



West Point

FACT SHEET

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Graduation 2006 Questions and Responses

BAR PINNINGS

Where do the bar pinnings take place, when?

Please ask your cadet. The location of bar pinning ceremonies will vary. They may begin as soon as your cadet has completed final clearing after graduation.

CONSTITUTION ISLAND

How do I get to Constitution Island?

Constitution Island can be reached by boat from South Dock. The boat departs every half hour from 1-5:30 p.m. on May 24-25. There will be a bus running continuously from Eisenhower Hall tunnel to South Dock from 12:30-6 p.m. on these days.

DRESS

What should I wear for the banquet and hop?

The civilian dress for these events is formal. The suggested dress for men is a tuxedo or conservative business suit and a long or short formal dress for ladies.

What should I wear for the Graduation ceremony?

The suggested civilian dress is a business suit or coat & tie for men and afternoon dress or suit for ladies. Please note that umbrellas, backpacks and coolers will **NOT** be allowed into the stadium.

ENTERING WEST POINT

What gate should I enter?

Guests should use the Thayer or Stony Lonesome gates to enter the U.S. Military Academy grounds. Washington Gate is reserved for those with DoD decals on their vehicles and with military or civilian DoD identification.

What kind of security should I expect?

Individuals age 16 or older are required to show photo identification. When approaching the gates, please have identification out and ready to present to the gate guards. All vehicles are subject to search.

EVENTS PRIOR TO GRADUATION

What time is the graduation parade?

The graduation parade is at 10:30 a.m., Friday, May 26. It will be cancelled only in the event of severe inclement weather.

What if I don't have a ticket for the graduation parade?

Bleacher seating is by ticket only. Tickets are available through members of the Class of 2006. There will be standing room available for those without tickets.

Where will my cadet be standing during the graduation parade?

1st Regiment will be near sections A, B & C

2nd Regiment will be near section D, E & F

3rd Regiment will be near sections G, H & I

4th Regiment will be near section I, J & K

Brigade Staff will be near the Superintendent's Review Box and Stands (seating in those sections is by invitation only).

How can I meet/find my cadet after the graduation parade?

We recommend coordinating in advance to meet your cadet in a particular spot. Otherwise you may look for them near the area their company was standing.

What time is the Graduation Banquet? Who can attend the banquet?

The graduation banquet begins at 7 p.m., and goes until 8:30 p.m. Cadets are limited to 4 tickets in the Cadet Mess, Bldg. 745. Anyone can attend as long as they have a ticket.

Are there any TV viewing areas for the Graduation Banquet for those who do not have a ticket?

The West Point Club (845-446-5545) and Hotel Thayer (845-446-4731 x7927) will be serving dinner. Tickets must be purchased by your cadet in advance. A video link of the banquet in the Cadet Mess will be available at both locations. Tickets are required for this seating and are currently sold out. You may request to be put on a waiting list for seating. In addition the banquet will be televised on the Command Channel, local channels 8 and 23.

What time is the Graduation Hop? Where is it held? Who can attend the Hop?

The Hop begins at 9 p.m. and runs to 1 a.m., it is held in the ballroom at Eisenhower Hall. Anyone can attend the Hop. No tickets are required.

What time is the Awards Convocation? Where is it?

The ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. in Eisenhower Hall Theater.

Can I go to the Awards Convocation if my cadet isn't receiving an award?

Yes. The Awards Convocation is open to all visitors.

What are some other events I can attend on Friday?

The following sites are open today:

- Nininger Hall, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Floor, Bldg. 747, which includes the 1st Division period rooms and the honor courtroom, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- The USMA Bookstore, Thayer Hall, 4th floor, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- The Cadet Store, Building 606 – rear, 8 a.m. – 4p.m.
- The Cadet Library, 7:45 a.m. – 11 p.m., May 22-25
7:45 a.m. – 4:40 p.m., May 26
- The West Point Museum, Pershing Center, Olmsted Hall, 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- DUSA Gift Shops
Pershing Center, Olmsted Hall, 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
The Thayer Hotel, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., May 22-25
8 a.m. – 8 p.m., May 26-27
- The Visitors Center/West Point Gift Shop, Pershing Center, Bldg 2107, 9 a.m.– 4:45 p.m.
9 a.m. – 6 p.m., Graduation Day
- The Association of Graduates Gift Shop, Herbert Hall, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Fort Putnam, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

FACILITIES

Where is the nearest bathroom to the parade field?

Portable toilets will be available near the Parade Field and there are permanent facilities in Johnson Stadium. There are additional facilities near the Kosciusko monument and below Trophy Point.

FIRST AID

If I need first aid where is it available?

The Military Police can assist in any emergency. (845) 938-3312/3333

For reviews, an ambulance and medic are stationed at Daly Field.

