

PHSACU



Cadets at Pittwater House



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Pittwater House School
Army Cadet Unit



Foreword by Dr Hillier

The Pittwater House School Army Cadet Unit holds a treasured place in the history of our School.

Now in its 51st year of operation, our Cadet Unit is a voluntary activity and is open to all students who are joining Pittwater House in Year 7. The Unit not only provides an important leadership pathway for students but is singled out in the wider community to support a range of organisations where teamwork, leadership, self-discipline, and community, are key. Whilst Pittwater House commands a significant role in ANZAC Services across the Beaches, the cadets provide the Catafalque Guard for Remembrance Day Services and Vietnam Veterans Day. Additionally, there are strong links between our School and the War Veterans on Collaroy Plateau and several other aged care facilities. Respect is a central tenet for these students and is a Core Value of our School. Such an attribute is seen time and again amongst our students. Whilst acts of service are central to the Cadet Unit, the development of skills is critical. It is no accident that the Australian Army Cadets are the fastest growing youth organisation in our nation.

Students in Year 7 to Year 10 develop leadership and adventure training skills and our Year 11 and Year 12 students take on leadership and management roles within the Unit. Lessons learned weekly are developed further out in the field on camp and bivouacs. Musicians too have the opportunity of participating in the ceremonial Marching Band. Understandably, there is a natural link between cadets and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and the challenging Adventure Training Award. Each year, students applying for School leadership roles, have inevitably been, or are current serving members of the Cadet Unit. There is a presence, a *modus operandi* and a deep respect and understanding of traditions and order that pervades our Cadets.

I have pleasure in commending the Pittwater House Student Cadet Unit to you.

PHSACU embodies a tradition of service; to the community and to our School.

Being a Cadet is a voluntary option that teaches skills such as navigation, field craft, radio telecommunications and drill. The highlights of the Cadet calendar are the bi-annual overnight camps, organised activities and ceremonial parade.

Senior students run the day-to-day operations of the Unit and mentor the younger students. The Cadet Unit represents the continual flow of knowledge and leadership: the leaders of the Cadet Unit have been inspired and guided by their previous officers and, in turn, pass on this same inspiration and advice to the new members of the Unit so that they too can develop the values of courage, teamwork, initiative and respect.

It is this communication flow that allows for an endless supply of specialists, leaders and thinkers, fit for tackling society's many challenges.

Our Army Cadet Unit forms part of the NSW Australian Army Cadets 2nd Brigade, which is in turn part of the Commonwealth Government's Australian Defence Force Cadets Scheme.

As members of the Australian Army Cadets, students will have the opportunity to explore their full potential, develop confidence, learn a range of new skills, develop their sense of adventure and leadership, team building, make friends, and have a lot of serious fun along the way.

To join Cadets at Pittwater House, students will need to become members of Australian Army Cadets and participate in set activities and experiences. As well as being part of the national youth development program, our Cadets will adopt its values of courage, initiative, respect and teamwork.

We remind students that they will need to maintain a sensible balance between all co-curricular activities.



Associated costs

There is an associated cost that comes with Cadets. It costs \$150 per Semester which covers the cost of training, and resources. Both the yearly camps, the Bivouac in the Easter break and Annual Field Exercise (AFX) in the Spring break, are also charged. These costs are an all inclusive fee that covers the costs of resources, travel and food. In addition to this,

other costs may be incurred during the course of the year in order to participate in additional excursions or activities undertaken by the Cadet unit.

Attendance

Attendance is expected at the following:

- Monday afternoon parades
- The Ceremonial Parade in September
- Field activities: A 3 day bivouac in April, and the Annual Field Exercise (AFX) in September, which runs for 5 days.

Monday Training and Parades

Training includes a comprehensive program whereby Cadets will be introduced to teamwork, radio communications, navigation, first aid, drill, fieldcraft and adventurous activities.

An example training and parade afternoon would look similar to the following:

Cadets will form up on the school oval for the opening parade and a dress inspection. Once this is completed, they will be dismissed from the oval and participate in two lessons that are 35 min each.

