

Yearling Year

Graduation Day

For Plebes, they will now be recognized as cadets and have the opportunity to call other cadets by their first names and to be called by their first name. It is also the end of a very demanding and stressful year.

After graduation, the new yearlings will be preparing for Camp Buckner. The new yearlings have to sign out before leaving the West Point for a short summer leave.

Determine a meeting place after the ceremony.

Reporting to Camp Buckner

Your cadet will know the time and date of the first formation at Camp Buckner. It is essential that the cadet is at Buckner in plenty of time to find the barracks and to change into shorts and T-shirt. Traffic congestion can be a problem.

Directions to Camp Buckner:

Go out Stony Lonesome Gate or Thayer Gate. Go north on 9W. Follow Rt. 293 South to Camp Buckner. It will be on the right at a blinking traffic light.

Security will be checking IDs. Parking is limited.

Camp Buckner

Cadets live in the barracks that are scattered over the main camp area. The barracks are long buildings with bunk beds on each side and high lockers separating the bunks (called a "Bay"). There are large floor fans but they are not very effective. A personal fan is desirable. The cadet mess is a very large building that overlooks Lake Popolopen. There is a camp post office, a recreation building, a barbershop, a cadet store and snack bar. There is a free laundry facility for cadets to do their own laundry since the send out laundry takes time.

Packing for Buckner

In addition to the officially issued packing list, cadets may want to have the following items:

Cell Phone (Verizon has the best coverage for the area and even that is not really good.)

FAN for the barracks

Postcards, stamps, addresses

Pens, pencils, paper

Books to read

CD player, Music

Camo face paint

Camo paint remover

Disposable camera (underwater ones are available too)

Playing cards

Bug repellent

Gold Bond powder

Dr. Scholl's blister patches

Band-aids

Multifunction knife or Leatherman tool

Camelback (now issued by West Point)

Boot polish

Zip Lock plastic bags (to hold maps)

Sunglasses

Snacks

Folding canvas chair

Goggles from Chemistry lab (for land nav. eye protection)

Additional items for female cadets:

Inexpensive panties that can be thrown

Travel size pack of baby wipes

Extra sports bras

Midol, Ibuprofen, Tylenol

Individually wrapped sanitary napkins/ tampons

Mail at Camp Buckner

The camp has its own post office and trained cadet postal workers. Mail should be addressed to the academic year address. They say mail is delivered once a day, but don't plan on it. Packages sent by mail will be picked up from the post office. UPS or FedEx will have to be picked up from the Camp Buckner Guard Shack.

Camp Activities

Military training does not always last for a full day. There is plenty of time for cadets to use the canoes and kayaks. There are places to fish (bring your own gear), play soccer and beach volleyball. There are also tennis courts, basketball courts and areas to swim. Academy Photo will be there to record activities and groups on film. They can be ordered before or after Camp Buckner.

Fourth of July is an occasion for the family to spend time with their cadet in a relaxed atmosphere. There are many places to set up a picnic but bring LOTS of food for your cadet and his/her many friends. Cadets can also leave the camp for the day after signing out.

Military Training

Newly promoted Firsties will assume command at Camp Buckner. New Cows will be the squad leaders and platoon sergeants. Regular Army personnel will be the instructors. Cadets will be assigned to companies numbered 1-8.

Field training at Buckner will cover:

- Advanced Rifle Marksmanship
- Bayonet Training and Assault Course
- Common Core Task Training
- Confidence Obstacle Course
- Combat Skills
- Field Preparation
- Fire Support
- Land Navigation
- Mounted Mobility Training (at Fort Knox, Kentucky)
- Support Operations
- Infantry Week or Operation Highland Warrior
- Recondo Day

Small Unit Weapons and Machine Guns

Fort Knox: At some point of the Camp Buckner experience, companies of cadets are bussed to Fort Knox. The cadets will spend a week with tanks and armor. There will be an exhibition of tanks and explosives called Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX).

Infantry Week: This is a rigorous military exercise in which an opposing force (OPFOR) “attacks” the yearlings. OPFOR consists of Cows, Firsties and regular Army. The Yearlings will maneuver around the woods trying to defeat or avoid the OPFOR. For this time period, yearlings will sleep in the woods, eat MRE’s and utilize the military skills they have just learned.

Awards and Promotion Ceremony: On the last day, the Yearlings will assemble on the parade grounds for awards for excellence in the various events at Camp Buckner. Yearlings are promoted to Cadet Corporals and receive the uniform insignia of that rank. The gold/yellow insignia is now worn during Yearling year. This hour-long ceremony is open to the public.

Run Back

On the last morning at Camp Buckner, the yearlings pile their gear onto trucks for transport back to West Point. Then they run back to the post led by the platoon with the highest Recondo score. Unlike March Back of Plebe summer, cadets are wearing shorts and T-shirts. They are singing and smiling. Families can stand along the same route as Plebe year March Back. Another Reorganization Week begins.

Reorganization Week

Yearlings will not dread this Reorganization Week. They will report to their permanent academic year companies....new barracks, phone numbers and roommates. Cadets will retrieve their gear from large lockers in the barracks basement. Cadets will set up their rooms, get their books for the new academic year and get to know the members of the new company.

Team Leaders

Each Yearling will begin their Army leadership career as a Team Leader. Team Leaders are responsible for the military development of one or two new Plebes. He/she will also assist the new Plebe with adjusting to life at West Point. After Christmas break, one or two different Plebes will be assigned to each Yearling.

Academic Schedule and Major Selection

Each Yearling will choose a Field of Study (FOS) in a particular discipline or major. A cadet is responsible for contacting a department in which he/she is interested. Every Yearling is assigned a Company Academic Counselor, a faculty member who can assist the cadet in selecting a major. Each department holds a presentation on the majors available in their field. An engineering track must also be chosen. Each Yearling must notify the department he/she has chosen before the deadline. The Company Academic Counselor will assist the selection of courses and sequences, monitor grades and academic progress.

Yearling Winter Weekend

This special formal weekend usually occurs after Christmas Break. Cadets should make guest accommodations well in advance of the weekend. Saturday evening is the banquet in the mess hall and formal dance (Hop) in the Ike Hall ballroom.

Yearling Summer

Each Yearling will choose a specialized area of individual training for the summer between Yearling and Cow year. Due to military activity in the world, there may be limited choices. Some choices are Air Assault, Airborne, Sapper School, Mountain Warfare School, SCUBA School, and Special Reaction Team (SRT).

Yuks

This second year at West Point is another challenging year academically along with the new leadership responsibilities. New companies and new roommates create some anxiety. The addition of foreign language and more advanced math make this a “yucky” year for the cadets.

Notes: