

## FOREWORD

The West Point Parents Club (WPPC) of Maryland, Washington, DC, and Northern Virginia (MD-DC-VA) has compiled and revised this handbook over the course of several years. It is the summation of the experience gained by other parents, like yourselves, who have gone through the journey upon which you are just embarking.

Contrary to the stereotype, West Point is not a static institution. It's leadership, both the active duty staff and the cadet staff, is continuously evaluating itself and adjusting to changes in the Army, leadership methods, and to society and the world in general. As a result, the West Point a Firstie is graduating from is different from the West Point to which they first reported as a New Cadet. Similarly, when your cadet graduates, West Point will be different from when they entered.

In light of the above, you should understand this handbook is not so much a roadmap as it is a guide. As you, the parent, grow with your cadet, its value to you will change. Section I is an extensive description of your cadet's first year. The information ranges from getting ready to report to West Point on Reception Day, to getting to West Point, all the way through their first summer to Acceptance Day. It then lays out the academic year with the various events that occur each year. Finally, some general information is given. Section II provides general information about West Point, such as phone numbers and on post facilities, as well as the area around West Point. This section will be immediately useful to you and will continue to be useful even when you're the parent of a Firstie. Section III contains our club information and calendars that change regularly, such as the WPPC MD-DC-VA Board, the football schedule, and the academic and activity calendar.

As was noted above, this handbook is a guide and supplements information received from official West Point sources. Dates, events, activities are subject to, and will, change at any time

## **West Point Parents Club of Maryland, Washington D.C. and Virginia President's Welcome**

On behalf of all the parents in the West Point Parent's Club of Maryland, DC and Virginia, we would like to welcome you to the family. More on the family next, but first, congratulations on being the parent of an elite student. Undoubtedly, you had something to do with it. Some schools may have a longer lineage of great academics, some can claim to be equally prestigious, and a few can build similar leaders, but no other college, university or academy in the United States can match the total history, prestige and leadership building potential of the United States Military Academy at West Point!

Like upper-class cadets, the members of this club stand ready to teach, advise, mentor and support you in your efforts to support your son or daughter. Unlike upper-class cadets, we don't do it the same way. One part of our effort is this handbook. However, just as no picture tells the whole story, this handbook is just a snapshot. Parents of upper-class cadets have been where you're going, seen what you'll see, heard what you will hear, felt what you'll feel, and asked what you'll want to ask. That's what makes us a family.

A lot of effort has gone into creating and updating this handbook over the years, but you can't put all the collective experience of our members on paper. The hundreds of parents in our club (the largest West Point parent club) are what make us strong and attractive to new members every year. Read this handbook, dog-ear the pages, write notes in the margins, and download the new versions from our website yearly. However, even more can be gained from reading emails from the club and parent forums, and from talking with other parents wherever you find them. You can find us waiting for the parent club bus full of cadets and waiting for cadets to be released after a review (note: there's lots of waiting), but the best way to find us is by getting involved. If you're free, come to the Welcome Picnic, bake your specialty for a Plebe Parent Pot Luck, attend any of our pot luck WPPC meetings (everyone is invited), feed hungry cadets at any of the tailgate events (Army 10-Miler, Marine Corps Marathon, Army/Navy game, and more), feast at the Fall and Spring dinners, dance at the Joint Service Academy Ball, and laugh and scramble as we fill over 100 paper boxes with treats at the Boodle Bash. Finally, just as West Point changes from year to year, our club changes and is constantly in need of new volunteers. Think about what you can do to continue the tradition.

One of the dog-eared pages of this handbook should be the list of Executive Board members with our home phone numbers and e-mail addresses. I assure you that every board member is willing to answer question by phone or e-mail. The Board and the rest of the club's members look forward to having you with us on your forays into a tradition called West Point.

Sincerely,

Joel & Daphne Schmidt  
WPPC MD-DC-VA, Co-Presidents

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD .....	i
WPPC MD-DC-VA President’s Welcome .....	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	v
<b>Section I – New Cadet Information .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Before Leaving for Reception Day (R-day).....	1
Cadet Transportation .....	2
Driving to West Point .....	2
<b>Part 1 – The First Summer .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Reception Day (R-Day) .....	4
Cadet Basic Training (CBT).....	6
Reorganization Week (Reorgy Week).....	6
Acceptance Day .....	7
<b>Part II - The Academic Year .....</b>	<b>9</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Semester.....	9
Labor Day Weekend.....	9
Columbus Day Weekend .....	10
Plebe/Parent Weekend .....	10
Veteran’s Day .....	11
Thanksgiving Leave .....	11
ARMY - NAVY Football Game.....	12
Christmas Leave .....	12
2nd Semester .....	13
Winter Reorgy Week .....	13
Martin Luther King Birthday Weekend.....	13
Valentine’s Boodle Bash .....	13
President’s Weekend .....	13
Spring Break.....	13
2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester TEEs .....	13
Plebe Promotion .....	14
Graduation Week.....	14
Summer Training.....	14
<b>Part III - Handy Tips and Sage Advice.....</b>	<b>15</b>
Maps .....	15
Security.....	15
Telephone Privileges .....	15
Letters .....	16
Boodle .....	16
Cadet Finances.....	16
Other Tips and Advice.....	17
Summary.....	17
Another Wonderful Resource .....	18
Sample letter to a New Cadet .....	19
<b>Section II – West Point Area References and Information .....</b>	<b>21</b>
West Point Phone Numbers .....	21
West Point Church Services .....	22
Local Boodlers.....	23
Area Flower Shops .....	23
Restaurants .....	24
Hotel and Motel Information .....	25
Area Shopping .....	26
Points of Interest.....	27
Constitution Island Cadet Shuttle Service.....	28
West Point/Garrison NY Cadet Ferry Service .....	28
COMPUTER INFORMATION Get Connected!.....	29
Cadet Email .....	29

Web Sites for More Information.....	29
West Point Parent List Servers .....	29
WPPC MD-DC-VA Web Site .....	30
WPPC MD-DC-VA List Server .....	30
AOL Instant Messenger.....	30
WPPC MD-DC-VA Cadet Bus Service .....	31
Cadet Bus Service Drop-off Point Maps .....	32
The “Alma Mater” .....	33
The Army Song .....	34
<b>Section III – Club and Calendar Information.....</b>	<b>35</b>
WPPC MD-DC-VA 2005 – 2006 Executive Board Members .....	35
2005 Army Football Schedule .....	36
Important Dates for WPPC of MD, DC, VA May 2005 – Jun 2006 .....	37
Future Key Dates 2005-2007.....	38
Highlights of the Plebe Year, 2005 – 2006.....	39
Highlights of the Yearling Year, 2005 – 2006.....	40
Highlights of the Cow Year, 2005 – 2006 .....	41
Highlights of the Firstie Year, 2005 – 2006 .....	42
Order Form – Sourcebook for West Point Parents .....	43

## Section I – New Cadet Information

### Before Leaving for Reception Day (R-day)

Your cadet has received stacks of paper from West Point with so many instructions it is mind boggling! To be sure you are prepared, read everything sent to you again, and again! Follow the suggestions they make because they are given for a reason - to help your cadet candidate succeed.

Purchase the items needed for R-Day. Shoes and boots should be purchased well enough in advance so they can be broken in. The military dress shoe, also known as low quarters, and combat boots are for sale at any Military Clothing Store (MCSS) on any military installation - if the correct size is in stock. Look in the government section of your phone book to locate a military base near you. You should be able to gain access to a military installation and its MCSS with your New Cadet's Acceptance Letter. If you do not have access to a MCSS on a military installation, you can find shoes and boots on the web at, i.e., uscav.com, actiongear.com.

Travel light - one bag. Bringing one bag means the candidate will need to fill out only one tag (the first trying test under control of the upper-class cadre on R-Day). Check the "Instructions for Candidates" for definitive instructions on what to bring and other required items plus restrictions. The candidate needs to take most of the following items (the remaining ones are suggestions):

- Black leather shoes with laces - WELL BROKEN IN and highly polished. Note - Plebes are not allowed to wear the highly shined Corfam shoes that are available at the Military Clothing Store.
- A pair of WELL BROKEN IN running shoes.
- Razor - safety razor with shaving cream or electric/battery operated
- Wrist Watch - sturdy, inexpensive, a waterproof one with an alarm and lighted dial is suggested
- One 8x10 picture in a frame OR an 8x10 collage works well
- Alarm clock - battery operated
- Sports Bras (female candidates) - clasp bras tend to fall apart
- Small penlight (mini-mag) flashlight with extra batteries
- Nail clipper or small key chain type pen knife (a Leatherman-type multi-purpose fold up tool works well) - to remove threads from uniforms
- Small lint-free cloths/rags for shining shoes (old undershirts)
- Small address book - completely filled out including important dates
- Stamps and supply of self addressed stamped envelopes and stationery
- Bic-type lighter
- Chap stick
- Band-Aids and moleskin
- Gold Bond medicated foot powder
- All white crew socks (no logos, stripes or colors) - may need more than are issued
- Toothbrush - if you like a particular brand
- Prepaid Phone Cards - Check out the phone cards available through the Parents Club (look at the Club website <http://www.wppc-mddcva.org> )
- The candidate should receive their P.O. Box number from the Admissions Office on R-Day. The candidate is still a resident of their home state - be it Maryland, District of Columbia or Virginia. They should register to vote so they can vote absentee when the time comes. Call your County Clerk's office for information and the procedure for requesting applications for absentee ballots.

New cadets receive limited and timed phone privileges during Cadet Basic Training, and the calls can come at anytime. If you do not have a speakerphone, answering machine or call waiting, now may be a good time to invest in them. You may want to get a cassette recorder and microphone that will record from your telephone. This will allow you to tape your new cadet's phone calls and play them back for anyone who was not at home when he/she called. These recorded tapes are also priceless memories.

Remind your candidate to get a haircut before leaving. Men should not get a "buzz." Getting a haircut is especially important for the females, and will help relieve the "shock" on R-Day.

Convince your candidate to **RUN, RUN, RUN** and then to **RUN** some more.

## Cadet Transportation

Your cadet's cost of transportation to West Point for R-Day will be reimbursed by the Academy. Save the receipts and be sure to record your mileage. Your cadet will need the receipts when he/she submits forms for reimbursement.

Remind your cadet to always have his or her TAC Officer's phone number with them so they can call in the case of a delayed return.

On holidays and semester breaks, our Parents Club charters buses to transport Club member cadets (and their friends) to and from West Point and our area, if there is sufficient interest. The times are Labor Day Weekend, Columbus Day Weekend, Thanksgiving Leave, Christmas Leave, President's Day Weekend, Spring Break, Graduation day and the return to CFT at Camp Buckner following the Yearling summer leave. The pick up point is at the Clinton Field parking lot except for Graduation day, which picks up at Camp Buckner (unless the cadets are instructed to leave from a different area). The buses make four stops to discharge passengers at the Baltimore Travel Plaza; the Laurel, MD, Rest Area on I-95; the Springfield, VA, Hilton Hotel; and Fredericksburg, VA at the Spotsylvania Mall. Information about upcoming buses is disseminated in the Parents Club Newsletter, on our web page, and over our listserv. Your email address is necessary for you to become a member of the listserv.

Plebes have little free time, so it is often easier for parents to make flight reservations if they are necessary. Allow at least two hours for travel between West Point and Kennedy, LaGuardia, or Newark airports. Tickets from travel agents, the web, or from the airlines are basically the same, select the procedure which gives you the best flexibility and satisfaction. Be aware that the leave schedules are subject to change and may not be known until inside the two week airlines reservation window.

## Driving to West Point

If the route you take to West Point follows toll roads along the Northeast corridor, it is worth looking into obtaining an *EZPass*. The little box placed on the windshield of the car allows the car to drive through *EZPass* lanes without stopping, thereby saving a significant amount of time, and often the toll with *EZPass* is less than the regular toll. This is true for the Delaware Toll Road and the New Jersey Turnpike. Your *EZPass* account will automatically deduct an amount designated by you, i.e., \$40.00 from a credit card when your balance falls below \$10.00. Bi-monthly statements are sent reflecting the activity on the account. Call 1-888-AUTO-TOLL (1-888-288-6865) or visit their web address: [www.EZPass.com](http://www.EZPass.com). In addition to the toll roads mentioned above, the *EZPass* also works at the Ft McHenry and I-895 tunnel tolls in Baltimore, the Susquehanna River Bridge on I-95N, the Delaware Memorial Bridge on I-95S, the Garden State Parkway, and all the toll roads in New York City and State. The *EZPass* also works on the Dulles Toll Road.

- To West Point via I-95, the New Jersey Turnpike and Palisades Parkway:
- Go North on I-95 through Maryland and into Delaware
- After you pass the rest area on the Delaware Turnpike, watch for signs for I-295 North and the Delaware Memorial Bridge. Keep to the right for the Bridge.
- After crossing Delaware Memorial Bridge, follow signs for the New Jersey Turnpike, (if no *EZPass*) get a ticket and continue north. (Gas in New Jersey is much more reasonable than New York, most of Maryland, and Northern Virginia, so fill up in New Jersey.) (There is no self-serve gas in New Jersey.)
- Go to the last exit (after paying the toll) and follow the signs toward the George Washington Bridge but stay in the local lanes as you will exit just before the GW Bridge to get on the Palisades Parkway. Watch carefully for the exit sign for the Palisades Parkway, because it's the last exit before the GW Bridge. You will drive on surface streets on US 9W north for approximately 1 mile to connect to the Parkway.
- Go north on the Palisades Parkway to Bear Mountain Circle. Go 3/4 of the way around the circle to pick up 9W north toward Highland Falls and West Point. Go north on 9W approximately 2.7 miles and exit at State Route 218, Main Street, Highland Falls. Follow the signs to the main gate.

To West Point via I-95, the New Jersey Turnpike, I-80, the Garden State Parkway, I-287 and Palisades Parkway. This can be a good route if heavy traffic for the George Washington Bridge is anticipated, which can tie up traffic before you reach your exit toward the Palisades Parkway.

- Follow the directions above to the NJ Turnpike
- When the NJ Turnpike divides follow the signs to I-80. After paying the toll, follow signs to I-80.
- Take I-80 for several miles to the exit to the Garden State Parkway North (There will be a toll right away and then one later on; each 35 cents)

- Take I-287 east for a couple of miles.
- Take the Palisades Parkway north. Continue with the directions as listed above.

