



## 2 VandenBos Whitby Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron

### PARENTS INFORMATION GUIDE

Welcome to the Royal Canadian Air Cadet Program. By joining 2 VandenBos Whitby Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, your child has joined one of Canada's truly premier youth organizations. This guide aims to give you some information about the organization and to guide the cadets and parents/guardians as participants in the program.

**Brief History of our squadron:** #2 squadron was formed in 2003 after special permission was given by the VandenBos family. Captain Michael VandenBos (our namesake) was the #2 pilot for the Canadian Forces Snowbirds Demonstration Team. Michael died following an accident in 1998. We have a very close relationship with the VandenBos family and with the Snowbirds and as such we are proud to call ourselves #2. Several staff and families knew Michael as well (some went to school with him, some knew him from his cadet days, ...)



#### More than Meets the Skies!

Air Cadets participate in a variety of fun and challenging activities.

- Band
- Effective Speaking & Debating
- Leadership & Ceremonial
- Drill
- Fitness
- Marksmanship
- Orienteering and compass
- Gliding
- Power Pilot Scholarships
- International Air Cadet Exchanges
- Aircraft model building
- Community involvement
- Aerospace
- Citizenship
- Social Development, decision making and leadership
- Cadets acquire these life skills and they pass them along to the younger cadets

Every cadet will also have the chance to participate in flight activities, and some top senior cadets may even earn a scholarship to obtain their private pilot's license. Whether earning a glider pilot license or private pilot license, these cadets wear their wings with a pride rarely found in today's youth.

### Cadet Responsibilities

There are no costs involved with joining our Air Cadet Squadron. However, there are expectations for all cadets. These include:

- Attending all training nights, core training activities and parades and participating as often as possible in the other, optional/extra, activities.  
It is important for cadets to attend all scheduled core activities. Cadets who do not attend core training nights regularly will fall behind in their training and will not be as successful.  
Note: Community Service Hours, required to graduate from high school, are easily accumulated by attending cadet activities. Hours are earned at activities such as parades, adopt-a-road, and poppy selling.
- Keeping informed on upcoming activities.  
The cadets are expected to keep informed on current and upcoming activities. They do this by remembering information passed at training nights and checking the website. They must share all that information with parents/guardians.
- Taking part in fund raising activities.  
Although there is no cost to join the squadron, cadets are fully expected to take part in fund raising activities such as Tag Days and selling/buying Air Cadet League Lottery Tickets. These activities raise most of the very necessary funds that make it possible for the squadron to plan and conduct various training, citizenship and social activities.
- Taking care of the uniform.  
Each cadet is issued a uniform when she/he completes the recruit training program. It costs over \$500 to outfit each cadet (and keep up with the growth spurts). It is critical that the cadet takes care of his/her uniform, keeps it cleaned and pressed.
- Taking care of the band instrument and accessories.  
Each Band member is issued his/her band instrument and accessories. The cadet must take excellent care of the loaned instrument and equipment always. Particular care must be taken to secure them at all time, including by locking vehicles and stowing them in the trunk of an unattended vehicle. The instruments and equipment are to be returned after the last band event each year.
- Ontario Health Card  
Cadets must carry their health card with them at all times
- Paperwork, paperwork, paperwork! And Documents!  
There are enrolment forms, there are permission forms for weekend training and other approved activities, there are summer camp applications, information bulletins, training schedules, etc. This information is sent home for you as well as for the cadet. Please ensure that forms are properly completed and returned in a timely manner.

## How can parents help their cadets?

- Attend (as much as possible) the closing parade on training nights (at approx 9:00 pm) to hear the announcements.
- Help them organize and manage their after-school time so that there will be time for both Air Cadets and schoolwork.
- Help them look after their uniform (that includes not losing any part of it).
- Help them look after and secure their band instrument and accessories.
- Ensure they sell/buy their lottery tickets promptly, securing the tickets, stubs and monies at all times. Be familiar with the instructions supplied with the tickets.
- Include Air Cadet activities such as weekend training on the family calendar.
- Try to avoid family scheduling conflicts with major activities such as Annual Reviews.
- Transport your son/daughter (and maybe their friends) to training nights and picking them up at the end. (To arrive no earlier than and picking up no later than the times posted in the Newsletter.)
- Encourage them to participate in several squadron activities. The more they put in to the squadron, the more they will get out of it.

### Promotions

Promotion in the Air Cadet Program is based on strict criteria such as regular attendance, good participation and attitude, successful completion of training proficiency levels, and for the more senior cadet ranks, time as a cadet and in rank, summer camps attended and willingness and availability to take on leadership and administrative roles.

