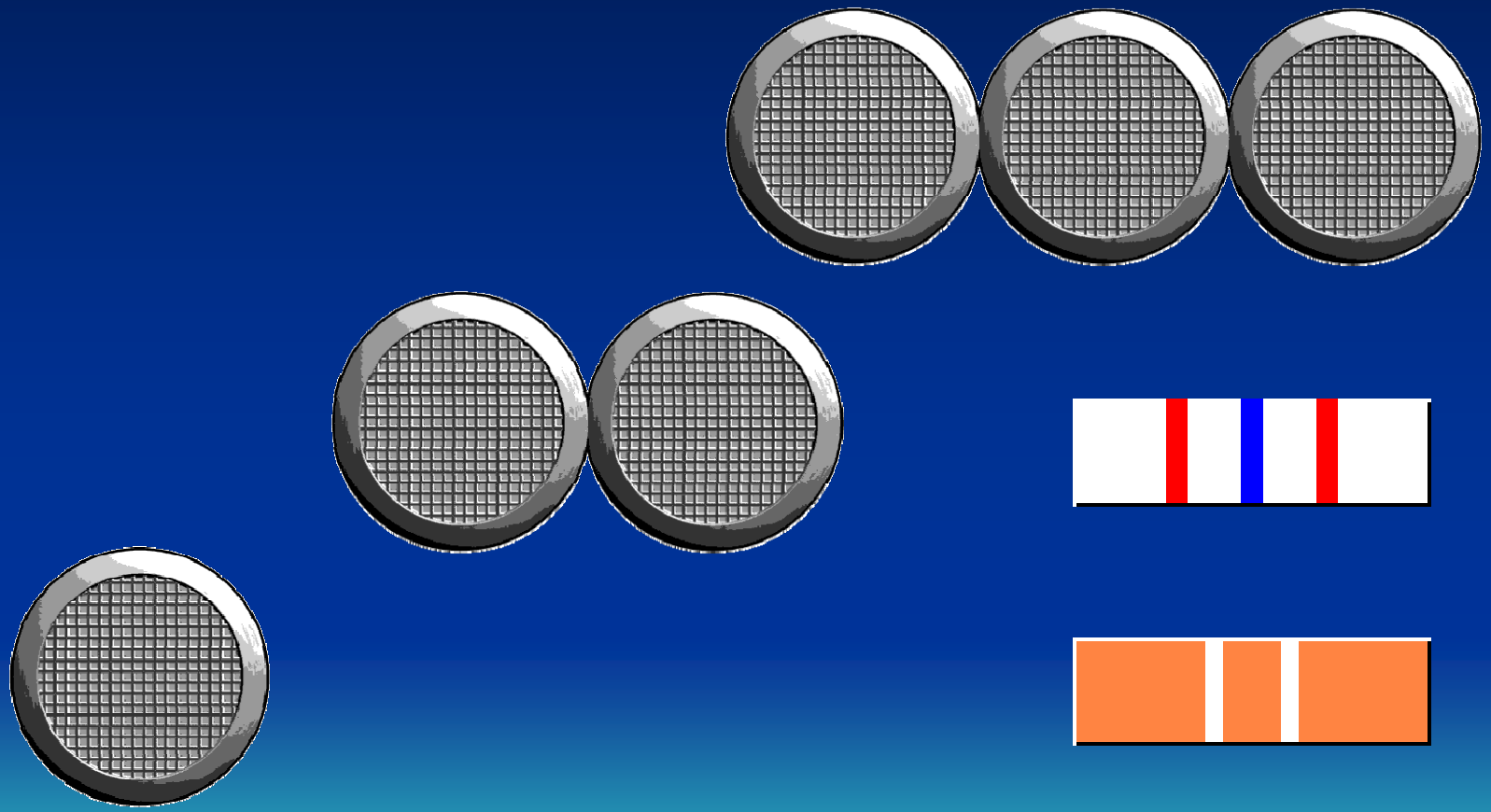
Home Schooling



Home Schooling

- Selected on same basis as traditional schooled
- Academics usually no problem
  - no Class Standing or GPA
  - so higher weight on ACT or SAT scores
- Leadership and Athletic activities is difficult
  - look for CAP, park or recreation center events, church, schools, neighboring school districts
- Recommend attend 1 full academic year of college to adjust to traditional environment
  - Valley Forge Military Junior College (1st 2 years only)