Also, the following maps will be valuable as you prepare to depart to West Point:

<http://www.usma.edu/PublicAffairs/wpmap.JPG>

# Part 1 – The First Summer

## Reception Day (R-Day)

This day marks the beginning of a unique experience for both you and your cadet candidate. We strongly suggest that you accompany your cadet candidate to West Point for R-Day. It helps to be able to picture where they are going to be for the next four years and what they are going to experience for the next few weeks. We also suggest as many family members as feasible accompany you for this particular day. If elderly relatives attend, it may be a grueling day because of the heat and the amount of walking, which is mostly uphill. Wear comfortable, tasteful clothes and comfortable shoes. Some parents wear the ‘Class’ tee shirt that is available at the Visitor's Center Gift Shop. Buying a shirt and possibly a ‘Class’ tote bag the day before R-Day is recommended since it will not be easy to get to the Visitor's Center during R-Day. The Class tee shirt and tote bag can also be bought at Eisenhower Hall on R-day. If you decide you want a Class tee shirt or tote bag after they are sold out, don't despair! They can be ordered at the Visitor's Center Gift Shop and delivered to your home.

This is a day filled with many emotions and every emotion you experience is normal and natural. Your ‘New Cadet’ will be given a designated time to report. When you plan your day, we suggest that you arrive at West Point early to allow time for the Military Police to direct you to the parking areas. Take everything with you that you will need for the rest of the day - you won't get back to your car until after the R-Day Parade. Be sure to bring a pen and a small notebook to jot down your new cadet's P.O. Box number, information and important dates (such as the date your new cadet can begin receiving boodles (goodies)!). Take binoculars, cameras, video cameras and protection in case of inclement weather. The West Point weather changes frequently. A sunny morning can still have a rainy afternoon parade. From the parking area shuttle buses will take you to Eisenhower Hall. Parking will not be allowed at Eisenhower Hall. Be sure to say all of your good-byes before you get to Eisenhower Hall because you only get a few seconds for a quick hug after the brief greetings by the officer of the day.

**TIP:** Bring a still camera, video camera, binoculars or all three. You'll want to capture the day on film" and so much will be happening you won't be able to remember it all without pictures. But remember all the new cadets will look alike. They are not easy to identify because of the newly acquired short hair and identical uniforms - not to mention the fact they won't have any facial expressions.

After saying your good byes to your new cadet, you will be told where to go to get their mailing address and Beast Company assignment. The Parents Club will have a table upstairs in the Eisenhower Hall ballroom and representatives will be available to answer questions. Also you will have the opportunity to sign up for lunch tickets at one of the sites on post, buy football tickets and buy ‘Class’ souvenirs, which are only available on R-Day, including the Class tee-shirt and tote bag. You will have time to walk around the Plain (the field directly in front of the Washington Hall barracks and the monument to General Washington) and Trophy Point. You will not be allowed in the Cadet Area, which is beyond the chains in front of the barracks and Washington Hall. There will be some locations near the central area where you can observe the candidates being instructed by the cadre, but even if you are close enough to talk to your new cadet, don't. Also, the Plain, in front of the bleachers, is off limits to pedestrian traffic. There are several tours and seminars scheduled for parents. We strongly suggest you attend them. In addition to being very interesting, there is important information given out that will help you better understand what your candidate will be going through. They often show pictures of the different activities your cadets are experiencing on R-Day and you will learn more about West Point, the Academy, and all the rich traditions surrounding this historic area.



At 5:00 to 6:00PM (you will be given a "firm" time - depending, of course, on the weather) there is a "Parade of New Cadets" on the Plain and possibly ending at Trophy Point for the swearing-in ceremony. This swearing-in ceremony formally ends R-Day (at least for the parents!). If the swearing-in ceremony will be held on the Plain, it is a good idea to get to the bleachers to save seats about an hour before the parade. It quickly gets very crowded. The diagram below gives you a rough idea of how the companies will be situated on the Plain during the parade. This should help you to locate your son or daughter. If the swearing-in ceremony takes place at Trophy Point, there will be designated spots for each company marked on the street directly in front of Trophy Point.

Remember that the new cadets will all look alike. They are not easy to identify because all have the same haircut, uniform and no expression. They will be lined up by height, front to rear of each company. This may help you pick out your new cadet during the Pass in Review. Listen to the announcements during the parade so you know when to stand at various stages of this ceremony. If the swearing in ceremony is to be at Trophy Point, you will not have a good view of the new cadets except as they march to and from Trophy Point. Up until now your sons and daughters have been called "candidate." Only when they have taken the Plebe Oath during the swearing-in ceremony at the Parade will they be called **New Cadets** (a form of address they will grow to hate). Only after they complete Cadet Basic Training (CBT) and are accepted into the Corps of



Cadets at the Acceptance Day Parade in August will they become **cadets**. Write a letter to your son or daughter as soon as you return to your motel on R-Day, and mail it from a mailbox on West Point or at the mailbox near the Visitor's Center located right outside of Thayer Gate. Make sure you address it exactly as it is given to you! Your new cadet will be so glad to be one of the first to receive mail.



**TIP:** Mail from home is extremely important the first year. To facilitate friends and relatives sending mail, make out post cards, stamped envelopes, or pre-printed labels with your new cadet's address to hand out to his or her closest friends and relatives. Also give your new cadet an address book with family and friend's addresses, important dates (birthday's anniversary's, etc.), lots of stamps, envelopes and writing paper as they may not have time to buy these. However, don't expect a lot of mail in return. You will get one letter early on that the Cadet Squad Leader will ensure is written!

Your new cadet will not be able to call you right away (it may be a couple of weeks near the mid-point of their training) and even then the time is strictly limited. During the few weeks immediately after R-Day, your support, understanding, and listening are the most important things you can give your new cadet. Encourage them to take things one day at a time and let them know you are there for them.

### **Cadet Basic Training (CBT)**

*"Duty-Honor-Country Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying points, to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn."* **General Douglas Mac Arthur, excerpt from his Farewell Address delivered to the Corps of Cadets on 12 May 1962.**

R-Day is the first day of Beast Barracks, as Cadet Basic Training is affectionately called! Some new cadets will actually enjoy the adventures and challenges it brings. But not all new cadets will enjoy it! It's a time when a group of high school graduates become soldiers and are prepared to enter the Corps as West Point Cadets.

A new cadet's daily life begins before 6:00 am and during Beast Barracks will extend into the evening hours. In addition to extensive military training including military courtesy, marching and the handling of firearms - the new cadet will be schooled in the traditions of West Point and will learn what it takes "to make it." This is a particularly difficult adjustment period for the new cadet. His or her lifestyle will undergo a complete change when they are totally immersed in a military setting. Stress is a major part of the program along with the ability to memorize data, learn military drill, courtesy and the "West Point Way." It is a time when all are in need of encouragement and support. You may hear a lot of negative reaction on the part of your new cadet - insist that they hang in give themselves a fair trial. Staying power and the ability to perform well under stress is the hallmark of a West Pointer. No boodle packages will be allowed during Beast, but parents may receive requests to send items such as pencils, pads, brass cleaner, stain removers, etc.



**TIP:** Beast Barracks is probably the hardest time emotionally, physically, and psychologically your new cadet will ever experience while at West Point. During this time, be supportive, positive, understanding and upbeat. Being a good listener for your son or daughter is most helpful during this period but remember - you can't fix it for them!

For the first few weeks of Beast, new cadets will be very, very busy. The concept of one-day-at-a-time will help them through this initial experience and adjustment. Sometime during the first week or 10 days, each new cadet will be allowed to make a short, timed and supervised phone call to home. This call can come at any time so an answering machine comes in handy. However, if they do not make direct contact with you, they will be allowed to call until they get through to you.

The last week of Beast is spent at Lake Frederick, a military camp on the West Point reservation, where the new cadets will bivouac (camp out), learn military skills, have a variety/skit night and select their class motto. Their class motto will be proudly displayed during the March Back to the Academy grounds. We suggest that, if you can, go to West Point to watch the March Back. During the 2002 March Back, there was a short break for drinks and a snack at Round Pond (on the West Point Reservation). The companies marched in one at a time beginning about 6:00 a.m. Parents could not speak with their new cadets, but they could see them while they rested for a few minutes with helmets off. While marching, it is very difficult to recognize your new cadet. There is no guarantee a stop will be made at Round Pond this year, and parents must remember not to interfere. The community of West Point turns out to welcome the class of proud new cadets. The Military Academy Band and the Army mules meet them at Washington Gate. The last two miles wind through the West Point community and the March Back culminates in a Pass-in-Review at the Superintendent's Quarters.



**TIP:** Take your cameras along (a constant reminder!) and get pictures because, tired as they are, the new cadets feel the best they have felt since R-Day.

Your new cadet will be able to provide better information, but the march back is generally scheduled in the second week of August. They should be on the Academy grounds starting at approximately 10:30 in the morning. We suggest you make up several signs welcoming them back to "The Point." The emotional lift that you will give not only your cadet, but also those new cadets who won't have family members present, cannot be expressed in words. Be sure not to use your new cadet's name, as they prefer to be invisible and have no attention drawn to them.

## Reorganization Week (Reorg Week)

Reorganization Week, commonly called "REORGY Week," is not considered a fun time by most new cadets. It is probably not the worst time they will experience, but it may come close! It comes just as the newest cadets are feeling happy and proud that they survived "Beast" and are looking forward to being cadets in the fullest sense. However, during this same week, the rest of the upperclassmen are returning from their various summer activities and have nothing better to do than to keep new cadets fully occupied. It lasts less than a week, but it really dramatizes the fact that there are now **three** upperclassmen for every new cadet.

During this week, each new cadet will move in with new roommate(s) from their class and become part of one of the 32 companies that make up the Corps. Each company is made up of cadets from all the classes. The upperclassmen have leadership roles. The Yearlings (sophomores) will be team leaders, that is, they are responsible for the care and training of one or two Plebes. The team leader will take their Plebes to pickup their computers, books, etc. The Cows (juniors) are the company NCOs (non-commissioned officers) and the Firsties (seniors) are the company officers. This company will be their family for the next year. In addition, they will receive their first homework assignment BEFORE the first day of class, on Monday of the following week. Such is the Thayer method of teaching.

## Acceptance Day

Summer training for all classes officially culminates with the Acceptance Parade (an impressive ceremony) on the Saturday ending Reorg Week, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (the parade time is subject to change - check with your new cadet prior to the day). It is at this ceremony that the new cadets, soon to be Plebes, are allowed to wear their white hats for the first time, a traditional symbol of being accepted into the Corps of Cadets. They are no longer "New Cadets." This is one of only four parades that are totally dedicated to a particular class during the entire West Point experience (R-Day, Plebe Parent Weekend Review, and Graduation are the others).

The new cadets march out and line up in front of the bleachers. The rest of the Corps of Cadets then marches out and line up on the far side of the Plain facing the bleachers. After the new cadets are accepted into the Corps, they march across the Plain to join their academic companies (different from their Beast Companies). The Corps of Cadets are organized into four regiments (1,2,3,4). Each regiment consists of two battalions and each battalion has four companies. The First Battalion is comprised of companies A, B, C and D. The Second Battalion is comprised of companies E, F, G and H. As you sit in the bleachers facing Washington Hall, the First Regiment is to your left, the Second and Third Regiments are in the middle and the Fourth Regiment is to your right. At the Corps level, the smallest organizational unit is the company. The unit's designation is by company and regiment. For example, if your cadet were in company G2, that means that he/she is in the Second Regiment, company G. To find their company at the beginning of the Acceptance Day parade, they would be third section back, just left of center, in the formation.

D1	H1	D2	H2	D3	H3	D4	H4
C1	G1	C2	G2	C3	G3	C4	G4
B1	F1	B2	F2	B3	F3	B4	F4
A1	E1	A2	E2	A3	E3	A4	E4

### BLEACHER LOCATION

Following the Acceptance Parade will be the first time that you will be able to visit with your cadet since R-Day. The cadets will return to the barracks following the parade. After they have completed their duties and are released by their company, they are free to visit family and friends. The times they are released can vary greatly by company. Do not be worried if you see many cadets long before yours arrives. Many families plan picnics on the grounds of West Point within walking distance



of the barracks. If you do not want to wait, possibly hours, for your cadet at one of the statues, arrange ahead of time where your picnic will be set up so your cadet can meet you there.

**TIP:** Make your reservations early for a motel during your Acceptance Day visit. If you don't, you will not be able to get a room close to West Point.

Boodle is allowed once they become cadets. Consider either bringing a plastic container or shop in Highland Falls or at the Post Exchange for a container to act as the "boodle box." Your cadet may also want to shop for cleaning supplies - a bucket, Swifter cloths, etc.

Keep in mind that your cadet cannot be out of uniform at any time while in public. There have been times in the past when the Plebes were allowed to visit with their parents in their motel room if the motel is within the "Walking Privileges" boundaries. Walking Privileges" are the limits your cadet is allowed to venture "off post," whether they're walking or riding, regardless of where you are staying. Walking Privileges boundaries are within the Washington Gate to the North and to the South - the Bear Mountain traffic circle, including Bear Mountain Inn and the park that is adjacent to it. To the East, Walking Privileges extent to the west bank of the Hudson River, and to the West – to the west side of 9W, including businesses located on the west side of the road. While in your motel rooms, your cadet will have the opportunity to get out of their uniform and slip into something comfortable, provided they do not venture outside in anything except their uniform. "

Do not be surprised if your cadet is torn between having you stay late on Sunday afternoon of Acceptance Day weekend or asking you to leave early. They know they are responsible for the homework required for the first day of class, the very next day, Monday, August 16th. As parents, you may be reluctant to have the weekend end, but the cadet has work to do.

## **Part II - The Academic Year**

The Academic year commences immediately after REORGY week. Classes usually have less than fifteen students and are very challenging, even to the brightest students. Encourage your Plebe not to neglect his/her academics. It is 60% of their class rank (the other components are Military - 25% and Physical - 15%). The Academy, while educating the whole person, stresses "academics." Your Plebe is well advised to study hard and develop good study habits. One of the most important lessons to be learned is "time management." The Academy offers a short course on this subject for Plebes. Encourage your cadet to sign up. There is a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) that must be maintained throughout your cadet's time at the Academy. Though we do not want to emphasize minimum standards, you should be aware of what they are in the event your cadet is struggling academically.

