

Thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedules to provide a “home away from home” for our freshman & international cadets. Most of the cadets requesting a host family are 1st year cadets but we have a few international cadets who are unable to get home for holidays & furloughs. Cadets whose families live the greatest distance from The Citadel are given priority in the matching process. Cadets from Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina do not qualify for the program as families can visit periodically.

For those of you who are new to our program, we have provided below the answers to frequently asked questions.

What does host cadet require of a host family?

We would like to see you invite your cadet(s) over at least once a month. Some sponsors go all out and have their host cadets over two or three times a weekend, but we discourage providing a place for them to go for all their free time. They do need to spend time bonding with their class/company mates. What most cadets want while at your home is just a place to relax, have a nice stress free meal (not necessarily home cooked), and someone to listen/talk to them. Invite your host cadets over when it is convenient for you and those in your home. Cadets should not disrupt your family plans or commitments.

In addition to opening your home for the cadet occasionally during the month, you may also be the link between cadet and parent. Many parents endure an anxious first year and you can provide them with firsthand knowledge as to how their child is getting along. Some parents will want that weekly update on their cadet’s well-being.

How do I get in touch with my cadet(s)?

First year cadets will not have communication with anyone off campus until the earliest of Sunday, 23 August as part of Challenge Week. Each cadet is required to have a cell phone, so we suggest leaving a voicemail or sending a text. Email us another option as they should check their messages frequently. You are also able to contact them through regular mail. Each cadet has a mailbox assigned the week they are on campus. Please be patient if your cadets do not respond to your messages right away. During those first few weeks, their time is so regimented that they may be unable to get back to you.

If you continue to have trouble contacting them after the first week of classes, please call our office for assistance.

When are cadets allowed to come to my home?

Their free time is dependent on several things. Ordinarily, general leave starts on Friday afternoon after parade, but 1st year cadets may end up staying on campus to complete their duties. On Saturday, all cadets should be released no later than two hours after SMI (Saturday Morning Inspection). If there is no SMI, they should be free to leave after military training and/or other commitments. During the fall, cadets could be free to leave after home football games. On Sundays through Parents’ Weekend, freshman cadets will be free after religious services. After Parents’ Weekend (9-11 Oct) freshmen are free at approximately 8:00 am. On Friday and Saturday nights, general leave ends at midnight. On Sunday freshmen must be back in the barracks for evening formation (5:50 pm through Parents’ Weekend and 7:50 pm afterwards) and sometimes earlier depending on individual companies. For those cadets attending Sunday evening services, they may need to return to campus early to attend religious services at 6:00 pm. Learn your cadets’ requirements so that they get back to campus on time to meet all their required duties.

All general leave will be restricted if your cadet is not militarily proficient. Any overnight or weekend leave they earn second semester will be restricted if they are not academically, militarily, and physically proficient.

Can a cadet spend the night or a weekend at my home?

Usually not. During 1st semester, freshmen (except for member of some athletic squads) are unable to take an overnight. During 2nd semester, as mentioned above, cadets who are academically, militarily and physically proficient are allowed one overnight and one weekend during the spring semester. Your assigned cadets may ask to stay in your home; however, this is at your discretion. If your cadet receives Gold Start (3.7+ GPA) or Dean’s List (3.2+ GPA) for fall semester your cadet will receive an additional overnight during the spring semester.

What are cadets allowed to wear at my home?

Most freshman cadets have no civilian clothes with them. They should bring PTs with them when visiting your home if they want to be a little more comfortable. Do remind them to bring their PTs if they wish. Some cadets leave civilian clothes at their host families’ home sent by parents, but under no circumstance should civilian attire be worn away from your home or taken back to school.

What is expected if upper-class cadets are also in your home?

Your home should be a safe place for 1st year cadets. They should not be expected to brace, square corners, etc. On the other hand, freshman cadets should, however, show respect for the upper-class cadets, follow uniform rules while on leave away from your home, etc. Interaction between 1st year cadets and upper-class cadets will probably be limited. You should not have to change your daily routine at home to accommodate one or the other.

