

WEST POINT CADET ACTIVITIES



West Point
READY 

READY TO SERVE. READY TO LEAD.



ALL FOR THE CORPS

West Point tradition calls for a cadet's day to be orderly and structured. From the 5 AM wakeup to the 6 PM dinner bell, from pre-class drills to six hours of classroom time, cadets follow roughly the same daily routine that their forebearers have throughout the centuries-old history of West Point. We honor this tradition not simply to cling to history, but because we believe in its transformative power to develop character and foster leadership.

Yet we know that there are many other opportunities outside of a cadet's formal daily structure that also allow for personal and professional growth. We take these opportunities—sports teams and choirs, academic clubs and religious groups, to name a few—just as seriously, in part because we understand that cadets are as likely to learn from one another on a practice field or in a debate hall as they are in a classroom. We also know that these opportunities give cadets a chance to put in practice the character and leadership instilled through their training and studies. Though the clubs cadets join vary greatly that doesn't mean that they break with the values we seek to cultivate in all of our cadets.

The Directorate of Cadet Activities (DCA) motto is "All for the Corps," as they provide co-curricular, recreational, cultural, spiritual, and social outlets that play a part in the development—militarily, physically, academically, moral-ethically, spiritually, and socially—of cadets. Overseeing a mix of more than 100 different clubs and sports teams, ranging from the German Language Club to Team Handball to Model UN.

Each program that is part of the DCA is organized militarily, with leadership and staff positions similar to those the cadets will encounter in Army units. A Cadet-in-Charge (CIC) runs each activity (with staff or faculty member supervision); he or she supervises Assistant CICs in the areas of training, scheduling, budget, supply, transportation, maintenance, and standard operating procedures in order to prepare them for their eventual leadership of the activity. As such, cadet clubs are vital leadership labs, calling for many of the same abilities we expect of our combat leaders: the ability to coordinate logistics, to manage budgets, to maintain equipment, to deploy/redeploy safely, and to win.

DCA programs allow cadets to develop new skills and interests while maximizing their opportunities for leadership experience. Many of the clubs travel all over the United States and compete throughout the entire academic year—always representing West Point in a professional manner.

ABOVE: West Point Cadet Parachute Team competed in the US Nationals Championship in December 2016. With good weather the four way, two way, Vertical Freefly(VFS) and six way teams took the sky against the Air Force Academy, UCONN, Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech, Iowa State, Kansas State and some other independent competitors. With those events completed the match moved into the very competitive canopy accuracy portion of the contest. Sport and classic accuracy were both nail biters that led right up to the last jump. At the end of the Competition the team walked away with 13 Gold medals in Six Way, Two Way, Team Accuracy, and Sport Accuracy Novice. Eight Silver medals in Two Way, Individual(Classic) Accuracy, Sport Accuracy, and Four Way. 10 Bronze Medals in Team Accuracy, Sport Accuracy, Two Way, and VFS.

ON THE COVER: The West Point Drill Team displays excellence in the performance art of regulation, exhibition, and individual drill on a local, national, and international level.



“The Model UN Club is an unrivaled opportunity for some of our most talented cadets as they develop the critical skills necessary to excel in their chosen profession. They must master the ability to argue persuasively in small working group settings as well as become effective public speakers in front of huge audiences. To succeed in competition, cadets must confront the challenges of exercising constructive leadership in the decentralized and often polarized setting of multilateral negotiations. They are challenged to generate innovative solutions to complex problems, and then they must build broad consensus behind those solutions within a large and diverse group of political allies and adversaries. Model UN helps cadets to appreciate the value of being able to bring to bear the academic expertise required to shape sound policy, and the necessity of being able to work collaboratively to forge coalitions if progress is to be realized”

—Dr. Scott A. Silverstone PhD, Professor of International Relations, Department of Social Sciences

ROBUST PROGRAM

To attract top candidates, we need a broad-based program of cadet activities, but also one with strong financial support. When young adults choose a place for undergraduate education, the menu of co-curricular and extracurricular activities weighs heavily in their decision. In quantity and quality of activities offered, West Point is among the best. However, the funding for these opportunities is stretched thin. The costs for travel and equipment are substantial and are growing each year. And while annual unrestricted donations as well as profits generated from the DCA's retail operations do support the activities, there are still substantial out-of-pocket expenses for cadets. We want every cadet to have access to these opportunities to hone their leadership skills, train their minds and bodies, and pursue their passions

The Cadet Activities Endowment provides a constant source of funding for a wide range of cadet activities and allows for long-range planning for fully supported programs. The endowment gives the DCA Director the maximum flexibility to meet unanticipated requirements (progression to a national-level competition in a given year, for example) and to channel resources to those areas in greatest need.

Cadet activities are often a lot of fun, but they are also about learning to lead others, to influence peers, to develop subordinates, to plan, and to maintain operations. Most importantly, though, they are about demonstrating to the Corps of Cadets our commitment to their interests, needs, and talents. We provide the opportunities because we know they have a larger purpose in training and development, but in the end, we do this “All for the Corps!”



Photo: Lee Ross '73

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

GENEROUS GRADUATES AND FRIENDS OF THE ACADEMY WHO SUPPORT THE WEST POINT CADET ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PRIDE IN THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THEIR GIFTS.

Cadet Competitive Sport Clubs Endowment	\$16.7 million
Cadet Clubs Endowment (academic, support, hobby, and religious)	\$14.4 million
Cadet Glee Club Endowment	\$4.8 million
Cadet Spirit Support Endowment	\$4.2 million
Cadet Sport Parachute Team Endowment	\$1.2 million

Recognition Opportunities

Theater at Eisenhower Hall Naming	\$10 million
Main Ballroom Naming	\$5 million
Riverside Cafe Naming	\$2.5 million
Green Room Naming	\$2.5 million
100th Night Show	\$2 million
Orchestra Promenade Naming	\$1 million
Ballroom Promenade Naming	\$500,000
DCA Offices Recognition	\$250,000

MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE



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