



Introduction to 52 (City of Calgary) Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron

This guide is intended to provide Parents/Guardians of Cadets with general information about 52 (City of Calgary) Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadets. If you do not find the answers to your questions in this booklet, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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- Squadron Sponsoring Committee Chair: Andrea Chant at 403-461-5195 or via e-mail at sscchair52rcacs@gmail.com
- Squadron Email, 52squadron@gmail.com (general inquiries)
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What is the Air Cadet Program All About?

The aims of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets are to develop in youth the attributes of good citizenship and leadership, to promote physical fitness and to stimulate an interest in the activities of the Canadian Armed Forces. The Cadet program is run by a partnership between the Department of National Defense (who provide the officers for training and funds and supplies for the mandatory training program), Air Cadet League of Canada (who provide marketing of the program and support for local and regional facilities such as gliding facilities and camps and administration of the program) and the Local Sponsoring Committee at the Squadron level (who provide parade facilities, support as requested by the officers and funding for optional activities). Further information is available at the national cadet website www.cadets.ca. The Cadet program aspires to be free to youth between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age but only with significant participation from parents in fundraising campaigns and behind-the-scenes volunteer work can our Squadron provide a stimulating program for our youth.

Why should I join Air Cadets?

The Cadet program offers opportunities, challenges, friendship and adventure! It's an opportunity to expand horizons, contribute to the community and make friends for life. Cadets have the opportunity to participate in many activities including learnings in weekly parades and training, weekend exercises, gliding, flying in small planes (called familiarization flying), sports, public speaking, leadership opportunities, range activities and the list goes on. Many former Cadets credit their participation in the program with giving them a head start toward their successful careers. Astronaut Chris Hadfield, Olympic biathlon gold medalist Myriam Bédard and actor Jim Carrey were all Cadets in their teens.

What is the age of Cadets?

The age range for Cadets is 12 to 18 years old and is open to both males and females. Children cannot join before their 12th birthday and must "retire" on their 19th birthday.

Regular Parade Nights (Meetings)

Weekly meetings, called parades, are held on Tuesday evenings from 1815 to 2145 at Harold Panabaker Junior High School (Entrance at doors off the parking lot), 23 Sackville Drive SW. Cadets must arrive at 1815hrs.

Note: Parents/Guardians cannot leave their Cadet at the school until an officer has arrived. Please ensure that you remain with your Cadet until this time.

For each Tuesday's parade night, parents drop off their Cadets at the front doors of the school. At the end of each evening, (approximately 2105) the Cadets meet in the main gym for the final evening parade. Parents are welcome and encouraged to come into the main gym at 2100 to watch the final parade and hear the announcements made about upcoming events and activities. The Cadets are usually dismissed at 2130, however a number of cadets are assigned to perform clean up duties (called "duty" and assigned on a rotation basis) prior to dismissal. This generally takes no more than 15 minutes.

In order to protect the school gym floor all Cadets are required to wear their civilian/street shoes to the school and only put their Cadet boots on when they arrive at the school

What do Cadets do?

Cadets take part in activities at their squadron and within their local community. On a regular parade night, Cadets will assemble in their "Flights" (assigned groups) for opening parade and then be released to attend Level Training classes with fellow Cadets in their same training level. Each Cadet Level (Level 1 to 5) follows a specific curriculum with learning criteria. The majority of training is delivered by senior Cadets under the direction of the Level Course Officer. Activities are designed to help Cadets to become more self-confident, to develop their leadership skills, to improve their physical fitness and communication abilities, and to teach self-discipline through challenging training. During the evening, Cadets are given a break of approximately 15 minutes for time to relax and socialize, and if desired, to purchase something from canteen.

When does Air Cadets take place?

