

Keeping you Informed

For everyone new to Army Cadets, the program can seem very confusing and the information overwhelming. The program offers all Cadets tremendous opportunities to develop their leadership and skills potential. Just understanding what is available for your son or daughter can be a big task. The Officers and Staff work hard to ensure communication about the program is clear and timely. We do this in 6 ways:

1. Our Website www.1596armycadets.ca

Here you will find up to date information on training and details about upcoming events and weekly dress requirements. This is where you will find all forms and permission documents. Everything about the 1596 Army Cadet program including weekly and weekend events, summer camps, exchanges and expeditions can be found on the website. The website is updated regularly and should be checked often for changes. The website will be your primary source of information on our program.

Note: For security purposes and for the safety of all our cadets, corps activities will be available to view with password privileges only. Only members of the corps and authorized parents and guardians will have access to this password. (See '1596 Vault' on the website main page) Passwords will be sent via email upon submission of the "Application Checklist for Cadets" form provided in the application package.

If there are last minute changes regarding training nights, weekend events and/or cancellations due to the weather, these announcements will be posting in the "Vault" on the website.

2. Facebook and Twitter

Be sure to follow us on Facebook (1596 Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada). We post the most current and up to date Corps news here first, including event cancellations and inclement weather. We also have a Twitter account (@1596armycadets) where we highlight the Corps special achievements throughout the year and share our involvement in the community as it happens.

3. Weekly Call

Each Monday or Tuesday night, every cadet household should receive a call from their Section Commanders to provide dress requirements and any other important information for the upcoming training night. Cadets may also receive a call from their Section Commanders if there are last minute changes regarding weekend events and cancellations due to the weather. The primary phone number you put on your forms will be the number used for these calls.

4. Email

Support Committee Newsletters will be published on a monthly basis and e-mailed out to all cadets and parents. It is important to keep your email address up to date. Newsletters will also be posted in the '1596 Vault' on the website.

5. Letters/Handouts

Occasionally letters or documents will be sent home with your Cadet detailing upcoming events and activities. We recommend parents come in at the end of the training night to hear if anything has been handed out. It is also a good idea to ask your Cadet if they have any received any letters or check their pockets.

6. Armoury White Board

The Armoury white board is located in the main lobby. Any important information for that day will be posted here. Be sure to come inside when you are picking up your cadet on training nights to see what's new.

When do we meet?

Our weekly training is held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm-9:30pm at the Royal Highland Fusiliers Armoury from September to June. Numerous weekend events are also scheduled throughout the year.

These events will all be posted on the website calendar. Many of these additional events are proposed or planned up to a year in advance, dates and details may change unexpectedly. Notification of such changes may be made by email, in a letter sent home, by phone or verbally to the cadet. Changes will be posted on the website and on Facebook as soon as possible.

When do I get my Dress Uniform?

Uniforms are free of charge and are expected to be provided after the cadet has been a member for 4-6 weeks. Uniforms can also be exchanged for a different size as the cadet grows. Cadets are responsible for their uniforms. They must be kept clean and pressed, with boots shined and all badges and rank insignia properly fastened. Uniforms are property of the Cadet Corps and must be returned when the cadet resigns or ages out. A full uniform includes: leather boots, pants, belt, short sleeve shirt, socks, tunic, beret and winter jacket. At times, back orders of uniform parts can extend the 4-6 week estimate substantially.

Attendance

At 1596, like any other organization such as school, work or sports teams, high attendance is important for its success. Cadets must maintain a minimum of 60% attendance in order to pass into the next star level. A higher than 60% attendance is required for advancement beyond the level of Warrant Officer. Prior year's attendance records will be considered.

Attendance is also one of the criteria used to determine who will be selected to attend advanced training including the elite Rocky Mountain Leadership and Challenge Course and the many summer exchanges and expeditions available around the world. This is one area where parents have a huge impact. Encourage your cadet to attend as many nights as possible. When your Cadet is not able to attend the weekly parade night or a mandatory event, it is important to notify the Corps immediately by phone (519-581-0687). EMAIL OR FACEBOOK POSTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS A MEANS OF CALLING IN YOUR ABSENCES. Absences with a recognized excuse are counted differently in the Cadets attendance record but still contribute toward the 60% minimum threshold.

It should also be noted that in order to be eligible to participate on any of the optional teams, cadets must participate in regular training activities (Wednesday nights, tagging, FTXs). This privilege may be revoked should regular attendance not be maintained.

The weekly dress requirements will vary each week so how do I know what to wear on Wednesday Night?

The required order of dress is identified by a number and a description. C-2 Full Dress means complete uniform; C-2A Summer Dress is the complete uniform without the tunic, epaulettes attached to the shirt shoulders. A complete description of the numbered orders of dress and Cadet dress regulations is available on the website in the "Vault".

Civilian dress is normal street clothes with a few requirements. Pyjama pants, jeans, flip-flops and crocs are not allowed during training events. Cadets must dress in 'acceptable' athletic clothing for sports nights. While at a cadet event, it is never appropriate for cadets to wear anything that is too high, too low, or too tight, and no offensive logos or wordings shall be visible on either the shirt or the pants.