For more details on promotions, refer to the Standing Orders: [www.2vandenbos.org](http://www.2vandenbos.org)

### Summer Camps

Each year, some ten thousand Air Cadets have the opportunity to attend summer camps throughout Ontario and Canada. Courses run two, three, six and seven weeks and cover a wide range of subjects from general (basic) training to music, athletics, instruction, leadership, aviation and gliding/power flying. Please see the Commanding Officer if you have any questions.

## OTHER WAYS ADULTS/ PARENTS CAN HELP

- Become a volunteer (Civilian Volunteer and/or SSC volunteer)
- SSC Volunteer: Committee that provides support to the squadron in many ways; through fundraising, ensuring facilities to parade in, promoting the program and assist in recruiting, etc)
- Some activities require parents to help DRIVE cadets to the location
- If you have special skills (flying, first aid, etc) you can ask about becoming a Civilian Instructor
- Become a CIC Officer (CIC officers receive pay, uniforms and training through the Canadian Forces)

## Donations

- Items the squadron can use: canteen items (drinks, chocolate bars, etc), raffle items, Canadian Tire Money (we use this to buy sports equipment), etc. Please speak to any staff or volunteer if you have anything you wish to donate.
- Monetary Donations: 2 VandenBos Whitby Air Cadet Squadron Sponsoring Committee is a Registered Charity with Canada Revenue Agency. Reg. Charity #: **13038 7665 RR 0073** As such, if you or someone you know wishes to make a donation, we can issue an official income tax receipt.
- Donations through your work place (via United Way)
- Some work places also offer donations to their employees who volunteer at the squadron
- Please see any staff/volunteer of you wish to donate or if you have any questions.

## CONCLUSION

The demands of the program are significant but the rewards are absolutely worth it. As parents, you can indeed do a lot to support your son/daughter as they proceed through the Air Cadet Program or the Squadron in general. If you have any questions about the information included in this publication, please contact the Commanding Officer. He/she will be able to answer your questions and provide you with additional information about squadron procedures, the Air Cadet program and the Air Cadet League of Canada.

### THE PARTNERSHIP with DND

The Royal Canadian Air Cadet Program, part of the largest Federal Government youth program, is a unique partnership between the Federal Government's Department of National Defence and the Air Cadet League of Canada, the latter a civilian not-for-profit organization. This partnership can be found at all three levels of the program: the national level, the provincial level and, your focus, the local level.

### Squadron Sponsoring Committee

Each squadron is sponsored by a local organization, in this case the '2 Whitby Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron Sponsoring Committee'. It supports the Commanding Officer and staff in the operation of the squadron. The Sponsoring Committee is responsible for: securing and paying for the squadron facilities for training, parades, office and storage; for funding certain elements of the program such as a band, optional training and social events; for attracting recruit cadets and adult leaders and supporters; for ensuring registration and proper screening of volunteer adult leaders and supporters, for fund raising; for managing the squadron finances; and, for other functions in concert with the Commanding Officer.

### Officer Staff

Each squadron is staffed by a group of officers, civilian instructors and volunteers under the direction of the Commanding Officer. The CO is responsible for organizing and supervising the operation of the squadron, with the staff and for the cadets, and for the implementation of the training program. The CO and his/her team, often with the Sponsoring Committee, organize the training program according to nationally set standards. They plan and implement the various training activities throughout the year, including on some weekends.

### Air Cadet League (Provincial and National level)

At the provincial and national level, the Department of National Defence/Canadian Forces and the Air Cadet League work cooperatively to provide the necessary oversight and resources to support the squadrons. Without this unique partnership, the Air Cadet program would not be as successful as it has been.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Should you or your Air Cadet daughter/son choose to organize or host an activity attended by cadets (even if it is only for cadets), you must understand that it will not be an official or sanctioned 'cadet activity'. As such, the Air Cadet Program insurance will not be in effect, nor will Air Cadet Program authorities get involved in redressing any discipline or other resulting issues. The responsibilities will be entirely yours as organizers or hosts of a private function. In fact it is your responsibility to make clear to those invited and attending that it is not a 'cadet activity'. Conversely, parents/guardians should enquire about the 'cadet activity' status of the event their son/daughter is planning to attend.

**On behalf of the Air Cadet League of Canada and its Ontario Provincial Committee, the Department of National Defense, the Squadron Sponsoring Committee and the Commanding Officer and staff of the 2 VandenBos Whitby Air Cadet Squadron, we would like to say how pleased we are to have your children in the Air Cadet program.**