

803 North Shore Sabre Squadron

Parent's booklet



On behalf of the Air Cadet League, the Department of National Defence, and the officers, cadets and Sponsoring Committee of 803 North Shore Sabre Squadron, we would like to welcome you and your son/daughter.

BACKGROUND

The Air Cadet program was supported by the Air Cadet League in 1941 when a group of civilian volunteers set up a countrywide voluntary organization to help stimulate an interest in flying and aviation. Many cadets eventually entered wartime service with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). Following the end of the war, the Air Cadet program remained in place. Its role changed to meet the changing needs of society and its young people.

803 North Shore Sabre Squadron opened its door in 1971 and has been serving the youth and community of the West Island for close to 47 years. The aims of the Air Cadet program are as follows:

- * To develop the attributes of good citizenship and leadership
- * To promote physical fitness
- * To stimulate the interest of youth in aviation and aeronautics

Some cadets chose to pursue their interest in aviation through a career in the Canadian Forces. However, there is no obligation to do so.

Everything we do in Air Cadets can be summed up in the motto of program:

TO LEARN, TO SERVE, TO ADVANCE.

We are pleased that your son/daughter is among us in Canada's premier youth program.

THE PARTNERSHIP

The Royal Canadian Air Cadet Program is a unique partnership between the Department of National Defense and the Air Cadet League of Canada. Each squadron is sponsored by a local organization. 803 North Shore Sabre Squadron is supported locally by the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 234 General Vanier, in Roxboro.

The Commanding Officer (CO) is responsible for the control, welfare and training of the cadets, as well as for supervising the operation of the squadron and the implementation of the training program. The CO and his/her team organize the training program according to nationally set standards, as well as plan and implement various training activities. Each squadron is staffed by a group of officers, civilian instructors and volunteers under the direction of the CO.

The Squadron Sponsoring Committee (SSC), under the rules of the Air Cadet League of Canada, supports the Squadron by managing finances, organizing fundraising activities, providing transport and facilities. The funds raised make possible optional activities and programs, such as citizenship trips that are not fully funded by the Canadian Forces. At the provincial and national level, the Canadian Forces and the Air Cadet League work cooperatively to provide the necessary structure, guidance and resources to support the squadrons at the local level. This includes provision of uniforms and training for officers and

cadets, aircrafts and gliders for the gliding program, as well as administrative support for squadrons' SSC.

Without this unique partnership, the Air Cadet program would not be as successful as it is today.

CADET RESPONSIBILITIES

1) *Attending Mandatory Training Nights, Optional Training Activities and Parades*

It is important for cadets to attend training nights regularly. Cadets who do not attend may fall behind in their training and will not be as successful. Attendance record is considered for promotions, awards and summer camp selection. In addition, cadets who choose to sign up for other activities, such as Band, Drill Team, and fundraising events, are expected to respect their commitment. Attendance at special parades, such as the Annual Ceremonial Review, is critical. If your son/daughter has a legitimate reason why he/she cannot attend a squadron activity, advise the Squadron as soon as possible by calling the Squadron at 514-421-0803, or preferably by clicking Administration on the website www.803squadron.com.

1) *Fundraising - L'Auto-Cadet Tickets*

Cadets are expected to sell at least 60 L'Auto-Cadet tickets. This important fundraising activity helps the Squadron finance various activities in which they take part. Cadets who do not reach this quota will be considerably disadvantaged in the evaluation grids for the attribution of awards, summer camps and promotions. The Sponsoring Committee offers various opportunities to the Cadets to sell their L'Auto-Cadet tickets through blitzes and door-to-door. Cadets may be required to participate in other fundraising events, such as a walkathon, and bagging at supermarkets.

1) *Taking Care of the Uniform*

Until new recruits receive their uniform, recruit cadets will be required to wear a white shirt and black (or dark) pants. The uniform that will be issued, at no charge, is valued at over \$500. It is critical that the cadet takes care of his/her uniform, keeps it cleaned and pressed, and is returned when he/she leaves the Squadron or outgrows the uniform. Each cadet is given training on how to look after the uniform.

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

You can do a great deal to help your son/daughter become successful in the Air Cadet Program. The most important thing is to show an interest in his/her success and training, and to support him/her during the year. There are many other ways that you can help your son/daughter be successful. These include: Staying informed!

Visit the 803 website to keep updated on all Squadron Activities at www.803squadron.com

Helping him/her organize after-school time so that there will be time for schoolwork and Air Cadets.

Reminding him/her to look after the uniform (washing, drying, pressing, shining, etc.).

Including Air Cadet Activities, such as weekend training, on the family calendar.

Ensuring that your son/daughter arrives on time to training nights and events.

Encouraging your son/daughter to participate in Squadron teams and optional activities. The more he/she puts into the Squadron, the more he/she will get out of the program.

PROMOTIONS & AWARDS

Promotion in the Air Cadet Program is based on merit and leadership abilities. In order to be considered for promotion, a cadet must first meet certain national standards (attendance, completion of training level). These establish the minimum standards for promotion. Our Squadron sets additional points of consideration for promotion selection, such as level of participation in fundraising activities, participation in optional training activities, as well as dress, drill and deportment. Cadets may move up in the hierarchy (Leading Air Cadet, Corporal, Flight Corporal, Sergeant, Flight Sergeant, etc.) and gain responsibilities. The decision to promote a cadet is made by the CO in consultation with other members or the Squadron staff, the Squadron Cadet Commander and the Sponsoring Committee.

Cadets are always provided the opportunity to review their promotion point results. Cadets are also eligible for Squadron awards and scholarships for outstanding performance in various fields (academics, athletics, flying, fundraising, leadership, music, etc.)

SUMMER TRAINING COURSES

Each year, thousands of Air Cadets have the opportunity to attend courses at summer training centres throughout the country. Courses run two, three, six or seven weeks and cover a wide range of subjects from general training to music, athletics, aircrew survival, leadership and flying. Senior cadets also have the opportunity for summer employment.

There is no cost to attend summer courses; however, the available spaces are limited. The CO establishes a priority list for each summer course. A cadet's position on the priority list is determined by a number of factors such as attendance, the cadet's training level, interest and aptitude in the particular course, participation in Squadron fundraising, previous summer training and level of effective participation in local Squadron activities.

GETTING INVOLVED

There are many ways that adults can get involved with the Air Cadet Program:

Join the Squadron Sponsoring Committee

The Sponsoring Committee needs you! The committee meets once a month. If you have some time to commit or any skills that might be useful to the Sponsoring Committee (such as accounting, fundraising, public relations, administrative/secretarial skills or just have creative ideas), please contact any member of the Sponsoring Committee.

Any adult who wishes to work with Air Cadets must be registered and screened by the Sponsoring Committee or the Canadian Forces. This process includes a reference check and a criminal record check.

Become a Volunteer

Cadets (your son/daughter and others at the Squadron) always need your help. Please feel free to speak to any member of the Sponsoring Committee for further details. There is always a need for volunteers.

Corporate Sponsoring

Are you employed and can your employer sponsor the Squadron? Did you know that tax receipts are given for all donations? Can you sponsor the Squadron in any way? Feel free to speak to any member of the Sponsoring Committee.

Become a Civilian Instructor

If you can devote time on a regular basis to the Squadron, or if you have special knowledge (meteorology, propulsion, etc.) or skills (flying, aircraft modelling, teaching, etc.), you could become a Civilian Instructor or a military member of the Cadet Instructor Cadre. Civilian Instructors are considered part of the Squadron staff and may receive some pay for their efforts. The amount of volunteers on staff is unlimited, as any experience shared with the cadets is an asset to the Squadron.