Grades 9 and 10



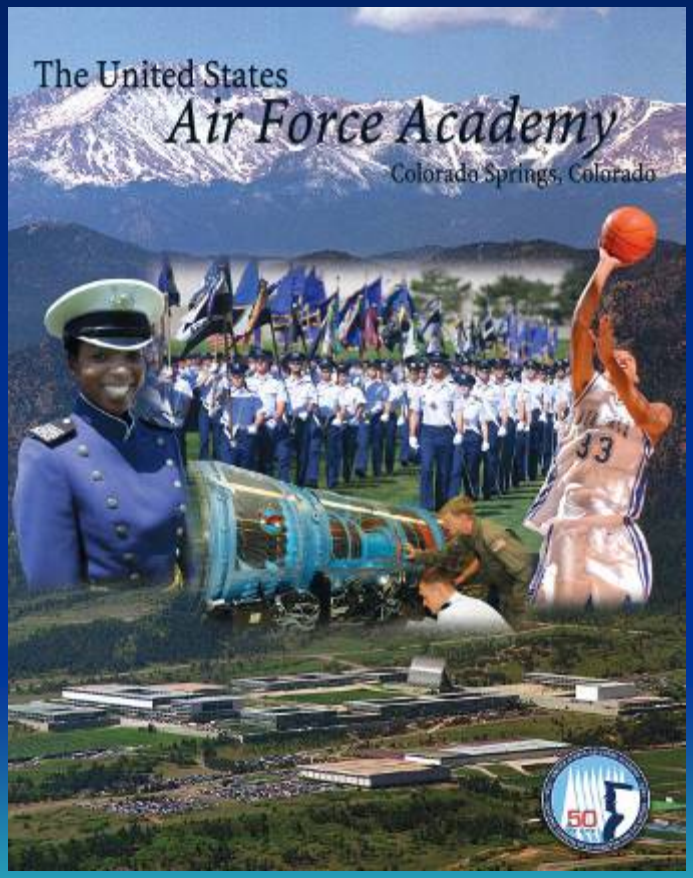
Grades 9 and 10

- While completing Mitchell 
  - Cadet Advisory Council
  - Compete for Cadet of the Year from your squadron
  - Complete Encampment as basic cadet
- Earhart through Spaatz Awards 
  - Apply for Wing, Region and National Activities
  - Apply for Encampments as cadet NCO and Officer
- All school grades count beginning in 9th grade
- Take PLAN/PSAT early in 10th grade, but do not expect best scores at that time

The Academy is not a College or University

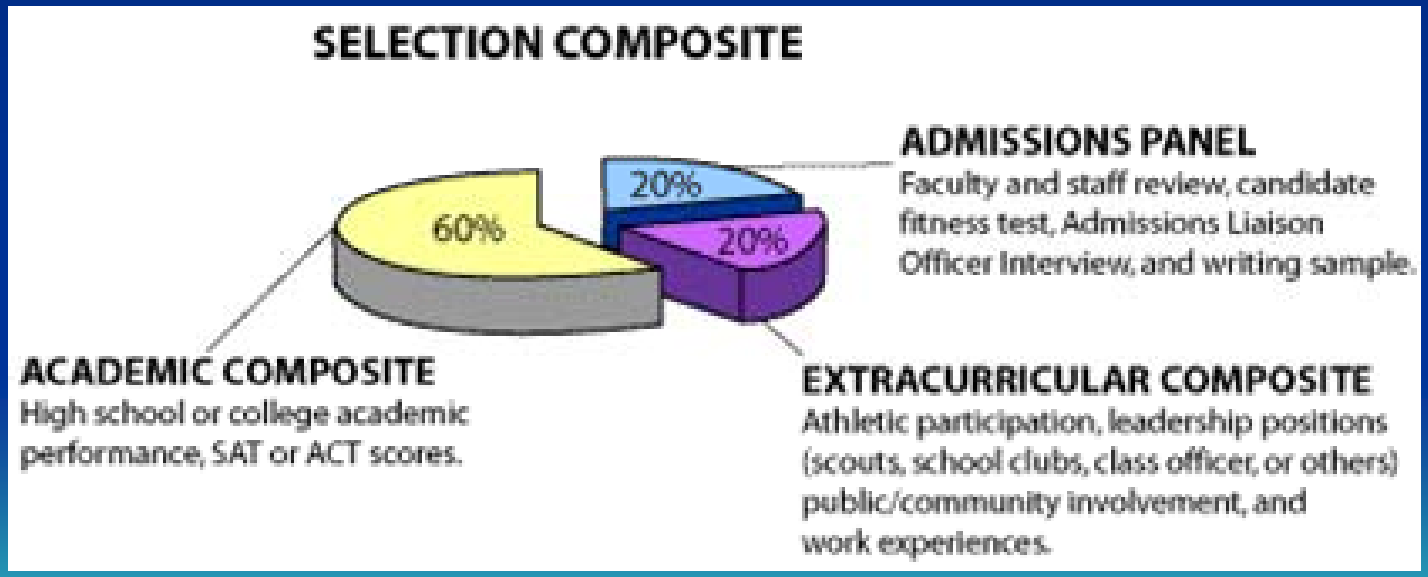
Academies
offer
Military Training, Character Development, Academics, and Athletics
to make
professional officers.