New cadets without uniforms should wear a white collared dress shirt and black dress pants with black shoes when full or summer dress is required. Weekly dress requirements are also posted on the website with the training schedules on the Training tab in the "Vault".

What is Canteen?

Canteen is the term given to break time during Wednesday training nights. Cadets can purchase canned beverages, chips, chocolate bars and other snacks. It is the cadet's sole responsibility to acknowledge any food allergies that they may have. The corps will not be held responsible for any health related injuries due to food allergies. We strive to be nut-free but we cannot guarantee that the facilities are.

Mandatory Events

Some events throughout the year are designated as mandatory in terms of participation. Some of these events include tagging days, November poppy drive and Remembrance Day Ceremonies, to name a few. These mandatory events will be listed in the events calendar posted in the '1596 Vault' on the website.

Tagging days are held during 2 weekends per year (one in the fall and one in the spring) and raise most of the money used by all cadets to fund the many events they will participate in. Money raised by the 1596 Corps stays with the 1596 Corps. Cadets that do not complete tagging requirements will not be eligible to participate in subsidized events at the Commanding Officer's discretion. Cadets must participate in mandatory events in order to be eligible for advanced training, international exchanges and summer camps.

Many events, such as parades, qualify as high school community service hours and records should be maintained throughout the year. It is the cadet's responsibility to provide their forms to the Officers and should be done within 2 weeks of the event.

The Support Committee will provide all cadets a "Qualification Tracking Sheet" indicating the level of commitment expected in order to participate in the year end trip. This form requires signatures from the cadet and their parent/s and needs to be handed in.

I cannot get my Cadet to an event this week

If you are unable to bring or pickup your cadet from the weekly training or a weekend event, please arrange car-pooling with other cadet families. Your cadet's attendance is important and every effort should be made to ensure they get to these events. If you are able to help with rides we would also like to hear from you. It is encouraged that cadets share their phone numbers with each other should a ride issue occur.

Bullying, Harassment and Abuse

Bullying, harassment and abuse in the cadet program is not tolerated. Each Corps has a Unit Cadet Conflict Management Advisor (UCCMA) that investigates all reports of bullying, harassment and abuse. Cadets found in violation of the policy face disciplinary action ranging from a written reprimand up to and including termination from the Cadet program and even criminal prosecution. That said it is important that cadets or parents bring to the attention of Officers or Staff any issues they feel could be considered bullying, harassment or abuse.

Do I need to buy anything for my Cadet?

Cadets are required to bring a note pad and pen with them each Wednesday night except for sports nights.

For use during field training exercises (FTX) and camping trips most sleeping bags and equipment are provided however Cadets are permitted to bring their own if they choose. We recommend a high quality sleeping bag with a minimum of a -15C temperature rating.

Cadets will also be provided with one set of Field Training Uniforms (FTU) which are Canadian military style solid green combat pants, tunic and black combat boots, as available and provided from the Department of National Defence (DND). Green t-shirts and green military sweaters are not provided but cadets may purchase them on their own if they wish. These are used during Field Training Exercises and on some Wednesday night events. FTUs are available at army surplus stores (ie. ABC Military Surplus – 46 Queen St S Kitchener or KW Surplus – 666 Victoria St N Kitchener)

Who pays for the extra events?

The cost of extra events is either fully covered or subsidized by money raised by cadets during the 2 annual tagging weekends and fundraising. The costs for some of the camping activities and training is covered by the Department of National Defence (DND). Cadets will be advised in advance if they are required to pay for part of an event.

Summer Camps

Summer camp is optional and not automatic. Cadets may apply to several courses offered in the program however acceptance is solely chosen by the Department of National Defence, not by the Corps. First year cadets attend for 2 or 3 weeks depending on the course; second year cadets attend for 3 weeks and 3rd year - 7th year cadets attend up to 6 weeks. All transportation, food, clothing and accommodations are provided for free. Applications for camp are provided in early January. Most cadets will attend the Blackdown summer training facility located in Borden near Barrie while some will attend the Connaught training facility near Ottawa. Summer camp eligibility may be affected by poor attendance at events and on weekly parade night. An attendance rate of no less than 60% must be maintained for Wednesday parade nights in order to be considered eligible to attend summer camp.

What is the Support Committee?

The 1596 Support Committee is a group of volunteer parents and interested citizens who assist with the operation of the Cadet Corps. Their primary function is to raise funds for the operation of the Corps as well as to assist with recruiting and other administrative tasks.

Most committee members are in attendance every Wednesday during training nights at the armoury however they also meet monthly to discuss cadet business. Members of the Support Committee often participate in weekend events such as camping trips and Field Training Exercises.

The Support Committee is always looking for new members. Everyone is welcome and your help is appreciated. You can participate as little or as much as you want. Contact the Chair for more information or check out the Volunteer section on the website.

Still have questions?

Feel free to talk to an Officer or a member of the Support Committee. They are available every Wednesday night during training night or send an email to 1596armycadets@gmail.com

Some useful websites are as follows:

www.armycadetleague.ca

www.armycadetleague.on.ca

www.armycadethistory.ca

www.cadets.ca

Welcome to 1596!

Captain Henri Jacquot
Commanding Officer