Classes introduce a new type of stress. The Thayer method of instruction is study and application first with explanation later. This is a unique approach that usually creates frustration until your cadet adjusts. The top high school honor student who has never had a grade below a "B" may now fail their first two quizzes or PR's (Partial Reviews). This is normal and not cause to panic. On top of the NEW academic strain, there is also Plebe duties—room management and personal military inspections. Upperclassmen are also "helpful" in reinforcing everything and then some. This is when your cadet learns the most efficient way to MANAGE THEIR TIME. Homework is done before the class, not after. The cadet should be prepared BEFORE the first day and BEFORE every class. Sunday is a day of relaxation, unless the Plebe has a specific duty. They are free to sleep late, attend church if they wish and do as they please until the Sunday evening study period. Due to the heavy academic schedule, many cadets use Saturday afternoon and Sunday to complete their assignments for classes.

### **1st Semester:**

From Labor Day on, things start to settle down, but there will be emotional ups and downs along the way. Be ready to give your support and encouragement. There may be poor grades on papers, an "F" on a quiz or a less-than-desirable grade on a WPR (Written Partial Review – equivalent to a midterm exam). At this time, the challenges seem like mountains to the students who may have never had a "C" on a paper before.

Each Plebe will have the opportunity to sign up for the West Point Mentor Program. Encourage your cadet to do so. Military personnel at West Point volunteer each year to help 3-4 cadets as personal mentors. They provide a "home away from home." This is a place where cadets can go, when invited, to relax in a family environment.

Your Plebe may need a printer for the academic year. You will be informed about printers, available through the Cadet Bookstore, that are guaranteed to be compatible with their computers and network. It is definitely a benefit for your cadet to have a printer.

For those experiencing some problems with their studies, Additional Instruction (AI) is available. Each instructor at the Academy has only one responsibility - to help the students learn and succeed. They are available each day to provide special help to any cadet who asks. They will not come to the cadet, even when they know the cadet needs help. The cadet must request this help! Encourage your cadet to avail him or herself of this service as often as needed. Encourage them to get help EARLY - do not wait until it is too late. Members of their company may also be available to help. All the cadet has to do is ask. Asking for help is not a sign of failure or weakness but helps all students succeed and builds teamwork among classmates and in the company.

Looking forward to Thanksgiving leave, the Army/Navy Football Game and Christmas leave help keep the cadets going. Football weekends, if you can make them, are special times at West Point. There is energy in the atmosphere that has the Corps charged up. This is also the most beautiful time of the year as the leaves turn color and a cool crisp chill often fills the air. By the end of the first semester, Plebes have been able to work things out and learn how the system works. TEEs (Term End Exams) are taken during the final week of the semester

### **Labor Day Weekend:**

Labor Day Weekend is a great time to visit your Plebe. It is a time of relaxation, catching up on sleep, and enjoying the fact that most of the upper classmen are on leave. They are proud to be able to show you their new world and you can help to give your Plebe a fresh start. The Plebes may be given leave or be restricted to Walking Privileges. The weather in New York is usually beautiful this time of year, making it a great time for a visit. Also, the Plebes are more than ready for a familiar, friendly face. The WPPC of MD-DC-VA will offer bus transportation to and from West Point if there is sufficient

interest to fill a bus. Bus schedules and details of how to get reservations will be published in the WPPC newsletter and on the club list server.

During their first year, the Plebes only get one pass during each semester. Sometimes additional passes can be earned, depending upon the company, but there is no guarantee of additional passes. Passes may not be allowed if there are academic or disciplinary problems.



**TIP:** Here's a good one! If you want to prepare yourself for waiting for your cadet, go to your local hardware store and buy a 4' section of steel pipe (about 4" in diameter). Install it somewhere in your yard as you would a fence railing. Practice sitting on the rail for about 30 minutes to an hour each day. Doing this will condition your "tush" to the many times you will wait for your cadet over the next four years!!

It should be noted that the upperclassmen are generally off-post for the Labor Day weekend, so your cadet can spend time with the family virtually hassle-free. Should you visit on this weekend and have access to a van or RV, you can plan picnics and have a place to relax. There are picnic areas along the Hudson River directly behind and below the West Point Club and others near the Alumni Center on the way to the stadium. In addition, the cadets can go into the Hotel Thayer, but not into the rooms. It isn't easy to have privacy during this weekend, but the time you spend with your cadet is more than worth it.

We cannot emphasize enough the need to make lodging reservations early. Expect the general practices for reservations/cancellations and guarantees for late arrival to be different from what you may be accustomed to in other areas. For special weekends, there is generally a two-day minimum stay and a 72-hour cancellation policy. Be sure to ask what their policy is when you make reservations. See the list of local hotels/motels below.



**TIP:** If you want to have brunch with your cadet at the Hotel Thayer, we suggest you call the hotel and make reservations. They will not take a reservation for a party of less than ten. However, this should not be a problem as there are many people in small groups waiting in line to get in. You can always find a few along the way to fill up to your ten. Without a reservation, it can be a very long wait. It should also be noted that at this brunch (which, by the way, is the best culinary event in the area) the cadets eat for half-price; however, please verify this with the hotel before making reservations.

## **Columbus Day Weekend:**

This is normally a three-day weekend for the cadets since Columbus Day is a Federal holiday. In years when a home football game falls on the Saturday of this weekend, passes will most likely not begin until **after** the game. Your cadet will get the correct information. If your cadet did not come home for Labor Day, this is another opportunity for him/her to come home or get away from West Point for a while. Remember, as a Plebe, your cadet only gets one pass for the first semester.

## **Plebe Parent Weekend:**

*Plebe-Parent Weekend (PPW) is an absolute must for all parents who can possibly make it.* In recent years it has been concurrent with Columbus Day weekend. Exceptions to this are when a home football game is also scheduled for Columbus Day weekend. 2004 is an example of such an occurrence, in which case PPW is scheduled for a separate weekend. During PPW, Plebes will have the opportunity to show the academy to their families and friends. You will have the opportunity to see your cadet's room and classrooms and meet their instructors and Tactical Officers (TACs). You will have the opportunity to get the "Grand Tour" of such places as the Superintendent's Quarters, the Uniform Factory, the Mess Hall, and the Cadet Store (not to be confused with the Cadet Bookstore, which is located in Thayer Hall and is open to the public). Above all, do not miss the Cadet Review (parade) or the Plebe Parent Formal held in Washington Hall. Tickets are required for some of these events and your cadet must order tickets or make reservations in advance. Announcements will be made, but **REMAND THEM**. Thousands of people come to West Point to visit their cadets. You will never be allowed to see or visit some of these facilities again. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. During this weekend you will be able to purchase the West Point black winter coats with the class year of your cadet at the Uniform Factory Store. Many parents purchase these souvenirs for their own use, and you will notice them all around West Point in the winter months. They are similar to a Navy P-Coat, but better! The Uniform Factory Store only takes checks! Watch for more information regarding Plebe Parent Weekend on Plebe-Net, in the club newsletters, or you may call the Plebe Parent Mentors.

During Plebe Parent Weekend, cadets are usually allowed a 75-mile radius Off Post Privileges (OPP). Therefore, if you have hotel reservations within 75 miles of West Point, your cadet should be able to visit you as long as he/she does NOT have any duties. Cadets will have to return to the barracks in the late evening. They cannot spend the night in your motel room.

### **Veterans' Day:**

Veteran's Day is a Federal holiday. The Federal Government has resumed celebrating it on November 11<sup>th</sup> instead of the nearest weekend. Although there aren't any classes scheduled, your cadet's free time will be governed by cadet duties and/or their need to study. Check with your cadet before making any plans to visit.

### **Thanksgiving Leave:**

This is a great time to celebrate, to give thanks for what is possibly the first visit home for your cadet since "R-day." Cadets are released at the end of their duty (after last class) on Wednesday. Plebes are due back at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday. Be sure to make transportation reservations early. This leave is a Superintendent's leave. He grants this leave and it is not charged to the cadets. Our WPPC sponsors a bus providing round trip transportation for the cadets in our area for this holiday. If your cadet is bringing someone home for Thanksgiving, that cadet is also welcome to ride the bus.

For major holidays, West Point arranges bus transportation to major airports for a fee. If your cadet is going to fly home, he/she will need to arrange transportation to the area airports. A local bus company provides service to Newark Airport, NJ, LaGuardia and JFK airports, NY. Ticket sales are generally held 10-days before the start of the break. Prior to the holidays there will be announcements at school and on the Plebe- and Parent-Nets. Cadets must be very specific about which airport they are using, i.e., Kennedy, LaGuardia, Newark or Stewart, because they may not be able to buy tickets from the bus driver on the day of their departure. This holds true for all ground and air travel to and from West Point for all holidays. Sharing a taxi may be workable to Stewart Airport in Newburgh.

Should your cadet get to the airport earlier than the scheduled flight, he/she can usually be "wait-listed" on the next flight out and has a good chance to get on the earlier flight with no trouble. Be advised that if they are successful in this, they must reconfirm their return flight – there have been instances of the return flight being canceled if the cadet did not travel on their originally scheduled flight. For parents who want to drive to West Point to pick up their cadet, the cadets are often able to leave shortly after noon the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Check with your cadet to find out when he/she will be able to leave and agree on a meeting place. The statues located around "The Plain" make an easily recognizable meeting place. However, do not pick the Eisenhower statue as everyone uses that one! There are also trains, which leave from Garrison Station, across the Hudson from West Point, which go to New York for connecting trains and buses. To use this option, the cadets need to arrange to share a taxi or get a ride to and from the station. The total cost for the taxi could be over \$25 one-way, so sharing is a good way to minimize the cost. Taxis or limos to/from West Point and the airports can be very expensive.

### **ARMY NAVY Football Game:**

Army holds a 49-48-7 lead over Navy in the oldest collegiate football rivalry in the nation. This game is traditionally played on the weekend following Thanksgiving Weekend. The first game was played in 1890 on the Plain at West Point following a challenge by Cadet Dennis Mahan Michie. Our club will arrange a bus to and from the game if there is sufficient interest. Additionally, the club plans a tailgate prior to the game (watch the newsletter and club's web sit for details) and reserves a block of rooms at a nearby hotel. **GO ARMY BEAT NAVY!!!** A historical note: The first game of the 1924 season was played in the new Michie Stadium at West Point (Army 17 - St. Louis University 0).

### **Christmas Leave:**

Remember that Christmas leave time is one of the busiest travel times of the year - **MAKE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS EARLY**. TEEs are scheduled according to the class schedules. Christmas leave is normally scheduled to begin on Friday of the week before Christmas week. Cadet's can leave following their last TEE, though some cadets are unlucky enough to have a Saturday TEE, in which case, they can't leave until after it. If your cadet needs to fly home, the safest option is to schedule a flight late in the day because it is impossible to predict each cadet's leave time until about a week before. By then, it is too late to get reasonable tickets at the times you want.

Christmas leave is personnel travel, so travel arrangements are left to the individual cadet, but they can use the on-post travel office. WPPC sponsors a bus to the D.C. area scheduled shortly after the last Plebe TEE. The club also sponsors a bus

returning to West Point after the Christmas leave. Details on how to make the necessary arrangements are published in the newsletter, on the list server, or you can e-mail the Club's Transportation Coordinator.

Birthday and Christmas gift suggestions for a Plebe with a limited lifestyle are listed below. Excellent buys for some of these items are available to cadets at the Cadet Store.

1. Stereo, radio, CD player and tapes and CDs. (Each company makes their own rules concerning use of radios, stereos, etc.)
2. Camera and film or disposable cameras
3. A new watch, battery powered alarm clock, rechargeable electric razor - to replace the old ones from Beast
4. Phone cards
5. Silk or Polypropylene Long Underwear – It gets cold standing in formation on the Plain.
6. A picture-book frame (that stands on a desk and can be opened to store many photos)
7. Electric fan
8. Computer accessories and supplies: printer, diskettes, DVD's, speakers, etc. (items not supplied as part of their standard computer issue).
9. Gift certificate for brunch at the Thayer Hotel or gift certificates for local restaurants

Remember to have your son bring his full dress uniform, or your daughter her dress mess, home because we hope you and your cadet will attend the Joint Service Academy Ball (JSAB) over the Christmas break. This "All Academy Ball" is held the end of December and is the only social event for this region for the talented young men and women and their parents who attend our nation's service academies. The service academies are the US Military Academy, the US Naval Academy, the US Air Force Academy, the US Coast Guard Academy, and the US Merchant Marine Academy. Each year one of the Parents Clubs hosts the event – for 2004, the Air Force Parent Club host's the JSAB. Our club hosted the 2003 JSAB. It is a fun evening and quite spectacular with all the cadets and midshipmen in their dress uniforms. There is a monthly update on the planning and preparation for the JSAB in the club newsletter.

The hardest farewell often comes when your Plebe returns to West Point after the first Christmas leave. The time spent home is so much fun and the freedom feels so good. It is tough going back to the regimentation where everything, including the weather, is so very gray. This time is aptly referred to as, "**Gloom Period.**" The Winter Reorg week usually helps with the transition back, but be prepared for about a two-week readjustment period once the academic semester starts. Cadets will have new rooms and roommates for the spring semester.

## **2nd Semester:**

### **Winter Reorg Week:**

The cadets prepare for the second semester. They get new rooms, roommates, and homework assignments.

### **Martin Luther King's Birthday Weekend:**

If your cadet were able to take a pass, it would begin following the completion of their last duty on the Friday before the weekend.

### **Valentine's Boodle Bash:**

The Annual Boodle Bash is held on the Sunday before Valentine's Day. The WPPC will ask members to bake goodies, buy snacks and/or donate money to purchase "boodle" to be brought up to the cadets at West Point. On this day, parents gather with their goodies at a member's home and boxes are packed for each company at West Point. In 2004, three boxes (copier paper size boxes) were packed for each company and volunteer parents took them to West Point. Boxes were also given to the Provost Marshall's office, a box to each Chapel and to the Hospital. This is a wonderful way to bring some cheer to the cadets during the "Gloom Period."

## **President's Weekend:**

This is a three-day weekend with no classes on Monday. Depending on their performance, a cadet may be able to take leave at this time. Besides Martin Luther King weekend, this is the only three-day weekend this semester.

## **Spring Break:**

Like every other college and university, West Point has a weeklong spring break. Spring Break begins on Saturday after their last class/duty and it will end at 7:00 p.m. on the Sunday of the following week.

## **2nd Semester Term End Exams (TEEs):**

Congratulations! The cadets are now on their way to being all they can be mentally, physically and emotionally. They have withstood the test and they can be proud. The cadets may be able to take TEE leave following their last exam, but may need to be back Sunday night before Graduation Week.