May I send “care packages” to my cadet?

This is your choice but be careful not to draw attention to your cadet with frequent, large packages. If you wish to do so, you may either mail or drop off your package at The Citadel Post Office in Mark Clark Hall or in Mrs. Milner’s office. Sending small packages of food/goodies back to the barracks with your cadet might be the best way but check with your cadet. He/she knows what is expected of him/her within the company. A small care package for a cadet’s birthday or special day is suggested but not mandatory. Email Mrs. Shelton Milner at milners@citadel.edu for ideas & suggestions.

What should I do if I hear that my cadet is having a problem?

If you hear that your cadet is having problems with the freshman class system or academics, contact the Battalion TAC (supervisory adults within the barracks) or our office if you are unable to reach the TACs. We will then direct you to other company officers as necessary and hopefully the problem can be resolved.

What should I do if I have a problem with my cadet?

If you have a problem with your cadet, please contact Mrs. Milner at milners@citadel.edu.

What do I do if I find out my cadet is withdrawing from school?

Please notify our office. Occasionally, sponsors will know before Citadel staff does. If we are notified by the Commandant’s Department that a cadet is withdrawing, we will contact you as soon as possible. It takes two days normally for the withdrawal process and we must wait until its conclusion. If it is early in the academic year, we may ask you to take another cadet in his/her place.

TIPS for sponsors:

- We highly recommend you take at least 2-4 cadets. This prevents them from being isolated from company mates and gives them the opportunity to discuss events/persons/company issues with each other when away from the campus. It helps you as they will entertain themselves, and it also helps us to provide homes for more cadets.
- Host families who have neighbors or other family members who sponsor cadets find that they were able to do things together and assist each other occasionally. So, talk it up with others and let Cadet Activities know if anyone is interested in becoming a sponsor.
- When you set a time with your cadets, arrive promptly, especially if you are picking them up from campus. Safe places for pick up are Mark Clark Hall, Daniel Library, Summerall Chapel or just off campus.
- Please make sure you get them back to campus on time. They must deal with cadre when they are late returning. Please be attentive to needs of some cadets to attend certain religious services and the times for those services.
- It is recommended that sponsors establish house rules. Cadets need to know what is expected of them and what they may not be able to do while at your home.
- The campus offers laundry service as part of cadet tuition. Do encourage your cadets to use it. If cadets ask to do laundry at your house, you might question why they are not using the campus laundry.
- Do not make everything totally convenient for them. They need to learn to depend on themselves and/or their company & classmates.
- First and second year cadets are not authorized to have, maintain, drive, or park an automobile on The Citadel campus or within the immediate vicinity at any time. They are not restricted from driving but cannot drive within one mile of the campus. Only cadets classified as 3rd and 4th year are eligible to park on campus if the vehicle is registered with the Commandant of Cadets. [Cadet Automobile Parking Policy](#).
- Do not allow underage drinking in your home.
- Do not allow civilian clothes to be worn away from your home.

KEY DATES FOR 2026-2027

FALL SEMESTER 2026

Matriculation Day	15 Aug
Challenge Week	17-21 Aug
First Leave for Freshman	29 Aug
Challenge Week	17-21 Aug
First Leave for Freshman	29 Aug
Home Football vs Charleston Southern	12 Sep
Home Football vs UT Chattanooga	26 Sep
Parents Weekend	9-11 Oct
Home Football vs ETSU	10 Oct
Home Football vs TN Tech	24 Oct
Homecoming Weekend	6-8 Nov
Home Football vs Furman	7 Oct
Thanksgiving/Fall Furlough	20-29 Nov <i>(after last duty)</i>
Christmas/Winter Furlough	17 Dec <i>(after final exam)</i>

SPRING SEMESTER 2027

Winter Furlough Ends	10 Jan
Spring Furlough	5-14 Mar
Recognition/Corps Day Weekend	19-21 Mar
Commencement	8 May

For other important dates & information, visit:

[2026-2027 Academic Calendar](#)

[Commandant's Operations & Training Calendars](#)

[Citadel Athletics](#)

KEY PERSONNEL

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