The regular cadet training year extends from the beginning of September to the end of June. Cadets are required to attend Tuesday evenings from 6:15pm to 9:45pm. Some activities are held on weekends and other evenings during the week, but the majority of these are optional activities that the Cadet can sign up for, such as gliding days, familiarization flying days, and weekend exercises. Community service duties and fundraising activities are also scheduled on weekends. There are occasional mandatory events in addition to the Tuesday training nights that take place during the year such as Remembrance Day, Battle of Britain Parade and Annual Ceremonial Review (ACR) in June, as well as a select number of weekend training events to ensure the Cadet completes the practical requirements for their level training. Cadets have the opportunity to apply for summer camp and training programs that occur for different periods ranging from 2 to 7 weeks in July and August.

Is there any charge for Air Cadets?

There is no charge to enroll in Air Cadets. Air Cadets is free! However, only the compulsory part of the program is funded by the Department of Defense. All non-compulsory activities (including flying opportunities, facilities and special events) are paid for by fundraising done by the Cadets and parents, such as bottle drives, bike-a-thons, silent auctions, casinos and other initiatives.

What about the uniform?

The Canadian Forces loans complete uniforms (worth about \$800) to Cadets. New Cadets will receive their uniforms approximately 6 to 8 weeks after enrollment, depending on availability of uniform parts in appropriate sizes. In return, Cadets are expected to take good care of their uniform. All parts of uniforms **MUST** be returned when the Cadet leaves the program. The uniform may only be worn to and from the Squadron Headquarters on parade nights, and at other events as directed by the Squadron's Officers. Cadets may request special permission from the Commanding Officer to wear their uniform on special occasions such as for school Remembrance Day activities.

Cadets will also receive a blue t-shirt with the squadron name. This blue t-shirt is to be worn on parade until they have received their uniform. It is also to be worn at cadet volunteer functions such as bottle drives and Newsletter deliveries or when specified. They can also wear it when "work dress" is ordered. As it is not an official "uniform" item, it may also be worn anywhere else the cadet desires!

What about summer camps?

There are a number of summer camps for Cadets that span two to seven weeks in the summer months, such as General Training, Basic Musician, introductory courses in Leadership, Instruction, Aviation, Athletics and Survival. Cadets at level three and above, depending on age, are eligible to compete for longer and more intensive programs called Scholarships. Examples of available Scholarships are Leadership, Survival, Technology, Athletic Instructor, Glider Pilot and Power Pilot and International Exchange. These scholarships range from 6 to 7 weeks in duration (with the exception of International Exchange – generally 3 weeks) and range in value from \$6000 to \$15,000 in benefit to the Cadet, including room and board and training opportunities. Cadets away at all levels of camps are paid an allowance, to help cover any incidental costs that may be incurred (canteen, flight t-shirt, etc). All expenses related to travel, and special clothing required for the camp, are also paid.

First year Cadets are eligible to attend the General Training Course (2 weeks). Cadets are provided with application forms in either November or December. Not all Cadets who apply for summer camps will be awarded a camp spot. Each Squadron has a quota of camp spaces allotted to them by Department of National Defense. Selection is based upon merit and participation in both mandatory and optional training activities and the recommendation of the Commanding Officer, along with a reconciliation of the training needs of all Squadrons that operate under Regional Cadet Support Unit (Northwest).

Flying and Gliding

The squadron attempts to take all Cadets flying in powered aircraft and gliders at least once per training year. Each Alberta Squadron is assigned two dates per year to attend a Gliding Day. Our Squadron typically glides at Vulcan, AB. Gliding is very weather dependent and alternate dates are not always possible to schedule. Familiarization flying opportunities are scheduled, generally in Cessna 172 planes. Since only three Cadets can fly at one time, this takes time to complete, but several dates are scheduled during the year.

The Squadron also offers a Ground School program for Cadets eligible to apply for the Gliding or Power Scholarships. This is generally offered from mid-September to December of each year to prepare Cadets for the ground school exam. A prerequisite to apply to these Scholarships is a successful mark on a standard ground school test generally held in January of each year. Candidates in ground school are required to be eligible to apply for the Gliding or Power

Scholarship in the coming year or have special permission from the instructor and Commanding Officer. The Gliding Scholarship requires the Cadet to be 16 years of age as of 1 September 2020, in a minimum of Grade 9 and in a minimum of Cadet Level 3. The Power Scholarship requires the Cadet to be 17 years of age as of 1 September 2020, in a minimum of Grade 10 and in a minimum of Cadet Level 4.