Colleges & Universities
offer
Academics and Athletics
to make
well-rounded civilians.



Grades 9 and 10

From now on, focus on academics, leadership, athletics



Academics (Core Courses)

- English 4 years
  - including college prep composition
- Math 4 years
  - algebra, geometry, trig, calculus (solid algebra better than calculus)
- Natural Science 4 years
  - chemistry, physics, computers
- Social Sciences 2 years
  - history, economics, government
- Foreign Language 2 years
  - German, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic

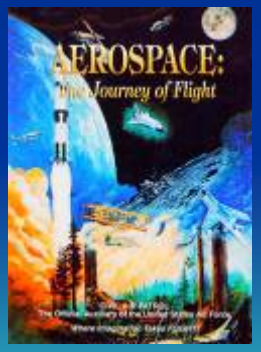
Academics (Electives)

- Other Courses
  - Study Skills
  - Touch Typing
  - Microsoft or Corel office suites and internet software
  - Science lab courses
  - Physical Education (learn to swim if you cannot now)
  - Career Planning (Interests, Aptitudes, Values Tests)
- High Standardized Test Scores
  - Sophomore year, take the PLAN, PSAT often
  - Junior year take SAT and/or ACT often

Why 60% Emphasis on Science & Engineering Academics?

Officers use sophisticated equipment

developed by science and engineering.





Leadership (Non-CAP)

- At least one non-athletic after school activity
  - school marching band, clubs, academic societies, publications
  - church, service clubs (Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Masons)
  - community groups (scouts)
  - part time jobs (paid or unpaid, summer and school year)
  - Big brother/sister
- Demonstrated leadership
  - Team captain, student government/club officer, national honor society membership, Valedictorian/Salutatorian, Eagle/Gold Award, Mitchell Award, JROTC awards

Leadership (CAP)

Civil Air Patrol

- Leadership
- Moral Leadership
- Physical Fitness
- Aerospace Education
- Emergency Services
- Encampment

Academy

- Cadet Military Training
- Character Development
- Basic Physical Training
- Intro Flight Training
- Combat Survival Training
- Basic Cadet Training

Why 10% Emphasis on Leadership?

No one has all the questions.

No one has all the answers.

No one has all the commitment.



Athletics

- At least one after school sport (intramural but Varsity letter preferred)
  - Rigorous team sport (preferred)
    - basketball, football
  - Strenuous individual sport
    - swimming, wrestling, tennis, handball, gymnastics
  - Aerobic sport
    - track, cross country, cycling
- Stay in shape, cross train, participate year round
- USAFA is 7,250 ft above sea level. Air is thin!

Why 10% Emphasis on Athletics?

Athletics, and athletic-like activities, simulate combat.





Grade 10 to 11 Summer: Falcon Sports Camp







Grade 10 to 11 Summer: Falcon Sports Camp

Benefits Toward USAFA Admission

- Work directly with USAFA varsity coaches
  - If done between grades 10 and 11, may help get on high school varsity team
- Close contact with USAFA and its cadets
- Attendance shows USAFA motivation and interest
- NOTE: This activity is “unofficial.” It is not directly counted on applicant’s admission score

Grade 10 to 11 Summer: Falcon Sports Camp

Day Activities

- Baseball
- Boy's Basketball
- Girl's Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Diving
- Fencing
- Football (non-contact)
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Ice hockey
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track/Cross Country
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