These 35 min lessons would cover items that are key to Cadet learning. Examples of this are, first aid in the field, Ratel and communications, navigation and map reading skills, drill etc.

At the conclusion of these lessons they form up on the oval for a dismissal parade.

Unless prior notification is given, training concludes at 5.00 pm and students can be collected from Pittwater House or make their own arrangements to travel home.



Term 1

Cadets begin their recruit induction learning the basic skills such as; wearing the uniform; introduction to drill; operating as a section member.

Bivouac at the end of Term 1 consisting of 3 days in the field.

Term 2

Development of field craft skills. Training in navigation, first aid, further learning how to live in the field and operate as a small team in a tactical environment.

Term 3

Developing the team to operate effectively in a complex scenario in the field.

Working towards Ceremonial Parade that occurs in September.

Annual Field Exercise, AFX, consisting of 5 days in the field to gain experiences and put learnt content into practice.

Term 4

Pre-course training for Cadets in Year 9, 10 and 11 to prepare them for the role of becoming junior and senior leaders, for those nominating to attend the Promotion Course later in the term.



Leadership Courses

PHSACU students are encouraged to become resilient, courageous, engaged and filled with a sense of humour and capacity for adventure. This cultivates emotional intelligence, explores a deeper understanding of their identity, finds purpose and gains confidence in exercising leadership.

Acquiring leadership skills and managing teams are core skills developed within Australian Army Cadets. Promotion courses will be held each year, for Years 9 and 10.

Cadets will work together on leadership and management of teams; the planning, implementation and evaluation of training programs; risk analysis and modification; developing an understanding of change processes within an organisation and the application of resources to specific tasks.





Co-curricular Commitments

As with all co-curricular activities, students will need to commit to weekly attendance and all other activities detailed in the Cadet calendar.

Students who join Cadets will wear the Australian Army Cadet uniform to school on the days of training and will be fully engaged in the experiences for the full school year from

the beginning of Term 1 until the completion of Term 4 that same year.

There will be times where there will be a clash for co or extra curricular activities and these instances will need to be coordinated between students, platoon commanders and the OIC.

Risk and Insurance

Cadet safety is paramount. The Australian Army Cadets have an occupational health and safety policy supported by a comprehensive training program to enhance safety awareness for Cadets and their Officers and Instructors.

Additionally PHSACU has a comprehensive risk assessment policy and procedures managed by the Deputy Principal. Each activity will be assessed on an individual basis to ensure it complies with both the Australian Army Cadet and the School policies.


All approved Cadet activities are automatically covered by the School's insurance policies as well as by Defence's insurer, Comcare. If there is an accident and your child is injured, please advise Cadet staff immediately so we can offer assistance.

Application Forms

The application process for Cadets at Pittwater House is a simple and easy process.

You will need to complete the form that is located at reception in the blue application form wall display. The front cover looks like the image below.

The second part of the process is to ensure that all relevant medical information is kept up to date on the school database to ensure complete safety throughout any Cadet practice being undertaken.

Pittwater House School Army Cadet Unit		Office Use Only
		Enrolled: <input type="checkbox"/>
		Quoted: <input type="checkbox"/>
		Account entered: <input type="checkbox"/>
New Cadets Application Form		
1. Surname: _____ Given Names: _____		
2. Address: _____		
3. Form Class: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Student No.: _____		
4. I hereby apply to join the Pittwater House School Army Cadet Unit.		
5. I agree to be bound by its Rules, Regulations, Procedures and Orders.		
6. If accepted as a member of the unit I agree to take pride in my appearance and wear the uniform of an Army Cadet correctly and proudly, especially when I am in the community (i.e. on my way to/from school and unit activities).		
7. I understand that the Army provides my uniform and that this belongs to the Australian Army Cadets and I agree to return these and other items of equipment on loan to me when required.		
8. I understand the Unit is a voluntary activity of the School, and fair notice will be given by me if I wish to resign (at which point I agree to return all Army and unit owned property on loan to me).		
9. I also understand that if I enrol as an Australian Army Cadet then certain obligations (such as attending camps and courses) must be met to ensure my continued membership. Attendance at Army Promotions Courses will require further forms to be completed. Please Note: the student must turn 13 years of age in that calendar year.		
10. I (my parent/guardian) agree to pay the \$150 per semester (non-refundable) to cover equipment maintenance and staffing costs for my son / daughter enrolled in the Unit. (This will be charged to and appear on the school account).		
11. I would like to join the Cadet Marching Band: Yes / No <i>Please Circle</i>		
Instrument(s) I can play: _____		
12. Any other relevant information: _____		
Date: _____ Signed: _____		
<i>Applicant Signature</i>		
<i>Parent/Guardian Signature (If Applicant Under 18)</i>		
13. Applicant: Please Return Completed Form to 'Student Forms Box' at Reception.		
Office Use Only		
Step 1 - Give to: Captain (AAC) Blackwell	Date: _____	Initials: _____
Step 2 - Give to: Curriculum Office	Date: _____	Initials: _____
Step 3 - Give to: Accounts	Date: _____	Initials: _____
Step 4 - Give to: Captain (AAC) Blackwell	Date: _____	Initials: _____

