



THE CITADEL

THE MILITARY COLLEGE
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CADET SPONSOR PROGRAM

2025 – 2026

General Guidelines

Thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedules to provide a “home away from home” for our first year & international cadets. As these cadets may not be able to visit their home for holidays & furloughs. Our first year cadets are called KNOBS. For those of you who are from outside of The Citadel family, the term cadet was coined to refer to the new cadets and their haircuts that closely resemble a doorknob.

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

What does sponsor cadet require of a sponsor & family?

We would like to see you invite your cadet(s) over to your home several times a month and contact him/her by phone, e-mail or postal service. Some sponsors go all out and have their sponsor 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 visiting 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.

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)?

Each cadet is required to have a cell phone but use during Challenge Week is restricted. It is suggested that you text your cadet but do not expect a response until Sunday, 24 August at the earliest. Phone calls may bring unwanted attention to your sponsor cadet. Another way to make contact is through e-mail. All cadets will have access to computers and 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 first year cadets may be required to stay 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.

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’ time requirements so they get back to campus on time to meet all their required duties.

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

What are cadets allowed to wear at my home?

Most first year cadets have no civilian clothes with them. They should bring PTs with them if they want to be a little more comfortable. You may suggest civilian clothes while visiting your home, but under no circumstance should civilian attire be worn away from your home or taken back to school. Cadets may have a family member send their civilian clothes to your home for convenience.

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

Usually not. During the 1st semester, no first year cadets, except for members of some athletic squads, is allowed overnights. During the 2nd semester, as mentioned above, those cadets that are academically, militarily and physically proficient are allowed one overnight and one weekend during the spring semester. They may ask to stay at your home at this time. If your cadet achieves Gold Stars and/or Dean's List for academic excellence, he/she will receive an additional overnight.

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

Your home should be a haven for first year cadets. They should not be expected to brace, square corners, etc. On the other hand, first year cadets should, however, show respect for the upper-class cadets, follow uniform rules while on leave away from your home, etc. Interaction between first 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. 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. If you want to do something special for your cadets' birthdays, we'll be happy to help you. Call Mrs. Shelton Milner at (843) 953-4875 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 or Company TACs (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 call this office and speak with one of the staff.

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

Please notify our office. Occasionally, sponsor families 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 if you would 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.
- Families who have neighbors or other family members also sponsoring cadets found that they were able to do things together or to help each other occasionally. So, talk it up with others and let Cadet Activities know if everyone wants cadets from the same company.
- 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 the 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.
- Cadets should use their own cell phones when making personal calls while at your house.
- The campus does have laundry services and encourages the use of it. If cadets ask to do laundry at your house, you might question why they aren't 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.
- Cadets are not allowed to keep cars on campus. They are not restricted from driving but cannot drive within one mile of the campus.
- Do not allow underage drinking in your home.
- Do not allow civilian clothes to be worn away from your home.

KEY DATES:

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Matriculation Day	16 Aug
Challenge Week	18-24 Aug
Football v. North Dakota State	30 Aug
First Leave for Cadets	6 Sep (after SMI)
PARENTS WEEKEND	19-21 Sep
Football v. Mercer University	20 Sep
Football v. Valdosta State	11 Oct
Football v. Western Carolina	18 Oct
Football v. VMI	1 Nov
HOMECOMING WEEKEND	14-16 Nov
Football v. Wofford University	15 Nov
Thanksgiving Furlough	22-30 Nov (after last duty)
Christmas/Winter Furlough	19 Dec (after final exam)

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Winter Furlough Ends	11 Jan
Spring Furlough	6-15 Mar
Recognition/Corps Day	20-22 Mar
Summer Furlough begins	5 May
Graduation	9 May

For other important dates, refer to the
2025-2026 Academic Calendar
Commandant's Operations & Training Calendars
and
Citadel Athletics

KEY PERSONNEL:

Mrs. Shelton Milner

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Sponsor Program Coordinator
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SFC Arthur Rich

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