Grade 10 to 11 Summer: Falcon Sports Camp

Evening Activities

- Ice Skating
- Swimming
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Foosball
- Air Hockey
- Table Tennis

Grade 10 to 11 Summer: Falcon Sports Camp

Purpose

- For athletes ages 8 through 18
- Encourage teamwork
- Help build self-esteem
- Promote good character qualities
- Learn, practice and develop sport skills
- Build a passion for the sport

Grade 10 to 11 Summer: Falcon Sports Camp

Supervision

- Coached by USAFA intercollegiate coaches
  - Additional high school and college coaches assist
- Additional supervision by active duty officers
- Over 80 USAFA cadet counselors
  - Reside in the 2 Sports Camp dormitories—one for boys, one for girls
- Contracted security company for night security
- Medical staff

Grade 10 to 11 Summer: Falcon Sports Camp

Cost Estimates & Check-In

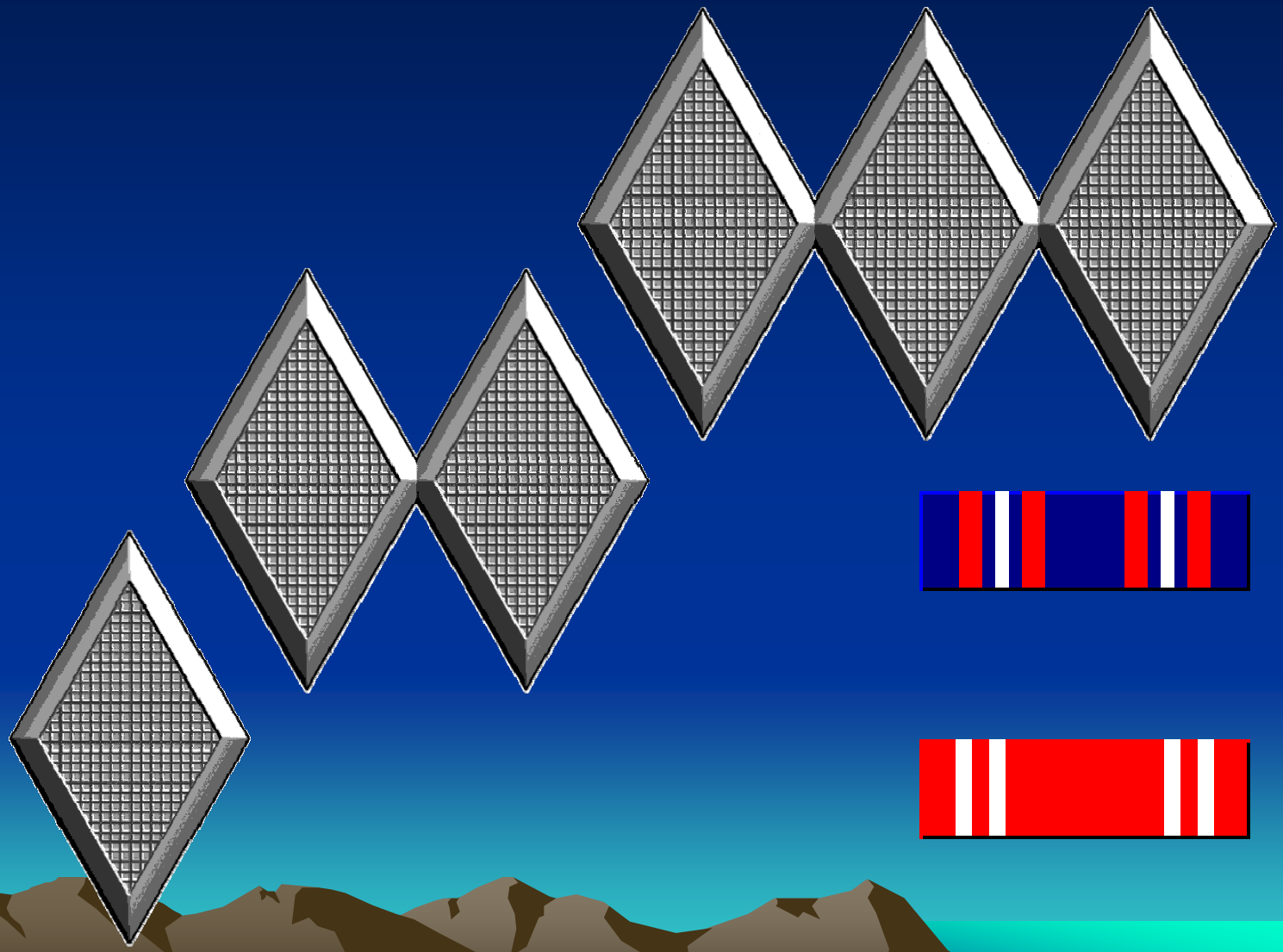
- Varies with sport
- Provide
  - Bed linen and toiletries
  - Round trip transportation
- $325 commuter (Week 1 or 2, June)
  - Check in Monday 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.
- $525 boarder (Week 1 or 2, June)
  - Check in Monday 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.
  - (must be at least 12 to be overnight boarder)
- $175 Week 3 (commuter only mini-camp, June)
  - Check in Sunday 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Grade 10 to 11 Summer: Falcon Sports Camp