Medical Information

The health of your son/daughter is paramount whilst undertaking any Cadet activity. Therefore filling in the School medical form with as much detail as possible is going to be a major part of the application process.

These might range from mild Asthma up to chronic back issues but they all count and are needed.

This information will then be used by the relevant Cadet staff to ensure that all medical details are known about whilst undertaking a cadet activity.

If for some reason these details change, such as a new injury or prescription needed whilst away on Biv, then these must all be updated on the School system.

Your son/daughters information needs to be consistently updated to reflect any medical and all relevant and necessary information regarding their health, as required by the School, and the AAC.



FAQs:

Will they be in the Army or have to join?

No, the Australian Army Cadets are sponsored and supported by the Army but are not part of it.

What will my son/daughter do and learn?

As an Army Cadet they will be offered challenging and inspiring experiences. They will learn valuable life and work skills.

What advantages are there for my son/daughter being involved in Cadets?

The Cadet program not only gives your son/daughter a further opportunity to be involved with co-curricular activities, but gives them the ability to learn leadership, team building and skills that will help them in further life situations. They will also experience things they don't do in everyday life.

Will there be any further opportunities?

Other extra voluntary opportunities such as participating in the Anzac Day Dawn Services and Parade and School Remembrance Assembly.

Will my son or daughter be using live firearms?

At times there may be an opportunity to participate in firearms training for the purpose of developing the appreciation of safe weapons handling. Parents may grant consent to this in the CO22 Application for Acceptance as a Cadet.

Cadets delivers a program that helps young people develop and grow in a positive and distinctively different way. Away from the classroom, the opportunities are boundless with deeply enriching experiences.

CPT Blackwell - OC 2023



Purpose

The Australian Army Cadets (AAC) are a personal development program for young people, conducted by the Australian Defence Force in cooperation with the community, which benefits the Nation by developing an individual's capacity to contribute to society, fostering an interest in Defence Force careers, and developing ongoing support for Defence.

Goals

Conduct a creative personal development program in a military environment that:

- Extends individuals beyond their self imposed limits,
- Develops an understanding of the balance between personal freedoms and choice and the responsibilities that they bring,
- Promotes self reliance, self esteem and self discipline, and
- Develops and recognises a broad range of skills including leadership and teamwork.

Contribute to social development by:

- Encouraging pride in self, community and the nation,
- Equipping young people to be better citizens,
- Encouraging a volunteer ethos,
- Developing work and life skills, and
- Providing a supportive and safe environment.

Contribute to the development of the ADF through:

- Enhancing Defences reputation in the community,
- Maintaining Service customs traditions and values,
- Understanding what Defence does, and
- Demonstrating a return on the Defence Organisation's investment by promoting career opportunities within Defence.





Cadets has offered me experiences outside my comfort zone, leading to discipline, maturity and a strong sense of camaraderie amongst my peers. All the while with a dash of fun!

Rory Connors - SUO 2023

If you are interested in joining
Cadets as a co-curricular
activity, please complete the
application form that is found in
reception and return to the blue
box also located in Reception.



Pittwater House