For graduation a first aid station is at Gate 3. An ambulance is also stationed there. Medics will “rove” the stadium, should anyone require assistance. They can be identified by the red cross on white brassard (arm band) they wear.

FOOD

Where can I get some lunch or dinner?

A listing of restaurants at West Point is listed on pg. 13 of the *Parents Guide for Graduation Week* booklet. In addition, there are restaurants lining the main street of Highland Falls, just south of Thayer Gate.

GRADUATION DAY

Do I need a ticket to attend graduation?

Yes. Cadets are given 10 tickets for their family and friends. Additional tickets can be obtained at the gates. Graduation is open to the public.

What time do the gates open?

For graduation day, Michie Stadium gates will open at 7 a.m.

What time does Graduation begin?

The Graduating Class enters Michie Stadium promptly at 8:40 a.m. The Graduation exercises will begin at 9 a.m. Graduation ceremonies will begin on time. You can avoid long lines by arriving early and being prepared to present proper photo identification. Shuttle buses will begin running from the parking areas at 6 a.m.

How long does the graduation ceremony last?

Approximately 1½ hours.

Who is this year's graduation guest speaker?

President George W. Bush

Can I bring my pet to Graduation or to parades?

No. Only Seeing Eye dogs (or other assisted aid dogs) are allowed. You can board your dog at Morgan Farm Kennels (845) 938-3926. *Currently there is a waiting list for graduation week.*

Is food sold at the stadium on graduation day?

Yes. Once the gates open, food and drink will be sold. They will not be sold during the diploma presentation period.

What if it rains for graduation ceremony?

Graduation will be held rain or shine at Michie Stadium. Seating is not in protected areas. Be prepared with appropriate clothing and sunscreen. Please note that umbrellas are **NOT** allowed in the stadium. *See below for severe inclement weather information.*

Where will the graduation ceremony be held in severe inclement weather?

In the event of severe weather the ceremony will be held in Eisenhower Hall. **Only those holding tickets will be admitted to this ceremony because of very limited seating.**

Overflow seating is provided with the graduation ceremony televised at Eisenhower Hall Ballroom, Thayer Hall classrooms and Robinson Auditorium. Additional viewing sites include Bartlett Hall in Michie and Kendrick Auditorium and various Washington Hall rooms.

Staff and Faculty are reminded that Eisenhower Hall Locations are for families and guests only.

Graduation exercises will also be shown live on Command Channels 8 and 23.

How do I get to Central Post area for the bar pinnings?

While most bar pinnings are in the Central Post area, some are not, please check with your cadet prior to graduation. The **Blue** route bus will bring you to the Central Post area and then back to the parking areas afterwards. However, if attending bar pinnings at the river or other locations outside of Central Post area, you may drive there or plan on walking. Bus transportation is only provided from Michie Stadium to the Central Post area and then back to parking areas.

When can cadets depart for summer leave?

Please check with your cadet. Typically, upon completion of the graduation ceremony, they are authorized to leave the Academy.

Where can I pick up my cadet after Graduation?

If your cadet is a member of the classes of 2007, 2008 or 2009, you should arrange to meet them at either Clinton Field or Doubleday lots after the Graduation Ceremony. If your cadet is graduating, please make arrangements prior to the ceremony.

LOST & FOUND

Does the Academy have a Lost & Found?

For items lost during the week please contact the Military Police at (845) 938-3312/3333. Items lost during the Graduation Ceremony can be picked up at the Military Police booth, Gate 3.

MEDIA

I'm a member of the media interested in covering graduation who do I contact?

Contact the Public Affairs Office, Public Information Branch at (845) 938-2006.

I'm a parent covering graduation for my local paper back home. Can I get down on the field for pictures?

No media is allowed on the field without presenting the proper credentials. If you have any questions as to what is required contact Public Affairs, Public Information Branch at (845) 938-2006.

PARKING

I had trouble parking today, where can I get a better parking space for tomorrow?

Regrettably, parking in prime spots cannot be guaranteed. There will be special Graduation Week shuttles providing transportation from the lettered parking lots (A-F) around Michie Stadium to all the major West Point areas. There will be special shuttles for the graduation parade, starting at 8:30 a.m. and the banquet, starting at 5:30 p.m. In addition, on graduation day shuttle buses will travel between the designated parking areas and the stadium from 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. Utilizing the Shuttle Buses is strongly encouraged.

Where can I catch the shuttle bus?

Special Graduation Week buses will depart from the Visitors Center every half hour and include stops at:

Buffalo Soldier Field, Mills/Thayer Intersection, Mahan Hall, West Point Club, Trophy Point, North Dock/Eisenhower Hall Tunnel, Old Post Exchange (K Lot), H Lot (Commissary and PX), Holleder Center, Herbert Hall, Buffalo Soldier Field and Visitors Center/Pershing Center. The Graduation Week buses will run 8 a.m. – 11 p.m., May 23-25 and from 8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. on Sat., May 26 in support of the Graduation Hop.