Band

The band program is offered on Monday nights from 1815 to 2100, also at Harold Panabaker Junior High School. All Cadets, with or without prior band or instrument experience, are welcome to join the Band. Currently there are two bands, a Military Band including brass, woodwind and percussion instruments, and a Pipes and Drums Band, providing Cadets the opportunity to learn and play bagpipes or drums.

The Squadron will loan instruments free of charge to any interested Cadet. The band usually participates in a weekend band camp during the year in conjunction with other Squadrons, and an opportunity to test for achievement levels arranged by the province generally in the spring. Several summer camps are open only to band Cadets including Music Level 1-5 for Level 2 and above Cadets and Pipes & Drums. The band generally plays during the closing parade on regular parade nights, and at a variety of other events throughout the year including Remembrance Day, Annual Ceremonial Review, the Calgary Tattoo, and parade for other Squadrons and Corps that do not have a band. The band has also been invited to play at the Calgary Stampede Parade.

Drill Team and Flag Party

The Squadron also has a competitive Drill Team and ceremonial Flag Party. Cadets must try out for these teams. Flag Party practices are approximately one hour in length on every second Monday at Harold Panabaker Junior High School. Drill Team practices will either be on Monday or Friday evenings, dependent on availability of venue and staffing.

Flight Time (To be determined)

Each cadet will be assigned a Flight (Group of Cadets) that they will work with throughout the training year. Cadets will be formed up with their Flights when on parade, within your Flight will be cadets from levels 1 – 4, and they are all encouraged to work as a team and help their peers out within the Flight. This year we have decided to introduce extra time for the Cadets in Flights to get together to bond, help each other out with uniforms, Standards and become a cohesive group. Flight Time will be held the week after Commanding Officer Parade for 20 min and one Monday each Month from 1900 – 2100 hrs.

Sporting Activities

Physical fitness is an aim of the Cadet program. The squadron holds optional sports nights on some Friday evenings at Currie Barracks Gymnasium (41 Brigade Building). On these evenings, cadets play indoor sports games in a non-competitive environment and practice basketball and volleyball. In April, a regional competition is held Air Cadet Squadrons, along with Army and Sea Cadet Corps, in Southern Alberta. Cadets may also try out for the Squadron Biathlon and Range teams that compete at the regional and provincial levels.

Tours and Exercises

Our Squadron organizes educational travel events known as Citizenship Tours that are planned approximately every second year. Tour participants can be from every level, however there will be a limited amount of spots for first year Cadets. Selection for the limited seats on these tours is based on the Cadet's performance

and participation throughout the current and previous training years. In the past, the Squadron has toured Ottawa and Southern Ontario, 5 CDSB Gaagetown, NB, 4 Wing Cold Lake, McCord Air Force Base and the Boeing factory in Seattle, Washington, 19 Wing Comox and 3 CDSB Edmonton. Citizenship Tours are totally dependent on fundraising success.

The Squadron plans and organizes at least two weekend overnight survival exercises each year. These are generally planned for locations within a three hour radius of Calgary and busing of the Cadets is included.

Effective Speaking Workshops and Competitions

The Air Cadet program offers optional Effective Speaking training workshops annually, both at the Squadron and through the Southern Zone Air Cadet League. Cadets are encouraged to attend and participate in these programs. All candidates applying for Scholarships must participate in the Squadron's annual Effective Speaking Competition. First and second place winners in the Squadron Competition are invited to attend a regional competition for Southern Alberta where winners proceed to the provincial competition. The winner of the provincial competition has the opportunity to participate in the National competition which moves to different locations across Canada each year.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Our Squadron also supports candidates in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Young Canadian's Challenge. This is open to Cadets when they reach the age of 14 (or 13 years 9 months). For further information on this program, speak with Mr Ty Kushnir, the program coordinator for the Squadron.