## **Plebe Promotion:**

Promotion is a special ceremony for Plebes and TAC officers only. This is the time when the Plebes (Privates) are promoted to Private First Class. The Plebes are treated a bit better and have a few more privileges. As of the printing of this Guidebook the exact date has not been publicized, however in recent years it has been in the morning of graduation day, coinciding with their rising to the Yearling class. The atmosphere becomes a little more relaxed and Plebes now really feel they're a part of the Corps. One of the biggest hurdles of the four years is over. The phone call you receive the night of Promotion will give you insight into how special this was for your cadet. This is definitely a high point in the Plebe year.

## **Graduation Week:**

Graduation Week begins immediately follows 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester TEE Week and culminates with Graduation on that Saturday. This is an exceptionally busy time for all the cadets. For the Firsties, getting ready to check out of West Point and move on to their assignments. For the rest of the classes, they're getting ready for the graduation activities, mostly parade practice, and for their summer assignments. Immediately following graduation, each class "rises" to the next class, i.e. Cows are now Firsties, Yearlings become Cows, and the Plebes are Yearlings.

Cadets **MUST** remain at West Point until after the graduation exercises have been concluded. Cadets will probably be released between noon and 2:00 p.m. After graduation, the new Yearling class may be bused out to Camp Buckner, which is where Cadet Field Training (CFT) occurs, or may be allowed to sign out from their company area. After signing out they are free to leave for their summer break. The Parents Club bus will leave from whatever location is most convenient to the majority of riders.

## **Summer Training**

Between the Plebe and Yearling years, cadets are required to attend Cadet Field Training held at Camp Buckner on the West Point reservation. After a break of about three weeks, the cadets will report to Camp Buckner for individual, squad and platoon level tactical training. During the second part of the training, cadets will receive orientations to the various branches of the Army, which are designed to assist them in making their branch selections when they are Firsties. Part of this phase includes a trip lasting several days to Fort Knox, Kentucky for training with tanks and artillery.



## Part III - Handy Tips and Sage Advice

### Maps

The Visitor's Center and the Military Police at the Main Gate have very good maps to help you get around the campus and close by area of West Point. A book map of Orange County, available at some local stores, shows the entire West Point Military Reservation including Lake Frederick, Round Pond and Camp Buckner. You can download and print maps from <http://www.usma.edu/visiting.asp>.

### Security

Because of the threat of terrorism, security at West Point and all military installations has been heightened. Security measures can change depending upon the threat level, so be flexible with your plans when visiting West Point. Generally, vehicles without DoD (Department of Defense) stickers will require a picture ID of the driver (though it is always a good idea for every occupant in the vehicle to always have a picture ID with them) and a search of the vehicle. West Point security information is located on the USMA web site, <http://www.usma.edu/>

### Telephone Privileges

It will be a few weeks before New Cadets will be allowed to call home. The first call home is filled with emotions and is sometimes a real "downer." This is normal! The cadets have had it standing in lines, learning Plebe Knowledge, getting haircuts, testing, and the whole thing! It may be the worst experience of their lives at this point. After the first call it may be several weeks before your cadet will be able to call again.



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**TIP:** Allow them to do all the talking they want. Often, this is all they need to do - talk about how things are - in order to get the frustration and homesickness off their chests. Acknowledge their frustration and be supportive. Parents also need support. This is a hard summer for you also! Please feel free to call members of the Parents Club. We have been there and know what you are going through - unlike those who are not experiencing a child going to the Military Academy.

Encouragement and support is what the new cadets need most from you. Do not be discouraged if another parent tells you they have heard from their Plebe, while you haven't. Assignments and free times differ greatly. Be positive and be a good listener.

A telephone calling card for your cadet or obtaining a home 1-800 number will cost less than collect calls. Telephone expenses will be high, but phone conversations will be very important to you and your new cadet. Notify your new cadet about times you think you will be away from home. Decide on good times for calls and then make every effort to keep phone lines open and be there for the calls. With so little free time, it is very disheartening to get a busy signal when a new cadet needs a lift from hearing Mom or Dad's voice. Call waiting is a good feature to add to your phone service at this time, as is an answering machine for those times when you just cannot be there. Keep a pencil and note pad handy to write down questions you will have and to jot down things you will want to share with the rest of the family, friends, and anyone who will listen! Most long distance carriers have a call home feature that may be of use to some. *Our club also sells calling cards at very good rates, as low as 1 ¢ per minute for long duration calls (over 15 minutes) and 5¢ per minute for shorter duration (under 15 minutes) calls. There will be information about ordering the cards in the Newsletter or contact the phone card coordinator for more information. New lower rates may become available.*

Once the academic year begins, your cadet will have a phone in his/her room. Personal phones in the barracks were installed in the fall of 1998, making communication with your cadet much easier than it had been in the past. Basic telephone service is provided as part of a package of electronic services. West Point charges cadets a nominal monthly fee for the package that includes dial tone phone service, Internet access and cable TV service to their computers. Cadets receive a separate monthly billing from Campus-Link, the telephone service provider, for any long distance calls. They will be responsible for all long distance charges on their number. Dialing out privileges are suspended if the account falls in arrears.

## Letters

Keep them coming - especially Plebe year! Funny, encouraging, upbeat greeting cards are a good idea anytime. Be sure to use plain white envelopes rather than the colored ones or ones with drawings or words on them during Beast Summer. **MAKE SURE** your mail is addressed to "New Cadet <last name only>" during Beast. After the Acceptance Parade in August, address mail to "Cadet <last name only>." It is only after Promotion in March that you can add the first name on the envelope. Make sure everyone (friends, family, everyone) follows these guidelines to save your cadet any grief as a result of mail. A good rule of thumb - white stationery and a stamp that has an U.S. flag on it. Stay away from colors and heart or flowers on stamps. Your cadet is trying to blend in. Keep the letters positive and encourage your cadet to think in positive terms. Emphasize taking each day one at a time. Urge them not to take the harassment personally and tell them to maintain a sense of humor. Enclose a photo, stick of gum, or a Band-Aid for blistered feet (only after Acceptance Day). Get some address labels or an address stamp for your cadet and send some pre-addressed and stamped envelopes with your address for ease of mailing. At the end of this section is a sample humorous letter sent to a Plebe during beast. You might want to copy this and send it to your cadet to see the responses you will get!

Do not expect too many letters. Plebes will be ordered to write the first one (it's required) and after that they are toooooo busy. They are assigned Post Office boxes, but checking and finding "air" (no mail) is very discouraging. Try to send as many letters and as much candy, cookies, snacks, etc. as humanly possible throughout the first academic year – but remember, no boodle during Beast until after Acceptance Day.

## Boodle (Care Packages)

DO NOT send boodle until told by your cadet that he/she is allowed to receive it after Acceptance Day). Even a single stick of chewing gum in a letter during cause extreme anguish with disciplinary actions. Send the first boodle (food) in container such as Tupperware or other storage containers found at most variety your Plebe will have a place to store future boodle. If you are able to be at West the Acceptance Day weekend, you may want to make a boodle run to one of the Highland Falls or to the Post Exchange and Commissary (grocery store). You be able to find appropriate boodle boxes. Suggested items include cookies, raisins, nuts, individual packets of drink mixes, trail mix, etc. Newspaper interest to your cadet and cartoons are always welcome. There are several providers" listed in the Around West Point section of this handbook. Send small frequent packages rather than large ones because space in their room is limited.

UPS, Federal Express (FedEx), or U.S. Postal Service. Shipping times and rates vary, so check with the different services in your area for more information. Some parents have found it easier to subscribe to an Internet stamp service such as (stamps.com) to facilitate mailings to their cadet. UPS and FedEx packages are delivered directly to the Central Guard Room, from where you cadet can pick it up. The address for the Central Guard Room is:

CDT (First Name - add only after Promotion) (Last Name), (year of graduation), (Company)  
C/O: CENTRAL GUARD ROOM  
USCC, United States Military Academy  
West Point, NY 10996



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## Cadet Finances

Monthly paychecks will be deposited directly to your cadet's bank account. Any bounced check will cause extreme anguish (demerits and extra duty) so remind your cadet to be very careful with check writing. They do not have much money in their accounts the first year so a little extra money for snacks and the rare trip away from the post will be appreciated. The Pentagon Federal Credit Union operates a branch in the cadet area plus a branch just outside Thayer Gate, both of which offer a full range of financial services including ATMs. This may be more convenient than a hometown account. Another option is USAA, which is also located just outside Thayer gate.



## Other Tips and Advice

Be prepared for at least one letter or phone call telling you that your cadet wants to quit. This may happen particularly right after your Plebe has had some contact with a friend at another college who tells your cadet about all the free time, parties, and lack of rules and regulations. This may also be brought on by frequent contact with unfeeling upperclassmen.

When the problem arises, you may need to remind your son or daughter (and yourself) of the advantages he/she has now and will have in the future:

- Acquiring the discipline to follow orders.
- Having the responsibility and privilege of leading soldiers.
- Experiencing the challenge of an unparalleled academic schedule.
- Having a student-teacher ratio that is unequaled in any other college.
- Using incredible athletic facilities and participating in a variety of sports.
- Traveling to places around the country and around the world.
- Getting paid while going to school.
- Having clothes provided with no worries about what to wear.
- Credentials that instantly evoke pride, prestige, honor and patriotism.
- Forever being a part of the history of this great nation "The Long Gray Line."

Be sympathetic and flexible. Try to get your cadet to give it one more day or week! Quitting is a serious decision; there is no second chance. Remember - **one day at a time!** Sometimes - during Beast - it can even be one meal at a time! Remember that all cadets will receive extensive counseling before they are allowed to resign.

Encourage your cadet to participate in clubs plus social and athletic activities and to be an active supporter of the Corps. Encourage them to continue any religious practices. Being involved in activities outside of their academics gives them a chance to "decompress" and feel like a real person instead of "just" a Plebe.

Keep in mind at all times that Plebe year is a very stressful time, but there are times set aside for fun and parties. It is amazing to see a Plebe who literally hates West Point but who decides to stick it out for a while, become a major leader and defender of the system. But also remember that West Point is not for everyone. Your Plebe may not be the type to succeed there. If you sense problems, talk with other parents; you may find others with similar problems who have found something that helped them. West Point chaplains are a resource that may also be of help.

You do not need to worry about medical attention for your Plebe at West Point. They have excellent facilities and if the problem is serious, he/she will be sent to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. If there is a problem, you will be notified. If you are concerned about your cadet's mental or physical health, call the TAC; however, use this only for real emergencies. Some parents feel that they must contact the TAC for any minor issue; this results in undue and unwanted attention on that cadet. While home on leave, your cadet is authorized medical care at any military facility or at any hospital, but only for a medical emergency.

If there is a family emergency, you can contact the TAC. You can also call the Central Guard Room (open 24 hours/day) at (845) 938-2555. If you get a busy signal, keep trying. You will get through.

Many parents try to visit West Point during the football season to take in a football game and see their cadet. It is very important to book your accommodations well in advance. If after calling a hotel from an out of town line you are told there are no vacancies, you might try to call from a local line, since some of the hotels reserve a few rooms for local customers. Reservations can be difficult in Highland Falls, but there are plenty of good accommodations within a thirty to forty-five minute drive. See the list of hotels and motels in this handbook.

## Summary

You must constantly reinforce the positive with your cadet. Never let them lose sight of their objective. Your cadet is joining the oldest military institution in the United States from which the likes of Lee, Grant, MacArthur, Stillwell, Eisenhower, Patton, and Schwarzkopf have all graduated. This is not just a college education. This is an all-encompassing

process through which the leaders of the 21st century are developed to be all around leaders. **REMEMBER, no one at West Point wants your Plebe to fail!!**

Nothing comes without sacrifice and your son/daughter will make sacrifices during their years at West Point. The reward is overwhelming in the sense of pride and accomplishment. That pride cannot be taken away from them. They have paid the price and when they walk up to get that diploma on graduation day - no one can take away the fact that they have joined the LONG GRAY LINE.

### **Another Wonderful Resource**

The West Point Parents Club of West Point publishes The Sourcebook for West Point Parents each year. It is a large book filled with a wide array of information on a multitude of subjects concerning cadets and academy life, schedules, etc. For information about obtaining a copy of this book, please contact Elisabeth and Andy Curshen at [aecmail@earthlink.net](mailto:aecmail@earthlink.net) or 201-444-5498. It is very reasonably priced.

**Below is a sample letter from a New Cadet sent during Beast. Although quite humorous, the information you will receive might answer several of your questions about the experiences your New Cadet is having at the same time allowing for minimal response time from your New Cadet.**

Dear Son/Daughter:

Here is a letter to send back to us. Just fill in the blanks or circle the correct answer or mark true or false, place in the enclosed stamped envelope and mail.

1. I: (a.) have, b.) have not, met any other new cadets from (home state). They are: \_\_\_\_\_
2. I: (a.) have, (b.) have not, met any upperclass cadets from (home state). They are \_\_\_\_\_ and are (a.) pretty good, (b.) really tough, (c.) other:\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The food is: (a.) okay, (b.) sad, (c.) great, and we get (a.) plenty of food, (b.) an okay amount, (c.) too little.
4. I am: (a.) still tough, (b.) getting weak, (c.) okay.
5. My resolve to make it is: (a.) strong, (b.) I'll get through it, (c.) send luggage.
6. Physical training is: (a.) a piece of cake, (b.) I'm getting better, (c.) I'm lagging on runs and sucking for air.
7. I've had: (a.) more, (b.) the same as, (c.) fewer run-ins with the upperclass cadets, than my fellow cadets.
8. I have: (a.) one, (b.) two roommates. They are from \_\_\_\_\_ and their names are \_\_\_\_\_.
9. My roommates and I are: (a.) learning to work together, (b.) we don't speak too much but getting there, (c.) I am trying to push his/her bottom out the window as we speak.
10. I got placed in Company \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Platoon: because (a.) I am great, (b.) I hurt, (c.) random selection process.
11. We are arranged according to: (a.) height, (b.) who can march, (c.) the platoon leader wants to hide me.
12. Marching has taught me the scenery: (a.) never changes, (b.) don't know, (c.) only changes for the lead dog.
13. I am starting to make: (a.) many, (b.) quite a few, (c.) just a couple of new friends. True/ False: We don't have much new friendship time yet.
14. My Company Commander is from: (a.) a state?, (b.) foreign country?, (c.) the war zone where the Klingons/aliens won.
15. Our Company TAC is Captain\_\_\_\_\_, she/he is \_\_\_\_\_(for example: strict, fair, encouraging, etc.)
16. We are learning (a.) Manners, (b.) Honor Code, (c.) Military protocol, (d.) How to serve dessert, (e.) all of the above.
17. I will: (a.) Persevere, (b.) Adapt, (c.) Overcome, (d.) all of these.
18. (Home Address) looks good now, but the\_\_\_\_\_ is now my home.
19. Other than pushups, marching, and chow, what I like best is: (a.) Camaraderie, (b.) The way our cadet sergeant loves us, (c.) The lessons we are learning, (d.) PT.....List all that apply.
20. The opposite sex cadets look (a.) really good, (b.) I can't tell the sweat is always in my eyes.
21. I have learned how to make my bed and hang up my clothes. TRUE/FALSE? (Remember The Honor Code)
22. I have reached the point now where I miss (a.) the dog, (b.) the cat, (c.) my sister/brother, Circle those that apply.