Registration

- First come First serve—not competitive
- $100 non-refundable fee
  - Medical excuse required for waiver
- Months to register
  - Dec for on line registration
  - Feb for regular registration
- Register at www.airforcesports.com and click "Sports Camps" tab at top of page

Grades 11 and 12



Plan A:
First Try
First Choice

Grade 11

- Take SAT/ACT early in junior year, even if previous scores are competitive
- Request Applicant package, complete and return IMMEDIATELY or apply on line at www.academyadmissions.com. Apply for ROTC scholarship at www.afrotc.com/scholarships at the same time.
- Seek nomination under all categories you qualify for and complete Pre-Candidate Application

Grade 11

Dual Channel Application (Academies Only)

Must Do Both

Academy Admissions

- Apply
- Complete paperwork
- Interview
- Meet admission minimums
- Await direction of who to enroll from political official

Political Appointment

- Apply
- Complete paperwork
- Interview (for some)
- Meet admission minimums
- Rank order applicants
- Tell academy who to enroll

Grade 11

Academy/ROTC Interview

- Scales
  - Self-confidence
  - Human relations
  - Planning and organizing
  - Communications skills
  - Leadership
  - Motivation toward the service
  - BCT/Academy life preparation
- S/TAR
  - Situation/Task
  - Action
  - Result
  - Relationship to success at Academy
  - Quantify, if possible
- Writing sample

Why 20% on Admissions Panel?

Paperwork verified or clarified

Add things not covered in application

Demeanor, appearance in interview

Evaluate impromptu writing ability



Grade 11

Minimum Requirements

- top 40% of grad class
- 580 V, 610 M SAT
- 26 E/R, 27 M/S ACT

USAFA Average

- top 10% of grad class
- 650's SAT
- 28 to 30 ACT

Grade 11

CAP Cadet Performance Record

- 10 % of 4th Class
  - 5 % USMA
  - 4 % USNA
- 76 % of 10 % of 4th Class graduate
- 2 % more remain
- 5 % more graduate



Plan B:
First Try
Alternate Choices

Grade 11

- Apply to Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, Naval, Military academies
- Select an academic major or job family to focus on
- Select additional 3 to 5 colleges or universities (in addition to the academies)
  - CAP scholarships: Texas A & M, Auburn University College of Engineering, Spartan School of Aeronautics, Dowling College School of Aviation, Embry Riddle University
  - Academy Preparatory Schools
  - Colleges or universities with ROTC, with or without scholarship
- Visit all the schools, if possible

Grade 11 to 12 Summer

- Junior-Senior summer
  - Apply for CAP National Activities, especially…
    - Hawk Mountain Ranger School
    - National Ground Search and Rescue School
    - Pararescue Orientation Course
  - Earn the highest CAP milestone award you can
  - Other useful CAP courses
    - Ground team and ELT search
    - First aid and CPR
    - Ground survival
  - Get a summer job (paid or volunteer)
  - Apply for Summer Seminar at USAFA academyadmissions.com (or similar academy activity)

Grade 11 to 12 Summer

Summer Seminar Activities

- Glider Design
- Field Biology
- Lasers and Optics
- Intro to Airmanship
- Aerospace Physiology
- Aircraft Part Design
- Small Scale Rocket Design
- Space Operations
- Civil Engineering
- Intro to AF Aviation
- Mathematical Modeling
- Web Site Development