52 (City of Calgary) Squadron Sponsoring Committee

The Squadron Sponsoring Committee (SSC) is a not-for-profit charity established to run the business of supporting 52 Squadron. It is not part of the Canadian Forces. It consists of parents of Cadets enrolled in our Squadron. The SSC generates funds to meet the Squadron's many financial needs. At present, the annual cost to run our Squadron is over \$100,000 each year. This is raised through donations and fundraising events such as casinos, silent auctions, bottle drives and a bike-a-thon.

In addition, the committee organizes volunteers for non-Cadet based activities. We support the Squadron by:

- Running the Canteen during parade nights
- Assisting Cadets in preparation for Scholarship Boards
- Providing volunteers for Cadet activities as directed by the CO
- Renting, purchasing and maintaining band equipment
- Maintaining the Squadron headquarters
- Sponsoring Citizenship Tours
- Advertising and promoting the Squadron and the Cadet program
- Providing facilities for optional training events that may include catering

SSC meetings are open to all parents and are held once a month on a Tuesday night at 7:00 pm in the library of Harold Panabaker Junior High School. In the 2019-2020 year, the meetings are scheduled to coincide with the monthly CO's Parade, generally the first Tuesday of the month. This is a more formal parade at the end of the evening that often includes special announcements, guests, and promotions. We hope this will encourage Parents/Guardians to attend the monthly meeting, and then moving on to watch the CO's parade before picking your Cadet up for the evening. Meeting dates will be announced in the calendar. The meetings generally

last about 2 hours and cover the general operation of the Squadron. We *strongly* encourage all parents to attend these meetings as a wealth of information is shared about Cadet functions, the progress being made toward special activities and initiatives, date or schedule changes, and opportunities to ask questions and gain a better understanding of the program. Please consider sending at least one parent/guardian to each meeting to take notes.

The SSC, as a registered charity, must annually elect an executive board of directors. These individuals work on behalf of all parents in roles defined by the SSC's By-laws. The executive works in partnership with the military side of the squadron represented by the Commanding Officer and staff, and the Air Cadet League. The executive meets one Tuesday a month at 6:45pm in Harold Panabaker Junior High School and provides progress reports at the parent meetings. Any parent is welcome to attend the executive meetings, dates for which are published in the calendar and updated on the website. As well, parents are encouraged to run for a director position at the Annual General Meeting, typically held in May of each year.

Although the efforts of the Committee seem large, many volunteer parents share it. We strive to make most fundraisers into fun events for parents and Cadets alike. Considering the opportunities provided to your Cadet at no cost, the effort is a small one. The 52 SSC firmly believes that we are supporting the best cause in Alberta – the Air Cadets of 52 Squadron! Please come out and see what you're missing.