**With Love and Pride: GO ARMY, BEAT NAVY & AIR FORCE, Mom and Dad**

P.S. I hardly miss my car and CD player. True/False

## Section II – West Point Area References and Information

In addition to the following pages, numerous references and web links for the area are available at <http://www.usma.edu/visiting.asp>

### West Point Phone Numbers (Area Code 845)

<u>Agency/Service</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Admissions	938-4041
Alumni Affairs	938-3700
Assoc. of Grads Gift Shop	446-5869
Beauty Shop	446-5774
Cadet Bookstore	938-5356
Cadet Counseling Center	938-3022
Cadet Hostess	938-3104/4681
Chapels	
Cadet Chapel	938-2308/4616
Old Cadet Chapel	938-2433
Post Chapel	938-2959
Catholic Chapel	938-2784
Jewish Chapel	938-2766
Credit Union (M-F 9-3, Thurs. 9-5:30)	446-4946
Credit Union (Out of State)	1-800-431-1404
Dry Cleaners	446-5777
Eisenhower Hall	938-3384
Fine Arts Forum	938-2502
Flower Shop	446-3848
Football Office	938-2323
Football Ticket Office	938-2526 or 446-4996 1-877-TIX-ARMY (toll free)
Gas Station	446-5556
Golf Clubhouse	938-2435
Hockey Rink	938-4236
Hotel Thayer	938-4731
Keller Community Army Hospital	938-3004
Medical/Surgical Ward	938-4004
Emergency. Room (after 4:30 p.m.)	938-3607
Patient Admin Division	938-5169
Information Desk	938-4724
Michie Stadium	938-2330
Military Police	938-3333
Office of Intercollegiate Athletics Gift Shop	446-3040
Optical Shop	446-5786
Review (Parade) Information	938-2638/5261
Post Chaplain	938-3412
Post Office	446-2004
Public Affairs Office	938-5650
WPPC Rep: Dolores Salvatore	
Sports Information	938-3303/3512
Sports Scores	938-ARMY
Theater Schedule	938-3175
Theater Ticket Information	938-2070
Taxi (Commercial)	446-4520/4588
West Point Museum	938-2203/3201
West Point Club	938-5120

## **West Point Church Services**

<b><u>SERVICES</u></b>	<b><u>DAY and TIME</u></b>	<b><u>LOCATION</u></b>
Protestant	Sunday: 10:30 a.m.	Cadet Chapel
Catholic Mass	Saturday: 5:15 p.m.  Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 5:00 p.m.  Daily: 6:20 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.	Holy Trinity Catholic Chapel
Jewish Family	Saturday: 7:15 p.m.	Jewish Chapel
Jewish Orthodox	Saturday: 9:00 p.m.	St. Martin's
Southern Baptist	Sunday: 10:30 a.m.	Mahan Hall
Church of Christ	Sunday: 10:30 a.m.	Foreign Language Lecture Hall
Episcopal	Sunday: 8:30 a.m.	Cadet Chapel
Latter Day Saints	Sunday: 8:30 a.m.	Bartlett Hall
Lutheran	Sunday: 10:30 a.m.	Old Cadet Chapel

### **Local Boodlers**

**A Piece of Cake & Company**

Shari Broesler

845-446-5747

Email: [pieceofcakeandco@aol.com](mailto:pieceofcakeandco@aol.com)

Web Site: [www.pieceofcakeandco.com](http://www.pieceofcakeandco.com)

**Boodle Boxes & Balloons**

Barbara Hulslander

845-446-2083

564-B Connor Loop

West Point, NY 10996

**Budding Boutique**

Mrs. Carolyn Cassidy

845-446-3831

P.O. Box 978

Fort Montgomery, NY 10922

**Cadet Restaurant**

845-938-4453/4456

Eisenhower Hall

West Point, NY 10996

**Love a Cadet**

Dagny Henderson

845-446-0037

P.O. Box 62

West Point, NY 10996

Email: [loveacadet@aol.com](mailto:loveacadet@aol.com)

Web Site: [www.loveacadet.com](http://www.loveacadet.com)

**Nancy Fancies**

Nancy Flowers

845-446-2946

West Point, NY 10996

**The Ice Cream Shoppe**

845-446-2380/800-RUN-ARMY

419 Main Street

Highland Falls, NY 10996

Web Site: [www.RADEV@aol.com](http://www.RADEV@aol.com)

### **Area Flower Shops**

**The Flower Basket**

845-446-5237

70 Main Street

Highland Falls

**Graber Florists**

845-446-2955

292 Main Street

Highland Falls



## Restaurants

Here is a list of some of the restaurants in the general locale that offer you a place to have a nice meal with your cadet. (All are within a thirty-mile radius.)  
The area code is 845 for those on the west side of the Hudson River, 914 for those on the east side of the Hudson River.

<b>West Point Club</b> – On post near the Plain it overlooks the Hudson River	938-5120/446-5504
<b>Hotel Thayer Restaurant</b> – On post by Thayer Gate. Excellent Brunch	938-4021/446-4731
<b>West Point Gray Line Eatery</b> – 521 Main Street, Highland Falls	446-1118
<b>Town Diner</b> – 520 Main Street, Highland Falls	446-9037
<b>South Gate Tavern</b> – 509 Main Street, Highland Falls	446-8747
<b>Tony’s Restaurant</b> – 505 Main Street, Highland Falls	
<b>Schade’s Restaurant</b> – 457 Main Street, Highland Falls	446-2626
<b>Dong Fong Restaurant</b> – 433 Main Street, Highland Falls	446-2000/446-0763
<b>Park Restaurant</b> – 415 Main Street, Highland Falls	446-8709
<b>New World Kitchen (Chinese)</b> – 319 Main Street, Highland Falls	446-8000
<b>Great Wall Restaurant (Chinese)</b> – 287 Main Street, Highland Falls	446-7777
<b>Andy’s Restaurant</b> – 281 Main Street, Highland Falls	446-8736
<b>Acevedo’s Deli Restaurant</b> – 276 Main Street, Highland Falls	446-2222
<b>West Point Pizza</b> – 282 Main Street, Highland Falls	446-5544
<b>Benny Haven’s Sports Café (21 and older)</b> – 295 Main St., Highland Falls	446-9041
<b>Chewan’s Family Deli</b> – 156 Main Street, Highland Falls	446-7827
<b>Hacienda Mexican Restaurant</b> – 145 Main Street, Highland Falls	446-0406
<b>Acorn Old Oak Inn</b> – Route 9W, Fort Montgomery	446-3700
<b>Perry’s Café</b> – Route 9W, Fort Montgomery	446-4811/783-3783
<b>Bear Mountain Inn</b> – at Bear Mountain Lodge near Bear Mountain Circle	786-2731
<b>Lynch’s Restaurant</b> – Route 9W South of Bear Mt. Circle in Tompkins Cove	947-3363
<b>Mt. Fuji’s</b> – Suffern	357-4270
<b>Gasho’s Steak House (Japanese)</b> – Route 32, Central Valley	928-2277/2387
<b>Black Forest Mill</b> – Route 32, Highland Mills	928-9895
<b>Painter’s Tavern</b> – Idlewild Avenue, Cornwall-on-Hudson	534-2109
<b>Bristro’s</b> – on the Hudson close to Painter’s Tavern, Cornwall-on-Hudson	?
<b>Canterbury Inn</b> – 331 Main Street, Cornwall-on-Hudson	534-2280
<b>Max’s Family Restaurant</b> – 181 Hudson St. (Rt. 218), Cornwall-on-Hudson	534-2540
<b>Friendly’s</b> – New Windsor	561-4565
<b>Rosebud’s</b> – Route 9W, New Windsor	565-6588
<b>Uncle Chu’s</b> – Route 32, Windsor Highway, New Windsor	562-2020
<b>Schlesinger’s Steak House</b> – 475 Temple Hill Road, New Windsor	561-1762
<b>Ponderosa Steak House</b> – 334 Windsor Highway, Vails Gate	652-0410
<b>Ground Round</b> – Newburgh Mall	564-9787
<b>Yobo’s (Korean)</b> – 1061 Union Avenue, Newburgh	564-3848
<b>Steak and Stein</b> – Union Avenue, Newburgh	564-7678
<b>Lake View House</b> – 205 Lakeside Road, Newburgh	?
<b>New Orleans Steak House</b> – 44 Route 17K, Newburgh	569-1500
<b>Black Rooster</b> – riverfront in Newburgh	?
<b>Cena 2000</b> – riverfront in Newburgh	?
<b>Cornerstone Restaurant</b> – Intersection Routes 9 & 52, Fishkill	845-896-8050
<b>Cherry Blossom (Japanese)</b> – Route 52 north from I-84, Fishkill	?
<b>Hudson’s Ribs and Fish</b> – Fishkill	845-297-5002
<b>Highland’s Country Club</b> – Garrison	?
<b>Reef and Beef</b> – Peekskill traffic circle, Peekskill	737-4959
<b>IL Cena Colo</b> – 228 South Plank Rd., Newburgh	564-4494
<b>Café Pitti</b> – 40 Front St. Newburgh	565-1444

## Hotel, Motel, and Tourism Information

Below is a partial list of Motels/Hotels in the West Point area. Additional information about the facilities can be viewed at the following URL: <http://www.west-point.org/parent/wppc-ne-ohio/Motels.htm>. No descriptions will be given here in the interest of brevity, except for the Five Star Inn that is Army Lodging. One thing to remember is that even if the motel has some negative comments at the URL site listed above, there are times, especially during Plebe year, when staying within the walking privileges area may be more important than a “perfect” motel. The motels are listed by approximate distance from West Point beginning with the closest.

**Five Star Inn** – The Five Star Inn is the Army’s lodging facility on post. Active duty or retired military are authorized to rent rooms. Cadets are also authorized to rent rooms for their family members or adult family friends. Parents of cadets may rent rooms with a copy of their cadet’s military ID card. Reservations may be made no more than one month in advance. Over the summer, it is almost impossible to reserve a room as military with orders (i.e. permanent change of station, etc.) have priority. It is also extremely difficult to get reservations for major weekends (Plebe Parent Weekend, football weekends, etc.). But, if you are going to be visiting West Point at an “off” time, definitely try it out. There are two locations – one on post and one off post. The off post facility is much nicer, but the on post facility is currently being renovated. The prices are VERY reasonable. Call for more detailed information: 845-938-6816.

**Hotel Thayer** – West Point, NY 10996, 845-446-4731, 800-247-5047  
**Christianna Hotel** – P.O. Box 284, Main Street, Highland Falls, NY 10928, 845-446-5789  
**West Point Motel** – 361 Main Street, Highland Falls, NY 10928, 845-446-4180  
**U.S. Academy Motel** – Route 218, Main Street, Highland Falls, NY 10928, 845-446-2021  
**Palisades Motel** – Route 218 and 9W, Highland Falls, NY 10928, 845-446-9400  
**Pointer’s Echo Motel** – Route 9W, Highland Falls, NY 10928, 845-446-2696  
**Holiday Inn Express** – 1106 Route 9W, Fort Montgomery, NY 10922, 845-446-4277  
**Bear Mountain Inn** – Route 9, Bear Mountain, NY 10911, 845-786-2731  
**Cadet Motel** – 2582 Route 9W, Cornwall, NY 12518, 845-534-4595  
**Daystop Inn** – Route 9W, Cornwall, NY 12518, 845-562-7661  
**Fonte’s Motel** – 108 Route 9W, New Windsor, NY, 845-561-9869  
**EconoLodge** – 310 Windsor Highway (Route 32), New Windsor, NY 12553, 845-561-6620  
**Avacar Motel** – Windsor Highway (Route 32), New Windsor 12553, NY, 845-562-4704  
**Windsor Motel** – 2976 US Route 9W, New Windsor, NY 12553, 845-562-7777  
**Days Inn** – 915 Union Avenue, New Windsor, NY, 12553, 800-325-2525, 845-564-7550  
**Peekskill Inn** – 634 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566, 914-739-1500, 800-526-9466  
**Comfort Inn** – 5 Lakeside Rd., Newburgh, NY, US, 12550, 800-221-2222, 845-564-0567  
**Marriott Courtyard** – 4 Governor Drive Newburgh, NY 12550, 800-321-2211, 845-567-4800  
**Diplomat Motor Lodge** – Union Avenue, Newburgh, NY, 845-564-7550  
**Howard Johnson** – 95 Route 17K Newburgh, NY, 12550, 800-654-2000, 845-564-4000  
**Ramada Inn** – 1289 Union Avenue Newburgh, NY, 12550, 800-228-2828, 845-564-4500  
**Super 8 Motel** – 800-843-1991, 845-564-5700  
**American Budget Inn** – Routes 17 & 12, Harriman, NY (10 miles from Camp Buckner)  
800-836-3860, 845-783-3211  
**Holiday Inn** – 542 Route 9/ Route 9 & I-84, Fishkill, NY 12524, 845-896-6281  
**Marriott Courtyard** – 17 Westage Drive/Route 9 & I-84 Fishkill, NY 12524, 845-897-2400  
**Hilton Garden Inn** – 14 Schuyler Blvd. Fishkill, NY 12524, 845-896-7100  
**Marriott Residence Inn** – 14 Schuyler Blvd. Fishkill, NY 12524, 845-896-5210  
**Best Western Nyack on Hudson** – 26 Route 59, Nyack, NY 10960, 845-358-8100  
**Days Inn** – 367 West Route 59, Nanuet, NY 10954, 845-623-4567

### Local Tourism Offices:

Orange County: (800) 762-8687 or [www.orangetourism.org](http://www.orangetourism.org)  
Rockland County: (800) 708-7300 or [www.rockland.org](http://www.rockland.org)  
Putnam County: (800) 470-4854 or [www.visitputnam.org](http://www.visitputnam.org)  
Dutchess County: (800) 445-3131 or [www.dutchesstourism.com](http://www.dutchesstourism.com)  
Westchester County: (800) 833-9282 or [www.westchestertourism.com](http://www.westchestertourism.com)

## Area Shopping

Below are directions to some of the major shopping centers or malls in the area around West Point.

