

# TO PARENTS USAFA CADETS!

## **What are Air Force Academy Parents' Clubs? Why do we need them? Why should parents join?**

There are currently 90 Air Force Academy Parents' Clubs around the country. Each club is independently "owned and operated" by parents who have cadets enrolled at USAFA.

Parents' clubs exist because the Service Academy experience is not like any other college. If you are not an academy graduate, it is difficult to comprehend it. While parents of cadets and graduates may not understand what it's like to be a cadet, they do know what it's like to be the parent of a cadet. Parents' clubs exist to pass on that experience to new parents so they can learn faster and be more supportive.

Parents' clubs exist to help parents support their cadets. The Academy experience is not designed to be "fun," at least not all the time, and especially not the first year! How do you support your cadet and encourage success? One thing has significantly changed the cadet way of life – e-mail. Cadets can (once the academic year begins) contact their parents daily, but this is a mixed blessing. It may make the cadet feel better to tell Mom and Dad what a miserable day s/he had, but Mom and Dad may be alarmed by what they hear. How do you know when your cadet is just "venting" and when s/he is saying, "I'm not sure this is right for me?" Parents' clubs can help. Parents' clubs are support groups for parents who want to help their children be successful in an environment with which the parents may be totally unfamiliar.

Parents' clubs exist because, try as we may, the hardships associated with the regimen cannot be adequately articulated. The pressures on the cadets and their parents are enormous from the very beginning and these pressures often disrupt communications between the students and the parents. Selection to attend the Air Force Academy is prestigious and comes with a full scholarship, but it is decidedly not for everyone. "How do I deal with the fact that my son/daughter may not want to stay at the Academy?" "How can I help my son/daughter make the right decision?" These are questions that parents' clubs can help answer.

Parents' clubs exist to have fun, and to have fun with their cadets. Shared experiences are usually more enjoyable than solitary experiences. Military balls, summer picnics, football parties, Parents' Weekend and trips to USAFA are just a few examples of activities that can be fun to do with your cadet and other cadets and parents.

**Many clubs have orientations for the appointees and new parents prior to in-processing. This gives them the opportunity to ask questions of other cadet parents who have already "been there, done that." It's invaluable information!!**

Parents' clubs exist to support the Academy. Parents' clubs help recruit other outstanding young men and women. They help host cadets when they travel for Academy-sponsored events. They sponsor tailgate parties at football games. They provide fans for "away" sporting events and cadet visits, and send goodie bags to cadets. They provide financial support for cadet activities, which make the Academy a more enriching experience.

**There are a few recognized organizations that give gifts to cadets based on class year and by signing below you give permission for USAFA/CMA to release contact information to those organizations.** For example: coins or graduation gifts to all the cadets in a particular year class. These class year group organization POCs are carefully screened and briefed to not release privacy information. There is normally one class year group organization per class year. For example: 2018 Spirit Mission

**PLEASE HAVE FILL OUT THE ENCLOSED CARD IMMEDIATELY SO WE CAN HAVE A PARENTS' CLUB CONTACT YOU ABOUT PRE-INPROCESSING AND OTHER EVENTS.**

For other information, please contact the USAFA Parents' liaison:

HQ USAFA/CMA (Marie Nikovits)

2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3100

USAFA CO 80840-5002

719-333-3828 toll free: 877-268-3383

e-mail: [rose.nikovits@usafa.edu](mailto:rose.nikovits@usafa.edu) Web site: <http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/cma/parentsclub.cfm>

Please have a local parents' club or approved organizations contact my parents or myself. I give my permission to release the below information and my name, squadron, and P.O. Box number.

**Class Year:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Year You Will Graduate)

**Appointee's Signature:** X \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Appointee's Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Dad's first name \_\_\_\_\_ Mom's first name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Parents' E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*IF PARENTS LIVE SEPARATELY, COMPLETE THIS SECTION FOR THE OTHER PARENT\*\*\***

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Dad's first name \_\_\_\_\_ Mom's first name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Parents' E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **CHECK HERE IF YOU ARE GOING TO THE USAFA PREPARATORY SCHOOL INSTEAD OF THE ACADEMY**

**Fill out and mail back to**  
HQ USAFA/CMA (Marie Nikovits)  
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3200  
USAFA CO 80840-5002

**Note: You can also sign/scan the form and send by e-mail to [rose.nikovits@usafa.edu](mailto:rose.nikovits@usafa.edu) if that is easier.**

**Please if you can remember to put the following statement on the e-mail for your protection.**

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO)

"This e-mail contains FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO) information which must be protected under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C 552) and/or the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a). Unauthorized disclosure or misuse of this personal information may result in disciplinary action, criminal and/or civil penalties. Further distribution is prohibited without the approval of the author of this message unless the recipient has a need to know in the performance of official duties. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete all copies of this message."