Glossary of Common Terms and Abbreviations

Term	Definition
2Lt	2 nd Lieutenant - Officer
A/TrgO	Assistant Training Officer
AC	Air Cadet – Cadet
ACLA	Air Cadet League of Alberta
ACLC	Air Cadet League of Canada
ACR	Annual Ceremonial Review: Mandatory parade held in June each year to allow Cadets to demonstrate their training over the course of the year and used as an indicator of number of Cadets on strength in the Squadron for assigning camp/ scholarship quotas
Admin O	Administration Officer
AGM	Annual General Meeting
Annex	The portable building behind the NW corner of Harold Panabaker School used for canteen and storage for various Cadet supplies.
Capt	Captain – Officer
CATO	Cadet Administrative and Training Order – the primary set of orders that govern the cadet program, that expand on the authority divested from other higher level documents.
CFB	Canadian Forces Base
CDSB	Canadian Division Support Base, <i>see also CFB</i>
Chief	The senior Cadet in the Squadron, typically with the rank of WO1; there is only one Cadet with this rank at any time in the Squadron; The Chief is responsible to the CO for all matters dealing with the Cadets
CI	Civilian Instructor
CIC	Cadet Instructor Cadre, the branch of the Canadian Forces that specializes in the delivery of the cadet program
CO	Commanding Officer: Currently, Captain Welsh, Senior officer in the squadron responsible for all matters pertaining to the Cadet program and the registered cadets and who reports up to the CO RCSU(NW).
CO RCSU(NW)	Commanding Officer Regional Cadet Support Unit (Northwest). The Regular Force officer who is in command of all cadet activities for Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, NWT, and Nunavut. Reports to Commander National Cadet and Junior Canadian Ranger Support Group in Ottawa.
COATS	Cadet Organizations Administration and Training Service. The component of the Canadian Forces that CIC branch and trade are associated to.
CTrgO	Chief Training Officer oversees the Training Services Aspect of the Squadron
Col	Colonel – Officer
Cpl	Corporal – Cadet
Crse O	Course Officer, the training staff member who runs a particular training level
DCO	Deputy Commanding Officer: oversees the Support Services aspects of the Squadron
DND	Department of National Defence
FCpl	Flight Corporal – Cadet
FSgt	Flight Sergeant – Cadet
HQ	Headquarters - Located on the lower Level of the Southwood Community Center
IMP	Individual Meal Packets – field rations
JNCO	Junior NCO - Cadets with a rank of Corporal or Flight Corporal
LAC	Leading Air Cadet (1st promotion received after successful 5 months in the program)- Cadet
Lt	Lieutenant – Officer
LCol	Lieutenant Colonel – Officer
Maj	Major – Officer
MB	Mock Boards – Preparation For Scholarship Review Boards held at the Squadron Level with Parent Involvement.

MRB	Merit Review Boards – Required to achieve the Rank of WO2 or higher
MRE	Meal Ready to Eat – field rations, another name for IMP
MRO's	Monthly Routine Orders, local orders and guides published on behalf of the Squadron CO
NCO	Non-Commissioned Officer
OCdt	Officer Cadet – Officer
OIC	Officer In Charge, ranking officer of an event or exercise
J3 OIC Calgary	J3 Officer In Charge Calgary Area, the Calgary area supervisor of Air Cadets for RCSU(NW) and the direct supervisor of the Squadron CO.
OPI	Officer of Primary Interest, delegated authority or contact person as assigned by the ranking officer for an event, exercise, or administrative function
OpsO	Operations Officer – the officer that looks after operations outside of Tuesday nights
PSRY	Positive Social Relations for Youth, a mandatory program for all cadets focused on appropriate dispute resolution and harassment prevention.
RCAC	Royal Canadian Air Cadets
RCACS	Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron
RCAF	Royal Canadian Air Force
RCL	Royal Canadian Legion
RCSU(NW)	Regional Cadet Support Unit (Northwest), colloquially known as “Region” or “Winnipeg”. The parent unit that all officers report to and the regional headquarters.
Sgt	Sergeant – Cadet
SNCO	Senior NCO – Cadets with a Rank of Sergeant of Flight Sergeant
Sqn	Squadron
SSC	Squadron Sponsoring Committee
SupO	Supply Officer
TrgO	Training Officer
WO1	Warrant Officer 1 st Class - Cadet
WO2	Warrant Officer 2 nd Class – Cadet
ZTO	Zone Training Officer, advisor to Squadron CO's and officers, and representative of the leadership from RCSU(NW)

Contact Information

Department Heads & Command Staff *(Full list of staff is updated and maintained on Squadron website)*

Position	Name	
Commanding Officer (CO)	Major Gene Kushnir, CD, AdeC	52squadron@gmail.com
Deputy Commanding Officer (DCO)	Captain Lee Keller	52squadron@gmail.com
Squadron Chief Training Officer (CTrgO)	Captain (retired) Tom Lemon	52squadron@gmail.com
Training Officer	2 nd Lieutenant Nathan Krebs	52squadron@gmail.com
Supply Officer (Sup O)	Officer Cadet Veronique Lemay	52squadron@gmail.com
Administration Officer (AdmO)	Mr Tyrell Kushnir	52squadron@gmail.com