**WALMART (Newburgh):** Take Rt. 9W North. Drive approximately 6.5 miles on Rt. 9W North from the point where Rt. 218 veers off toward the West Point Golf Course. At 7.1 miles take exit off 9W marked “Cornwall”, “Storm King Art Center” and “H” (for hospital). At end of ramp turn left. At the traffic light at the end of the road, turn right onto Rt. 32. When the road widens for the next traffic light (by McDonalds at “Five Corners”), get into the left lane. Go straight through that intersection (you are on Rt. 300) toward Stewart Airport. At the third traffic light, turn right and continue for about one mile to next light. Take a left turn into the Wal-Mart parking lot.

**MIDDLETOWN GALLERIA:** Take Rt. 9W North. Take Rt. 293 by the Golf Course (toward Central Valley). Travel approximately 8-9 miles through Camp Buckner area to join Rt. 6 West. You will go down a long hill. Rt. 6 flows into Rt. 17 West toward Middletown. When you get to Middletown area and cross over I-84, you will see the mall immediately to your right. Take the next exit onto Rt. 211, turning right at the light at the bottom of the ramp. Continue on for about ¾ mile to the Galleria entrance (on the right). A Wal-Mart and a Sam’s Club are in front of the Galleria complex.

**WOODBURY COMMON (Outlets):** Take Rt. 9W North. Take Rt. 293 by the Golf Course (toward Central Valley). Travel approximately 8-9 miles through Camp Buckner area to join Rt. 6 West. At the bottom of the long hill on Rt. 6, you will see signs for the New York State Thruway and Rt. 32 North. Bear right onto Rt. 32 North and go about ¾ mile to Woodbury Common entrance, on right. CAREFULLY watch out for signs at the entrance and exits, which can be confusing with a lot of traffic in a very small area.

**MONROE SUPER WALMART:** Follow the directions for Woodbury Commons to the bottom of the hill on Rt. 6. Take the same right exit at the bottom, after you go over the New York Thruway, but at the traffic light at the end of the exit ramp, bear left and IMMEDIATELY get into the right lane. As you now go under Rt. 6, make a right at Melody Lane (adjoining Woodbury Chevrolet). The Super Wal-Mart will be on your left a ways down Melody Lane.

**PALISADES MALL IN WEST NYACK:** Take Rt. 9W South toward the Bear Mountain traffic circle. As you approach the circle, you will see the entrance to the Palisades Parkway (south). Travel south-bound on the Palisades Parkway, and after about 15 miles start looking for signs for I-287. Take the exit to I-287 East. Take the Palisades Center Drive exit to the mall.

**NANUET MALL:** Follow the directions to the Palisades Mall. Drive south past the I-287 exit to the exit for Rt. 59 West. The Nanuet Mall is about 2 miles on the left.

**SAM’S CLUB / SUPER WALMART (Fishkill):** Take Rt. 9W North (toward Newburgh). Follow 9W North through Newburgh to the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge. Take I-84 east over the bridge. There is a toll for cars or *EZPass* can be used. Continue to third exit past toll booths, Rt. 9 North (Fishkill). At bottom of exit ramp, turn left at the light and continue on for about ¾ mile. Wal-Mart, with Sam’s Club behind it, will be on the left. There is also a small mall and Mobil gas station located in front.

**POUGHKEEPSIE GALLERIA / SOUTH HILLS MALL:** Follow directions as above for Sam’s Club / Wal-Mart in Fishkill, but continue north on Rt. 9 for about 6 miles. Both malls will be on your left, interconnected by parking lots. South Hills is the first on the left, with the entrance to the large and newer Galleria at the second, third and fourth lights up from the front of South Mills Mall, at the Vassar Road intersection. Watch signs very carefully – there are small strip malls in front of part of the frontage to the Galleria. One entrance has a strip mall with a Bugaboo Creek Steak House in it. The next entrance is just several hundred feet beyond that, and the third entrance is a left turn at a light by a GMC auto dealership. Go a few hundred feet, then turn left again into the mall parking lot.

## Points Of Interest

(All dates and times are subject to change without notification)



**TIP:** If you have the time to sight see in and around, West Point, the points listed here are among the most prominent. For other sights, contact the Information Center.

### **Constitution Island**

West Point, two hour visit includes boat ride, guided tour of Warner House revolutionary War fortifications. Wed. and Thurs. at 1 and 2 p.m., late June through September. Reservations required. Call (845) 446-8676 weekdays 10-11:30 a.m. See 2003 schedule in this handbook (see Table of Contents for page number.)

### **Boscobel**

Route 9D, Garrison. Restored Federal period house with period furniture and decorative arts. Open daily except Tuesday 9:30-5:00; last tour 4:30 p.m. (914) 265-3638

### **Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site**

Route 9G, Hyde Park. Eleanor Roosevelt's home from 1945 to 1962. Open daily, April-Oct, with access only by shuttle bus from FDR home. Open March, Nov and Dec on weekends only, access by private vehicle. Closed Jan-Feb, with group reservations available. (914) 229-9115.

### **Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site**

Route 9, Hyde Park. Birthplace and home of FDR, grounds overlook Hudson River. Rose garden contains graves of FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt. Open daily April-Oct; closed Tues., Wed, Nov-March. (914) 229-9115.

### **Sunnyside**

Tarrytown, Rt. 9, 1 mile south of Tappan Zee Bridge, exit 9 off NY State Thruway. Washington Irving's home on the banks of the Hudson. Open daily 10-5, closed Tues. Dec-March. (914) 631-8200

### **Van Cortlandt Manor**

Croton-on-Hudson. On Rt 9, 11 miles north of Tappan Zee Bridge. Post-Revolutionary War Estate; antique furnishings, gardens. Tours, special events, picnicking. Open daily 10-3 year-round, closed Tues. Dec-March. (914) 631-8200

### **Vanderbilt Mansion**

Route 9, Hyde Park. Beaux Arts mansion with views of Hudson River. Visits to the mansion by guided tour only; open daily April through October, closed Tues. and Wed. Nov-March. (914) 229-9115

### **Culinary Institute of America**

Found along the Hudson, a former Jesuit seminary is born-again as the CIA; near FDR family home at Hyde Park. Reservations required well in advance.

### **Orange County Choppers Store**

Located at 1019 State Route 17K, Montgomery, NY 12549, west of Newburgh, NY, past Stewart Airport. Store Hours: Mon-Sat 9-8 Sun 9-5

## **Constitution Island Cadet Shuttle Service**

1. The Harborcraft Division operates a Cadet Shuttle Service to Constitution Island on Saturdays and Sundays nominally from mid-May through October, for cadets and their guests.
2. Hours of operation are Saturdays, 1200-1900 hours and Sundays, 1100-1600 hours. Boats depart South Dock and Constitution Island, as needed. For Constitution Island departures, contact the Harbor Craft Division at 845-938-2137/3011.
3. There is no fee for this service for cadets and their guests.
4. The Constitution Island Facility Manager, Mr. Roddy MacLeod, can assist you with ideas and coordination for island events, including group picnics/BBQs, hiking, historical tours of redoubts, camping, and tours of the Historic Warner House. Picnicking is allowed at pavilions and on open lawn areas. Mr. MacLeod can be contacted on the island at 845-265-4105 for assistance and island information.
5. Additional information is available at [www.constitutionisland.org](http://www.constitutionisland.org).

## **West Point/Garrison NY Cadet Ferry Service**

The Harborcraft Division provides a Cadet Ferry Service to/from Garrison, NY from mid-May through October. One way fare is 25 cents. This service is available to cadets and family members when accompanied by a cadet.

Hours of operation are Saturdays, 1200-1900 hours and Sundays, 1100-1600 hours. Boats depart South Dock and Garrison, NY, as needed. For service from Garrison to West Point, contact the Harbor Craft Division at 845-938-2137/3011.

For Garrison, NY, train schedule info, go to [www.mta.nyc.ny.us/index.html](http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/index.html).

## Computer Information Get Connected!

### Cadet Email

USMA will assign your cadet an e-mail account. It may be your primary means of communication with your cadet, so if you do not currently have an Internet Service Provider (ISP) or access to e-mail, you may want to consider it. E-mail and AOL Instant Messaging (see next page) are the easiest ways to hear anything from your very busy cadet. Ask your cadet for their email address.

### Web Sites for Information

Another West Point Organization link is <http://www.west-point.org/parent/wpp-net/>. This web site has links to numerous sources of information about West Point, including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

The primary West Point home page is <http://www.usma.army.mil/>. This site will link you to many others for helpful and up to date information about the Academy.

WPPC MD-DC-VA Web Site	<a href="http://www.wppc-mddcva.org">http://www.wppc-mddcva.org</a>
United States Military Academy Official Web Site	<a href="http://www.usma.edu">http://www.usma.edu</a>
Web Site for each class (xxxx is the class, i.e. 2005)	<a href="http://www.usma.edu/Class/XXXX/">http://www.usma.edu/Class/XXXX/</a>
Master Calendar of Events at West Point (Search events by date, location or keyword)	<a href="http://ams-ext.usma.edu/public/MasterCalendar/default.cfm">http://ams-ext.usma.edu/public/MasterCalendar/default.cfm</a>
Graduation week activities/events (fairly consistent)	<a href="http://www.usma.edu/publicaffairs/graduation2005/grad2005.htm">http://www.usma.edu/publicaffairs/graduation2005/grad2005.htm</a>
The Official West Point Web Site Search site	<a href="http://www.usma.edu/search/query.htm">http://www.usma.edu/search/query.htm</a>
West Point Events and Attractions	<a href="http://www.usma.edu/events.asp">http://www.usma.edu/events.asp</a>
Virtual West Point on the Internet telling the WP story	<a href="http://www.virtualwp.org">http://www.virtualwp.org</a>
West Point Athletics web site – schedules, tickets, and gifts	<a href="http://www.GoArmySports.com">http://www.GoArmySports.com</a>
Subscribe to the WP Parent Forum email List service	<a href="mailto:parent-forum-owner@west-point.org">parent-forum-owner@west-point.org</a>

### West Point Parent List Servers

As a parent of a cadet, you have access to a special "Parent-Net" called the Parent Forum on WP-ORG. The electronic forum is a private list server for USMA parents and grads (but it does NOT include cadets). The moderators communicate informative and timely information that you will otherwise be in the dark about (updated schedules, news, etc.) because your **cadet is too busy** to communicate with you or does not know (through no fault of their own). A question and answer dialogue is also available. Parents of Plebes can join "Plebe-Net" which is for parents of Plebes, surprise! Moderators also oversee this site. It can be a life saver during Beast Barracks! There is so much timely information and sharing of worries, etc.

There are no fees associated with this Parent Forum; however there are semi-annual donation drives to obtain funds for the operation and equipment required by WP-ORG.

If you HAVE web access, you may subscribe to the Parent Forum by going to: <http://www.west-point.org/parent/parent-forum/>. To join Plebe-Net go to: <http://www.west-point.org/parent/plebe-net/>. On the screen, click "Subscribe now" and complete the required information. Click on "submit" and you will be enrolled!

If you do NOT have web access, but you DO have e-mail, you may subscribe to the Parent-Net by sending an e-mail to: [parent-forum-owner@west-point.org](mailto:parent-forum-owner@west-point.org). In your e-mail include the word "Subscribe" in your subject line. In the body of the note include your last name; your first name; cadet graduating year, and your e-mail address.

A "digest" version of the postings is offered which includes all mail from the forum for that day. The digest" may be a good option because the volume of mail can get quite heavy.

### **WPPC MD-DC-VA Web Site**

The web site for the WPPC of MD-DC-VA is [www.wppc-mdcva.org](http://www.wppc-mdcva.org). This is a very effective form of communication for our club, and we hope our members will use this additional resource. The newsletters are posted periodically on the web site as well as many additional photos and information. Members can also print the forms required to reserve a bus ticket, membership application, and Parent Social events (i.e. dinners). The pictures are in color and can be printed or downloaded for your own use. The photo album contains many pictures from events from last year. This is a good place to preview events that will be happening this year. There is plenty of space to allow our club to post many, many pictures, so be sure to share your memories by forwarding your pictures to the webmasters.

Come and visit the site. We look forward to any comments you may have!

### **WPPC MD-DC-VA List Server**

Our club maintains a list server through the West Point Organization. This list server enables communication among our members, both broadcast and direct. Members can sign up by going to: <http://www.west-point.org/parent/wppccapdist>. Click on the "Subscribe Now" located on the left side of the page and complete the form. This will be forwarded to the moderator who will add you to our list server. Once you are on the list, you can broadcast messages to all members of our club who have registered. Address your message to [wppc-capdist@west-point.org](mailto:wppc-capdist@west-point.org). Remember that messages posted to this address are sent to more than 200 families. Postings on this list server are limited to our club business or regionally targeted messages; i.e. ride share to/from WP to the Maryland Virginia area or special USMA events in this area.

The list serve can also be used to send blind text email messages to individual subscribed members of our club. This is linked to the WPPC home page ([www.wppc-mdcva.org](http://www.wppc-mdcva.org)). Simply click on the blind email hyperlink on the left side of the page and you will be directed to a site listing all the members with registered email addresses. Select the name you wish to contact, click on "contact" and you will be able to send an email message to that individual.

### **AOL Instant Messenger**

As fast as Email is, the Internet also provides more immediate communication channels through personal chat programs. The easiest to use is the AOL Instant Messenger Program (<http://www.aim.com/index.adp>). This is freeware and available to anyone on line, not just AOL subscribers. This software allows you to have a 1-on-1 chat with someone, or allows you to create your own chatroom from your "buddy list." Those online at the same time and also logged into instant messenger can "chat." (This happens automatically when you both sign in.) You can easily put together buddy lists based on the email addresses of people you know. If you have a few cadets on your buddy list, you will find they are signed on for hours on end. This is because they automatically launch the program when they start their computers and since they are always logged into the West Point network, which is always connected to the Internet. If they are not on their computers but logged in, the program will show that the buddy is inactive and for how long.

The cadet's free time is limited so do not expect long "conversations" and be understanding if they are too busy. They can leave a message to let you know they are too busy to "talk." But, it can be a wonderful way to touch base and also can be a good outlet for the cadet to tell of good things happening or to "vent" if they have had a bad day.