Special bus service will be provided to the graduation parade starting at 8:30 a.m. and the banquet starting at 5:30 p.m.

On Graduation Day, shuttle service will be provided from parking areas and the stadium from 7 a.m. and 2 p.m. Following the Graduation there will be shuttles traveling to the Central Post area and then back to the parking areas until 4:30 p.m. Follow the signs to the BLUE Bus Route.

The USMA Shuttle Bus System will stop at designated bus stops from 6:15 a.m. until 4:45 p.m.

Southbound – Child Development Center/H Lot (Commissary & PX), TMP, Laundry, Keller Hospital, Washington/Buckner, Bldg. 681, Bldg. 667-A, Thayer Statue, Library Corner, Mahan Hall Tunnel, Thayer/Cullum Road, Buffalo Soldier Field, Bldg. 622/626, Pershing Center/Spellman Hall.

Northbound – Pershing Center/Spellman Hall, Hotel Thayer (exit ramp), Mills/Thayer Intersection, Mahan Hall Tunnel, Library Corner, Thayer Statue, Bldg. 667-A, Bldg. 681, Washington/Bucker, Keller Hospital, Post Laundry, Motor Pool, Child Development Center/H Lot (Commissary & PX)

In addition, if signaled, buses will stop at other safe locations.

Where are spots for handicapped parking?

In addition to regular spots that are delineated by permanent signage, there are designated spots for parking for each graduation event. Special Handicapped passes are required for handicapped parking. Handicapped passes are available through members of the Class of 2006 via USCC/S3.

A listing of event specific parking locations is listed on pg. 7 of the *Parents Guide for Graduation Week* booklet.

Am I permitted to drop a person off at the stadium if their mobility is impaired?

No. Traffic restrictions make this impossible. Buses equipped for wheelchair transport are available at the handicapped lot by the Commissary/Lot H.

Where can I park my motor home or travel trailer?

The recommended parking area for RV's visiting West Point is Round Pond. For reservations please contact MWR at (845) 938-3788. North Dock has been identified as an additional RV area to handle overflow. RV's must be self-contained units. There are no hook-ups (no electrical, water and/or sewer) at North Dock. Holding tanks can be emptied at the sewage treatment plant. Tents are not allowed. Please note that there is a helicopter landing pad at North Dock. Please secure all loose items and roll up your awnings when leaving the area.

All vehicles will be inspected upon entering the installation.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Can I take pictures of my graduate?

Yes, but you may not come onto the floor of the stadium.

Is there a commercial photography firm that sells graduation photos?

Yes, Academy Photo sent out mailings to cadet parents. They will offer a DVD of graduation week highlights plus the final diploma presentation. The cost is \$99.95 + \$4.00 shipping handling. In addition, photos of your child receiving his/her diploma and the hat toss will be available in July/August. You may contact Academy Photo at (845) 938-3448.

SECURITY

What kind of security should I expect?

Individuals age 16 or older are required to show photo ID's. When approaching the gates, please have ID's out and ready to present to the gate guards. All vehicles are subject to search.

Are there restrictions as to what I can bring into Michie Stadium for graduation?

Yes, due to increased security items such as large bags, coolers, wrapped packages, backpacks and umbrellas will **NOT** be allowed into Michie Stadium. Please plan accordingly.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

I need to contact my cadet, but they aren't answering their cell phone. How can I contact them?

You can try to call the cadet's company orderly room.

TICKETS

Where can I get additional tickets for the parade or graduation?

Talk to your cadet regarding tickets for the parade. Graduation is open to the public. Tickets for General Public seating can be obtained at Michie Stadium from 7-9 a.m. There is no cost for tickets.

TOURS

Can we tour the cadet barracks?

No, this is cadet living area and is closed to the public. Cadets may request exceptions through their tactical officer.

Is the Superintendent's or Commandant's home open for tours?

A guided tour of the Superintendent's home is available to all guests of the Superintendent's Reception from 1-5 p.m. on May 24-25. Transportation is provided between Eisenhower Hall and the Superintendent's quarters.

TRAFFIC

Why is there so much traffic on post?

Certain roads will be restricted during certain times for various events to ensure the safety and enjoyment of our visitors. USMA officials recommend guests avoid driving through Central Post Area throughout the week. Please use the shuttle buses provided.

WATER

Where can I get water?

Various locations around post offer bottled water. Water will be available from concessionaires along Daly Field during the Graduation parade. There are water fountains behind the stands at the parade grounds. Michie Stadium will have water bottles for sale during graduation.