Grade 11 to 12 Summer

Summer Seminar Activities

- tours of local attractions
- physical aptitude exam (optional)
- pizza party
- field Olympics
- military obstacle course
- daily intramural sports



Grade 11 to 12 Summer

Summer Seminar daily schedule

- 0700-0740 breakfast
- 0755-1115 morning seminars
- 1150-1230 lunch
- 1240-1600 afternoon seminars
- 1630-1800 intramurals/PAE
- 1830-1900 dinner
- 1900-2300 recreation & personal time
- 2300 taps

Grade 11 to 12 Summer

Summer Seminar requirements

- 3.0 GPA or above on 4.0 scale
- One of the following
  - PSAT V 58, M 56
  - PLAN 24 Composite
  - SAT 580 V, 560 M
  - ACT E 24, M 25, R 24, SR 25
- Good physical condition
- Achievement in extra-curricula activities and leadership activities
- Resume, Letters of Reference, Interview

Grade 11 to 12 Summer

Summer Seminar other information

- 1800 apply, 600 selected
- $300 for registration, transportation, meals, room, workshop supplies, T-shirts, sweatshirt, sweatpants, cap, water bottle, duffel bag, and other fees and expenses
- financial assistance available
- arrange your own round trip transportation to and from Colorado Springs Airport
- some scholarships are available
- apply to similar programs at other academies
- two one-week seminars each June

Grade 12

- Senior
  - Take SAT/ACT again; nominal cost, everything to gain
  - March most are selected
  - If more than one offer, watch deadlines and decide

Academy and ROTC





Academy-ROTC (Status)

Academy

- generalist
- cadre
- always on call
- choice vacancies
- Regular commission
- 5-year obligation
- 6 navigator, 10 pilot

ROTC

- specialist (by major)
- augment cadre
- frequently on call
- left over vacancies
- Reserve commission
- 4-year obligation
- 6 navigator, 10 pilot

Academy-ROTC (Lifestyles)

Academy Military College ROTC

- academies free, scholarships vary
- less distractions
- less time to self
- more resources
- less privacy
- more structured day
- 7 days/wk military

Civilian College ROTC

- 2, 3, or 4 year programs, scholarships vary
- more temptations
- more time to self
- fewer resources
- more privacy
- less structured day
- 2 to 4 days/wk military

Military & Civilian ROTC

- Non-scholarship
  - No obligation for first two years
- Scholarship
  - Obligation
  - See www.afrotc.com/scholarships for details
- Scholarship and Non-Scholarship
  - Commissions 60 percent of all officers
  - AFROTC offered in 144 colleges and universities with cross town agreements with 900 more
  - Depends on College Major and career field shortages

Military & Civilian ROTC

- Total Scholarship Applicants: 15,782
- Total Eligible: 2,933
- Average of Eligibles
  - SAT 1226
  - ACT 28
  - GPA 3.62
- Minorities
  - 5,137 applicants
  - 610 eligible



Military College ROTC

- Virginia Military Institute (VA)
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VA)
- Texas A & M University (TX)
- The Citadel (SC)
- Norwich University (VT)
- Georgia Military College (GA)
- Marion Military Institute (AL)
- Valley Forge Military Junior College (PA)
  - First 2 years only

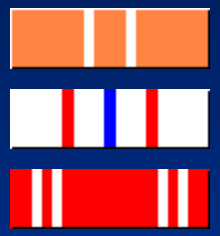
Civilian College ROTC

- Freshman and Sophomore
  - One class a week
  - One leadership day a week
- Junior
  - Three classes a week
  - One leadership day a week
- Summer Field Training Encampment
  - 4 weeks for 4-year program
  - 6 weeks for 2-year program
- Senior
  - Three classes a week
  - One leadership day a week

1 year

1½ years

2 years



Plan C:
Never
Quit

Grade 13 and Beyond

- Remain competitive--continue athletic and leadership activities
- Most applicants do not reapply. When you do, you are more mature and not a quitter
- You may reapply even if in ROTC from any service
- you can reapply to the USAFA until 23 by 1 July of the year you enter, if you stay single with no dependents
- you may enter Academy or ROTC with advanced academic standing, but still must complete the leadership curriculum.

Remember



- Your decision must be your own. Do not let parents or friends make it for you.
- Your paperwork must be your own. Do not have others answer questions or write for you.
- Your follow up must be your own. Do not rely on others to be sure all is correct, complete, gets where it should, when it should.