This is the best NO COST way to communicate with your cadet. Since cadets are almost always signed in, it is easy to drop a quick note to say hello. If the cadet is very busy, he/she may just leave a message or sign off so as not to be disturbed.

## WPPC MD-DC-VA Cadet Bus Service

### I. GENERAL:

- A. Through our Transportation Coordinator(s) (list with the WPPC Board Members), WPPC provides economical bus transportation services for our cadets to come home on selected long weekends and holidays. Departure/arrival times are set in conjunction with official release/reporting times set by USMA.
- B. The pick-up/drop-off point at USMA is generally in the parking lot by Clinton Field (behind the bleachers).
- C. The bus has four destinations along Interstate 95:
  - 1. Baltimore Travel Plaza in Baltimore, MD
  - 2. Laurel Rest Area along I-95 in MD
  - 3. Springfield Mall, VA
  - 4. Spotsylvania Mall in Fredericksburg, VA.
- D. Notices about upcoming buses, reservations, and coordinating information are disseminated through the WPPC List Server email from the Transportation Coordinator(s). If you are not a member of the WPPC or do not have an email address on the List Server, you will not get notifications.

### II. RESERVATION GUIDELINES:

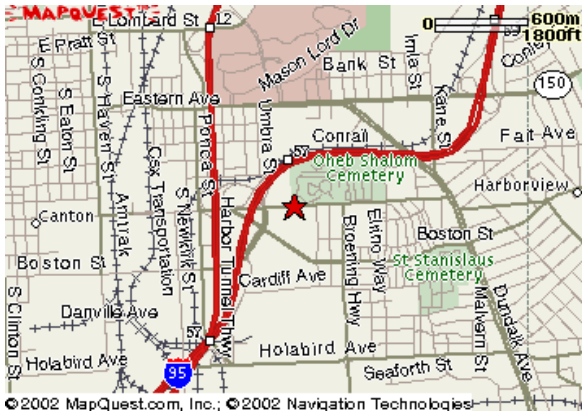
- A. Bus service is chartered based on reservations. To make a reservation, email the following information to the Transportation Coordinator(s): *name(s) of cadet(s), drop-off or pick-up location, and parent's home phone number*. Checks should be mailed as soon as the reservation is made. Postmarks will determine reservation order in case the requests exceed the number of seats.
- B. PLEASE notify the Transportation Coordinator if your cadet decides not to ride the bus.
- C. There is no refund but you may sell your seat as long as the Transportation Coordinator is notified so that the Bus Company receives a correct roster.
- D. If there are SIGNIFICANT changes, delays, etc. to the bus schedule, you will be notified by email or phone as appropriate.

### III. STOP LOCATIONS: (You can generally follow bus progress by watching email reports.)

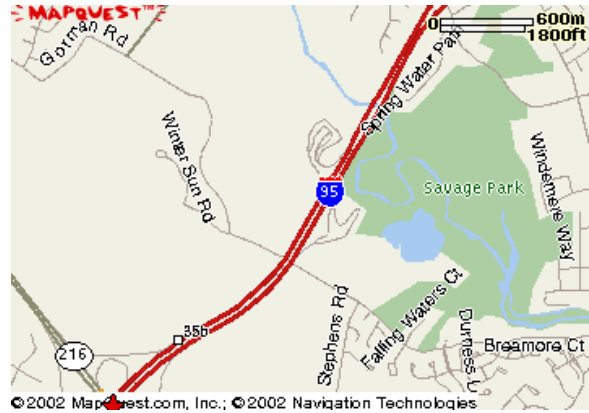
- A. Baltimore Travel Plaza is just north of Ft. McHenry tunnel off I-95. The bus stops in front of the bus terminal that is attached to the Best Western Inn.
- B. Laurel, MD, Rest Area is along I-95 about 5 miles north of the DC beltway, I-495. Coming south from West Point, the bus will stop on the SOUTHBOUND side rest area. For the return trip, heading north to West Point, the bus will stop on the NORTHBOUND side rest area. The bus will use the truck area to park. Be sure to look for the bus! If you park in the car parking area, you may miss the bus!
- C. Springfield, VA stop is in front of the Springfield Hilton Hotel, which is across from the Springfield Shopping Mall.
- D. Fredericksburg, VA stop is in Spotsylvania Mall in front of the general area of Ruby Tuesday's on the Route 3 side entrance – western most corner.



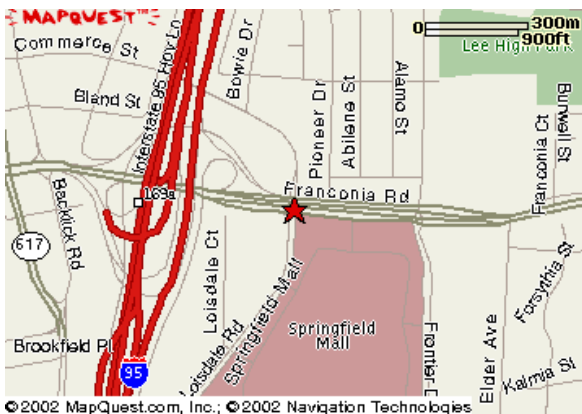
## Cadet Bus Service Drop-off Point Maps



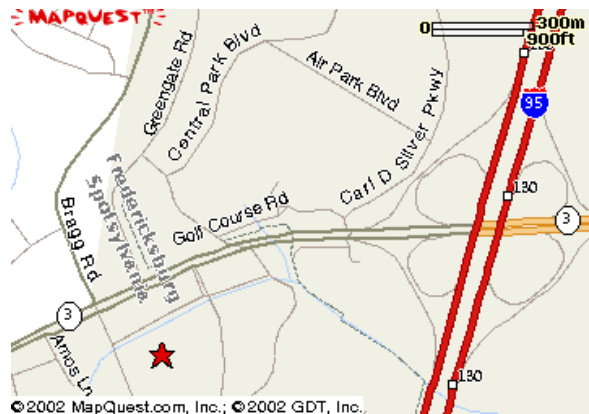
Baltimore Travel Plaza Map



South and North Bound Laurel Rest Area Map



Springfield Hilton Hotel Map



Fredericksburg Spotsylvania Mall Map

## **“THE ALMA MATER”**

Hail, Alma Mater Dear, To help us be ever near.

Help us thy motto bear Through all the years.

Let Duty be well performed.

Honor be e'er untarned.

Country be ever armed.

West Point, by thee.

Guide us, thy sons, aright, Teach us by day, by night,

Keep thine honor bright, For thee to fight.

When we depart from thee, Serving on land or sea,

May we still loyal be, West Point, to thee.

And when our work is done, Our course on earth is run,

May it be said, “Well done:

Be thou at peace.”

E'er may that line of gray Increase from day to day

Live, serve, and die, we pray West Point, for thee.

“Alma Mater,” the most beloved of all West Point songs has its beginnings in a very inauspicious manner. In the fall of 1908, Cadet P.S. Reinecke attempted to write a furlough song in an effort to pass some time while walking the area. Finally, he began to march to the tune of “Treuebeliebe,” an old favorite composed by Kuecken in 1827. Reinecke gradually developed the words to what we know today as the “Alma Mater.”

The song, however, died the death of all furlough songs and was not even sung at the graduation of Reinecke's class in 1911. But on 9 June 1912, “Alma Mater” was sung at the Baccalaureate Service and took its place as a musical expression of feelings of every West Pointer toward his alma mater.

## THE ARMY SONG

First to fight, For the right,  
And to build the Nations might,  
And the Army goes rolling along.  
Proud of all we have done,  
Fighting till the battle's won  
And the Army goes rolling along

(Refrain)

Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey!  
The Army on it's way.  
Count off the cadence loud and strong,  
(TWO! THREE!)  
For Wher - e'er we go, you will always know,  
That the Army goes rolling along.

Valley Forge, Custer's ranks,  
San Juan Hill and Patton's tanks,  
And the Army went rolling along  
Minute men, from the start,  
Always fighting from the heart,  
And the Army keeps rolling along.

(Refrain)

Men in rags, men who froze,  
Still that Army met its foes,  
And the Army went rolling along.  
Faith in God, then we're right,  
And we'll fight with all our might,  
As the Army keeps rolling along.

(Refrain)

## Section III – Club and Calendar Information

### WPPC MD-DC-VA 2004 – 2005 Executive Board Members

President:	Joel and Daphne Schmidt (07)	<a href="mailto:JoelSchmidt@msn.com">JoelSchmidt@msn.com</a>	703-534-9016
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents:	Bob and Molly Curran (06)	<a href="mailto:bobcurran@comcast.net">bobcurran@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:dercurans@aol.com">dercurans@aol.com</a>	301-622-6443
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents:	Werner and Rebecca Hindrichs (08)	<a href="mailto:Vonwaldeck@aol.com">Vonwaldeck@aol.com</a>	340-364-9144
Secretary:	Morty Paulus (07)	<a href="mailto:Morty310cp@aol.com">Morty310cp@aol.com</a>	703-329-9032
Treasurer:	Donna Silbersack (08)	<a href="mailto:Dsilbersack@comcast.net">Dsilbersack@comcast.net</a>	410-561-3635
Historian / Phone Cards:	Ed Armanas (06)	<a href="mailto:edarmanas@yahoo.com">edarmanas@yahoo.com</a>	410-461-8711
Club Merchandise:	Donna Armanas (06)	<a href="mailto:armanas@juno.com">armanas@juno.com</a>	410-461-8711
Joint Service Academies Ball:	Ken and Mary O’Sullivan (08)	<a href="mailto:Sullyko@aol.com">Sullyko@aol.com</a>	703-830-4969
Membership and Nametags:	Bill and Lynn Knutson (07)	<a href="mailto:Lynknut@aol.com">Lynknut@aol.com</a>	410-795-6898
Newsletter:	Mike and Kathy Dowe (08)	<a href="mailto:Kdowe@cox.net">Kdowe@cox.net</a> <a href="mailto:Mdowe@imf.org">Mdowe@imf.org</a>	703-718-6863
Plebe Parent Mentors:	Glen Cole (08) Barb Livieratos (08)	<a href="mailto:Ghc@brantleygroup.com">Ghc@brantleygroup.com</a> <a href="mailto:BVAC@comcast.net">BVAC@comcast.net</a>	410-363-4932 410-531-1386
Special Projects:	Vacant, need someone		
Public Affairs /Publicity:	Priscilla Knight (07)	<a href="mailto:Cilla1619@yahoo.com">Cilla1619@yahoo.com</a>	703-818-7157
List Server/Webmaster:	Pam Sutey (07)	<a href="mailto:psutey@yahoo.com">psutey@yahoo.com</a>	703-978-7207
Cadet Spirit:	Paula Warner (08)	<a href="mailto:Shoutjoy@earthlink.net">Shoutjoy@earthlink.net</a>	703-818-1061
Transportation (Buses)	Gretchen Trimble (08)	<a href="mailto:Getrim@hotmail.com">Getrim@hotmail.com</a>	703-729-3881
Afghans:	Nancy Dye (07)	<a href="mailto:nancydy@aol.com">nancydy@aol.com</a>	540-989-4118
Boodle Bash:	Tina Batt (07)	<a href="mailto:battmom752@aol.com">battmom752@aol.com</a>	703-796-0246

## 2005 Army Football Schedule

Times are subject to change if games are to be televised. For further football ticket information, call the Army Athletic Ticket Office at 845-446-4996 or toll free at 877-TIX-ARMY. Office hours: 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Mon. - Fri. Season tickets are \$158.00 for six home games, with priority seating in the cadet parent area (plus a seat reserved for your cadet to sit with you), and a reserved parking pass is issued with the season tickets. There are two (2) game packages: "Fun Zone" with tickets for each of Baylor, Massachusetts, and Arkansas for \$33.00/seat with a four ticket minimum, and "Field Goal" with tickets for each of Baylor, Central Michigan, and Massachusetts for \$85.00/seat and some extras. New Cadet Candidate parents can purchase football tickets and Army Navy football tickets on R-Day. They can also purchase the 4 tickets their cadet is eligible to purchase on R-Day.

Sat	September 10	At Boston College	Chestnut Hill MA	TBA
Sat	September 17	BAYLOR	West Point NY	TBA
Fri	September 23	IOWA STATE	West Point NY	8:00 p.m.
Sat	October 1	CONNECTICUT	West Point NY	TBA
Sat	October 8 (HC)	CENTRAL MICHIGAN	West Point NY	TBA
Sat	October 15	at TCU	Ft. Worth TX	TBA
Sat	October 22	at Akron	Akron OH	TBA
Sat	November 5	at Air Force	Colorado Springs CO	TBA
Sat	November 12	MASSACHUSETTS	West Point NY	TBA
Sat	November 19	ARKANSAS STATE	West Point NY	TBA
<b>Sat</b>	<b>December 3</b>	<b>vs. Navy</b>	<b>Philadelphia Pa.</b>	<b>2:30 p.m.</b>

Attending an Army Football game can be a great opportunity to visit with your cadet and enjoy a beautiful fall weekend at West Point. It is best to work through your cadet to obtain tickets for a game, as seating is reserved for cadet guests near the cadet cheering section. Have your cadet get the tickets as soon as possible. You can often also find tickets available for sale from other parents over the Parent-Forum. Parking can be a BIG problem, so plan on allowing plenty of time to locate a spot, then plan a great tailgate party while waiting for the game to begin. Prior to home games (weather permitting) there are cadet reviews on the Plain in front of Washington Hall. Tickets for the reviewing stands are free but must be requested in advance from the Special Projects Chairperson. They can be picked up at the morning coffee hour for West Point Parents Clubs, which is held at the West Point Club the morning of the home football game. Call or email the Special Projects Chairperson for more information.

This year, WPPC has a block number (#1324) for the Army Navy game tickets on December 3, 2005. Tickets are \$40.00 (face value) and club members will be seated in a section together if the block number 1324 is given when reserving your Army Navy tickets. If you would like to sit in our club section, please call the Army Ticket Office at 845-446-4996 or toll free at 877-TIX-ARMY, join the Army "A" Club and request to purchase tickets in **GROUP # 1324, WPPC of MD, DC and VA.** Come join the fun and cheer Army on to victory!

