

Frequently Asked Questions On Cadets

What is the Aim of the Canadian Cadet Movement?

To develop good citizenship, promote physical fitness and stimulate an interest in the Canadian Forces. This does not however mean a commitment to join the Reserves or Regular Forces after cadets.

How long have Cadets been at St. Andrew's?

The cadet program at SAC started in 1905 and today is one of the largest cadet corps in the country.

Why does St Andrew's have a cadet program?

Over the years, the cadet program at SAC has served many purposes, often based on the needs of our country and community at the time. Today the most significant role of the program is its contribution to the development of leadership skills and knowledge and the practical opportunities that it provides in this regard.

Our Corps Mission expands on the role: "The Cadet Corps will be an integral part of St. Andrew's College life, operating in a manner that supports and compliments the school's mission and goals by providing a high quality and relevant program which:

- Emphasizes leadership and teamwork, while offering skills options based on personal interests;
- Focuses on learning by doing;
- Is supported by sufficient and qualified staff and instructors;
- Seeks opportunities to test and recognize cadet skills and knowledge by participating in organized competitions both inside and outside the cadet movement;
- Recognizes both individual and group achievement."

Who runs our cadet program?

The program is delivered under the leadership of **Captain Brian McCue CD, Director of Cadets**. Captain McCue is a trained member of the Cadet Instructors Cadre of the Canadian Forces Reserves.

The Piping and Drumming program is coordinated by **Mr. Jim McGillivray**, who has a very distinguished career as a piping competitor and teacher.

A large number of other faculty, staff and specialists from outside SAC also provide extensive support to the cadet program throughout the year. However, one of the strengths of the program is that senior cadets provide much of the leadership and daily instruction under the guidance of adult staff.

What is our relationship to the 48th Highlanders of Canada?

Since 1905, the 48th Highlanders has served as our affiliated unit. This means that they provide us with support in our training whenever possible and we have adopted their Highland uniforms and traditions. We also participate with them on ceremonial occasions from time to time like Remembrance Day.

Many students, who over the years have chosen to join the militia, have joined the 48th.

What is the expectation of students?

All students in Grade 8 and above are required to participate in the cadet program each week either in the Star training, optional training, music program, as a cadet instructor or in a senior leadership role. (For more on the training programs see below.)

Cadets are also required to participate in the annual Church Parade, Headmaster's Parade and Annual Inspection.

What opportunities does the Cadet Program at SAC offer?

The foundation is the cadet **Star Training** which has four progressive levels known as Green, Red, Silver and Gold Star. They cover a variety of material including basic cadet knowledge, map and compass, first aid, bush craft and hiking skills, basic marksmanship, drill, physical fitness, citizenship and public speaking. The Silver and Gold levels have a significant emphasis on instructional technique and leadership. All Grade 8 and 9 students are required to participate in the Green and Red levels of training unless they are in the cadet or pipe and drum band programs. Those students in senior grades, particularly those interested in cadet leadership roles, are encouraged to participate in Silver and Gold Star training however they may also choose to do an optional program instead.

The **Optional Program** includes a variety of skills training that may include rock climbing, SCUBA diving qualifications, driver education, lifesaving and cooking. Opportunities also exist through this program to work in one of our special Headquarters sections such as Quartermaster Stores, Administration or Public Affairs.

The **Cadet Music Program** includes one of the best cadet pipe bands in the country. Cadets may start in the piping or drumming program, as early as grade 6 and there is a small maintenance fee for use of the instruments. The Brass and Reed Band generally accepts members in Grade 9 or up.

Both the Brass & Reed and Pipe and Drum Band use a five level cadet music qualification standard through which participants progress and are the basis for promotion within the music programs. Cadets in the music program are also encouraged to qualify for their Star qualifications on a self-study basis.

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We also offer some **Special Programs** which include the Cadet Marksmanship and Biathlon Teams and participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Program. Involvement in special programs takes place in addition to the normal cadet training period and may involve weekend commitments. There is a nominal annual registration fee for the Duke of Edinburgh program.

Do Grade 6 & 7's participate in the cadet program?

Grade 6 & 7 students do not participate in cadet training during the fall and winter terms unless they choose to learn piping or drumming. In the third term they will participate in the daily drill instruction and march with the corps in several ceremonial activities such as the Church Parade and Annual Inspection.

How do Upper School new boys fit into the program?

We're prepared to work with each new boy to ensure that they can make the most of the cadet program at the grade in which they enter St. Andrew's.

Do we recognize previous cadet qualifications?

Yes. Confirmation of such qualifications from your previous unit will be requested. Those with Air, Sea or other cadet quals will be assessed to determine the appropriate equivalencies and rank.

When is the cadet program conducted?

During the Fall and Winter terms the cadet program is conducted each Thursday afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30 pm unless otherwise indicated. During the spring term cadets run everyday after classes for one hour until the annual inspection. Parents are asked avoid scheduling appointments or tutoring during cadet training as all students are expected to attend.

Other activities including Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions, field training, competitions, and shooting practices are conducted at other times of the week and on weekends and advance notice is given of these events.

What is the uniform and is it provided or purchased?

The formal cadet uniform is based on that of the 48th Highlanders and has been our dress uniform for most of the years since 1905. It includes a kilt of modern Gordon tartan, sporran, a red tunic, white belt, parade boots, white spats, hose tops, garter tabs and a glengarry headdress (and feather bonnets for the pipe band.)

This uniform costs more than \$1,200 and is loaned to each cadet for the duration of the year but must be returned before leaving the school for the summer. Cadets will only be charged for clothing that is not returned or with late return fees.

In addition to the dress uniform, each cadet is expected to purchase a cadet sweater for wear with school dress during Thursday training. Cadet officers may purchase the cadet officer tie. Both of these items are available from the Guild Shop.

Green knee socks are worn with the uniform on social occasions such as the mess dinner and cadet formal and can be purchased from the athletic stores.

How are cadet appointments and promotions made?

Junior promotions are primarily based on qualifications. A fixed number of senior appointments are also based on minimum qualifications however since there are often more qualified cadets than positions available, demonstrated and potential leadership skills and general participation in the cadet program and general school life will be taken into consideration.

What events can parents attend?

Parents are invited to attend several functions usually in April and May of each year. These include:

- Cadets in Concert
- The Church Parade
- The Headmaster's Parade
- The Annual Inspection

The specific dates and timing for these events are included on the school calendars and website.

What is the Annual Inspection?

The Annual Inspection is the ceremonial culmination of the regular cadet training year and highlight of the school calendar. The colourful parade is inspected by a guest Reviewing Officer who then takes the salute on various march pasts. These are followed by demonstrations of various elements of our program including a special performance by our Pipes and Drums. The afternoon, attended by hundreds of parents, old boys and guest of the school, is concluded with our Hollow Square and presentation of awards and recognition of outstanding cadet service. A reception is held in the Great Hall after dismissal.

Are there opportunities to attend cadet summer camps?

The cadet program conducts a variety of summer training programs ranging from 2 to 6 weeks for which a training allowance is provided to the cadet. Further information is available each spring from the cadet office.

Summer employment opportunities are also available for experienced pipers and drummers at the Citadel in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

What if I have other questions about the cadet program?

You can reach the SAC cadet office at 905-727-3178 ext 298 for general enquiries. For questions about the Piping and Drumming program, please call Jim McGillivray at ext 243. You might also wish to visit our cadet website for further information:

<http://kilby.sac.on.ca/cadets/cadets.htm>