***GO ARMY – BEAT NAVY!!***

## Important Dates for WPPC of MD, DC, VA May 2005 to June 2006

<http://ams-ext.usma.edu/public/MasterCalendar/default.cfm>

### May 2005

Term End Exam (TEE)	Mon, May 16-Sat, May 21
Graduation Week	Mon, May 24-Sat, May 29
Graduation Class of 2005	Sat, May 28 in Michie Stadium

### June 2005

Welcome Picnic (NCC 2009)	Sun, Jun 5 (A short Board Meeting follows the picnic.)
Welcome Picnic Richmond (2009)	Date and Location TBD
R-Day Rehearsals	Fri, Jun 24
R-Day Class 2009	Mon, Jun 27 - Eisenhower Hall (Parent Schedule TBP)

### July 2005

Plebe Parent Potluck, MD	Sat, Jul 9 (TBD), Home of TBA
Plebe Parent Potluck, Northern VA	Sat, Jul 16 (TBD), Home of TBA
Plebe Parent Potluck, South VA	Sat, Jul 23 (TBD), Home of TBA

### August 2005

CFT Run Back	Sun, Aug 7 (To be confirmed)
CFT Ends	Mon, Aug 8
CBT March Back	Mon, Aug 8 (Arrive at Superintendent's Qtrs. @ 9:30 a.m.)
Re-orgy Week	Mon, Aug 8 – Sat, Aug 13
Acceptance Day, Class 2009	Sat, Aug 13 (Parade @ 10:00 a.m.)
Affirmation, Class 2007	Sun, Aug 14
1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	Mon, Aug 15 – Sat, Dec 18
Ring Weekend Class 2006	Fri, Aug 26- Sun, Aug 28 (Presentation: Fri @ 5:00 p.m., Banquet: Sat @ 7:00 p.m.)
WPPC Meeting*	Date Time and Location TBD

### September 2005

Labor Day Weekend	Fri, Sep 2 - Mon, Sep 5 (w/Pass - report back by 7:00 p.m. Mon)
Home Football Game	Sat, Sep 17
Home Football Game	Fri, Sep 23

### October 2005

Home Football Game	Sat, Oct 1
Home Football Game	Sat, Oct 8 (Homecoming)
Columbus Day	Mon, Oct 10 (Normal class day at West Point in 2005)
Plebe Parent Weekend	Fri, Oct 14-Mon, Oct 17 (Plebe/Parent Banquet, 7:00 p.m., Sat.)
No Classes (Columbus Day Observance)	Mon, Oct 17 (Upper classes report back by 7:00 p. m. Mon)
Army 10 Miler	Sun, Oct 23, (WPSDC Host Tailgate w/WPPC)
WPPC Fall Dinner	Sat, Oct 29, at Ft. Myer O'Club (TBD-Confirm)
WPPC Meeting*	Date, Time, and Location TBD
Marine Corps Marathon	Sun, Oct 30 (Wash DC area – Club Tailgate w/WPSDC)

### November 2005

Veterans' Day	Fri, Nov 11 (No Classes) (No passes – football weekend)
Home Football Game	Sat, Nov 12
Branch Night (Class of 2006)	TBD
Thanksgiving	Wed, Nov 23 - Sun, Nov 27 (report back 7:00 p.m. Sun)

### December 2005

Army-Navy Football Game	Sat, Dec 3, Time 2:30 p.m., Lincoln Field, Philly (Club T-gate)
Term End Exam (TEE)	Sat, Dec 10-Sat, Dec 17
Winter Leave	Fri, Dec 16 - Mon, Jan 2, 2006
Joint Services Academy Ball	Fri, Dec 30 – Baltimore MD
WPPC Meeting*	Date, Time, and Location TBD

**January 2006**

Return from Winter Leave  
Winter Reorgy Week  
2<sup>nd</sup> Semester  
Martin Luther King Day  
500<sup>th</sup> Night Weekend (Class of 2007)

Mon, Jan 2 (formation time to be confirmed)  
Tue, Jan 3 – Sat, Jan 7  
Mon, Jan 9 – Fri, May 19  
Mon, Jan 16 (No Classes)  
Fri, Jan 20 – Sun, Jan 22 (Banquet/hop, 6:30 p.m. Sat)

**February 2006**

Yearling Weekend (Class of 2008)  
Class 2007 Ring Show  
Boodle Bash & WPPC Meeting\*  
Presidents Day Weekend  
100<sup>th</sup> Night Weekend (Class of 2006)

Fri, Feb 3 - Sun, Feb 5  
Mon, Feb 6 -Thurs, Feb 9 (Ike Hall)  
Sun, Feb 12 (Location and Time TBA)  
Fri, Feb 17 - Mon, Feb 20 (w/pass - report back by 7:00 p.m. Mon)  
Fri, Feb 24 – Sun, Feb 26 (Banquet, 6:00 p.m. Sat)

**March 2006**

Spring Leave  
WPPC Meeting\*

Fri, Mar 10 - Sun, Mar 19 (report back by 7:00 p.m. Sun)  
Date, Time, and Location TBD

**April 2006**

Parent Club President's Conference  
Spring Dinner 06  
Sandhurst Competition

Thu, Apr 20 to Sat, Apr 22 (Ike Hall)  
Sat, TBA (Celebrates the Class 2006) (WPPC Board Elections)  
Sat, TBA

**May 2006**

Term End Exam (TEE)  
Graduation Week  
Graduation Class of 2006

Mon, May 15-Sat, May 20  
Mon, May 22-Sat, May 27  
Sat, May 27 in Michie Stadium

**June 2006**

Welcome Picnic (NCC 2010)  
Welcome Picnic Richmond (2010)  
R-Day NCC Class 2010

Sun, Jun 4 (Class of 2010 - short Board Meeting Follows the Picnic)  
Date and Location TBD  
Mon, Jun 26 Eisenhower Hall

\*This is your Club for our Cadets – All members of the WPPC are encouraged to attend these meetings.  
Always confirm dates with your Cadet before making reservations or traveling.

**Future Key Dates 2006-2009**

Graduation Class of 2006	Saturday, May 27, 2006
R-Day Class of 2010	Monday, June 26, 2006
Winter Leave	December 15, 2006, to January 2, 2007
Graduation Class of 2007	Saturday, May 26, 2007
R-Day Class of 2011	Monday, June 25, 2007
Winter Leave	December 21, 2007, to January 3, 2008
Graduation Class of 2008	Saturday, May 24, 2008
R-Day Class of 2012	Monday, June 30, 2008
Winter Leave	December 19, 2008, to January 5, 2009
Graduation Class of 2009	Saturday, May 30, 2009

## Highlights of the Plebe Year 2005 - 2006

After the March back on Monday, 8 August, their year begins with Reorganization Week (Reorg Week) new companies, new duties, and new responsibilities, and a fresh batch of Yearlings, Cows, and Firsties awaiting the Plebes arrival with whom to share their wisdom and experience, so to speak. Each Plebe will be assigned to a Yearling (3<sup>rd</sup> Class Cadet) who will mentor and assist the Plebe to navigate through the rigors of academy life and studies. Though this is not the definitive final schedule (always check the USMA web site and check with your cadets), their new schedule and highlights will look something like this:

### - 2005 -

<b>June 27</b>	<b>Reception Day, Class of 2009</b>
<b>August 8</b>	<b>CBT March Back (Arrive Superintendent's Qtrs. @ 9:30 a.m.)</b>
<b>August 13</b>	<b>Acceptance Day for Class of 2009</b>
August 15	1 <sup>st</sup> day of their first semester
September 2-5	Labor Day Weekend, Cadets with pass privileges may depart after completion of last duties (Friday or Saturday), No classes on Monday
October 8	Football Homecoming
October 10	Columbus Day – Classes on Monday this year
<b>Oct 14-17</b>	<b>Plebe Parent Weekend (PPW) (Banquet, 7:00 p.m., Saturday) – No classes on Monday</b>
November 11	Veterans Day – No Classes
November 23-27	Thanksgiving – Accountability formation at 7 p.m. on Sunday
December 3	ARMY BEATS Navy, Lincoln Field, Philadelphia, PA
December 10-17	Term End Exam (TEE) Week
December 16-17	Winter Leave begins after last duty

### - 2006 -

January 2	End of Winter Leave – Accountability formation time TBA
January 3-7	Winter Reorg Week
January 14-16	Martin Luther King Weekend – No classes on Monday
February 17-20	President Day - Cadets with pass privileges may depart after completion of last duties (Friday or Saturday), No classes on Monday
March 10-19	Spring Leave - Accountability formation at 7 p.m. on Sunday
May 15-20	Term End Exam (TEE) Week
May 27	Graduation



## Highlights of the Yearling Year 2005 - 2006

Following Cadet Field Training at Camp Buckner, the Yearlings' year will begin with Reorganization Week (Reorg Week) new companies, new duties, and new responsibilities. For the new Yearlings, they will feel their new status as the new Plebes return to main post during their march back from Lake Frederick. Yearlings will be assigned one or two Plebes to mentor for the semester, just as they were mentored one year ago. Though this is not the definitive final schedule (always check the USMA web site and check with your cadets), their new schedule and highlights will look something like this:

### - 2005 -

<b>August 7</b>	<b>CFT Run Back (Tentative date)</b>
August 15	1 <sup>st</sup> semester starts
September 2-5	Labor Day Weekend, Cadets with pass privileges may depart after completion of last duties (Friday or Saturday), No classes on Monday
October 8	Football Homecoming
October 10	Columbus Day – Classes on Monday this year
October 14-17	Columbus Day weekend observed this year
November 11	Veterans Day – No Classes
November 23-27	Thanksgiving – Accountability formation at 7 p.m. on Sunday
December 3	ARMY BEATS Navy, Lincoln Field, Philadelphia, PA
December 10-17	Term End Exam (TEE) Week
December 16-17	Winter Leave begins after last duty

### - 2006 -

January 2	End of Winter Leave – Accountability formation time TBA
January 3-7	Winter Reorg Week
January 14-16	Martin Luther King Weekend – No classes on Monday
<b>February 3-5</b>	<b>Yearling Weekend</b>
February 17-20	President Day - Cadets with pass privileges may depart after completion of last duties (Friday or Saturday), No classes on Monday
March 10-19	Spring Leave - Accountability formation at 7 p.m. on Sunday
May 15-20	Term End Exam (TEE) Week
May 27	Graduation

## Highlights of the Cow Year 2005 - 2006

The year begins with Reorganization Week (Reorg Week) new duties, and new responsibilities. For the new Cows, even greater responsibilities as they assume leadership positions as Non-Commissioned officers (NCOs) (Sergeants) in their companies. During this summer, most Cows will have completed one or more schools granting the wear of a qualification badge, such as Airborne or Air Assault. They proudly wear these new qualifications on their uniforms. . Though this is not the definitive final schedule (always check the USMA web site and check with your cadets), their new schedule and highlights will look something like this:

### - 2005 -

August 15	1 <sup>st</sup> semester starts
September 2-5	Labor Day Weekend, Cadets with pass privileges may depart after completion of last duties (Friday or Saturday), No classes on Monday
October 8	Football Homecoming
October 10	Columbus Day – Classes on Monday this year
October 14-17	Columbus Day weekend observed this year
November 11	Veterans Day – No Classes
November 23-27	Thanksgiving – Accountability formation at 7 p.m. on Sunday
December 3	ARMY BEATS Navy, Lincoln Field, Philadelphia, PA
December 10-17	Term End Exam (TEE) Week
December 16-17	Winter Leave begins after last duty

### - 2006 -

January 2	End of Winter Leave – Accountability formation time TBA
January 3-7	Winter Reorg Week
January 14-16	Martin Luther King Weekend – No classes on Monday
<b>January 20-22</b>	<b>500<sup>th</sup> Night Weekend (to be confirmed)</b>
<b>February 6-9</b>	<b>Ring Show</b>
February 17-20	President Day - Cadets with pass privileges may depart after completion of last duties (Friday or Saturday), No classes on Monday
March 10-19	Spring Leave - Accountability formation at 7 p.m. on Sunday
May 15-20	Term End Exam (TEE) Week
May 27	Graduation

## Highlights of the Firstie Year 2005 - 2006

### Schedule of Events for Graduation Week

The Graduation Week Schedule is mailed to the Firstie Parents in April preceding the graduation. The Schedule of activities is a full plate. Updates to the schedule are posted on the USMA web site when changes occur. Please consult the web site for the latest schedule changes. Congratulations to the Class of 2006!

### Tickets for Graduation Events

Your cadet gets 3-4 tickets for the banquet, plus one for themselves. There maybe overflow tickets and they are available on a first-come, first-serve basis and are purchased directly from each venue. The two venues for overflow are at Eisenhower Hall and Thayer Hotel. Both locations enjoy a video-link broadcast to the activities taking place at Washington Hall. The same dinner may not be served at each location.

#### - 2005 -

August 15	1 <sup>st</sup> semester starts
<b>August 26-28</b>	<b>Ring Weekend</b>
September 2-5	Labor Day Weekend, Cadets with pass privileges may depart after completion of last duties (Friday or Saturday), No classes on Monday
October 8	Football Homecoming
October 10	Columbus Day – Classes on Monday this year
October 14-17	Columbus Day weekend observed this year
November 11	Veterans Day – No Classes
<b>November 13 (TBA)</b>	<b>Branch Night (7:30 p.m.)</b>
November 23-27	Thanksgiving – Accountability formation at 7 p.m. on Sunday
December 3	ARMY BEATS Navy, Lincoln Field, Philadelphia, PA
December 10-17	Term End Exam (TEE) Week
December 16-17	Winter Leave begins after last duty

#### - 2006 -

January 2	End of Winter Leave – Accountability formation time TBA
January 3-7	Winter Reorgy Week
January 14-16	Martin Luther King Weekend – No classes on Monday
February 17-20	President Day - Cadets with pass privileges may depart after completion of last duties (Friday or Saturday), No classes on Monday
<b>February 24-26</b>	<b>100<sup>th</sup> Night Weekend</b>
March 10-19	Spring Leave - Accountability formation at 7 p.m. on Sunday
May 15-20	Term End Exam (TEE) Week
<b>May 27</b>	<b>Class of 2006 Graduation</b>



# THE SOURCEBOOK FOR WEST POINT PARENTS

Published by the Parents Club of West Point

The Sourcebook is a "security blanket" to which cadet parents will hold on through the whole West Point experience. The book is a guide through the four years, Plebe – Yearling – Cow – Firstie, with information, advice, and hints. Sections about cadet life, transportation, hotels/motels, football games, etc. will answer most of the questions cadet parents might have. If the answer to a question cannot be found in the book, references to websites or other pertinent sources are provided. The information has been compiled over six years by parents and other individuals with knowledge about life at West Point. The book is not an official publication of the United States Military Academy but an indispensable collection of information no cadet parent should be without.

Please detach the Order Form below and mail with your check payable to *The Parents Club of West Point* to:

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