



# Summer Encampment Preparation Guide

The Florida Wing Cadet Programs Directorate publishes this guide to provide unit commanders, Cadet Programs personnel, parents, and cadets with a basic understanding of what an encampment is, who should attend, why attendance should be stressed, and what should be done to prepare a cadet for the Encampment experience.

## WHAT IS AN ENCAMPMENT?

Encampment is an **immersive, week-long leadership training experience** designed to **fully introduce cadets** to the **challenges and opportunities of cadet life**. In a structured and professional environment, cadets **strengthen** their **leadership skills**, **explore aerospace concepts** and **careers**, **build confidence** through teamwork, and experience the value of **physical fitness**, **personal discipline**, and **having fun**, while reinforcing CAP's Core Values. It is also an excellent opportunity to meet cadets from across the Wing, cultivate friendships, and build esprit de corps among the next generation of cadet leaders. Guided by trained adult leaders and cadet cadre, encampment is safe, challenging, and often a highlight of a cadet's CAP experience.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND AN ENCAMPMENT AS A BASIC CADET?

Any cadet who is a current member of CAP and has not previously attended an encampment. A minimum amount of training at the squadron level is required to ensure that the cadet understands the basics of CAP customs and courtesies, the basics of CAP drill, and how to wear the CAP uniform, which will be discussed below. Cadets must have completed the Curry Achievement before the start of the encampment.

## WHY SHOULD A CADET ATTEND AN ENCAMPMENT?

- It is a requirement to achieve the Billy Mitchell Award.
- It is required for most National and Wing-sponsored special activities.
- It provides an outstanding leadership and training forum for new cadets and new cadet command/staff officers.
- It allows one to meet other cadets and begin lasting friendships with them.
- It provides numerous experiences that appeal directly to CAP Cadets and is a fun and exciting opportunity.

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A CADET TO ATTEND AN ENCAMPMENT?

Cadets must have a **current membership card**, **meet grooming standards**, have **completed the Curry Achievement**, and **submit the necessary paperwork**. All application instructions are detailed at the beginning of this information package.

## WHAT ITEMS SHOULD A CADET BRING TO AN ENCAMPMENT?

Since every encampment is slightly different (different locations, weather, etc.), the packing list changes slightly every year. For the **most current and accurate packing list** for the encampment you are attending, go to the Florida Wing Cadet Programs website and select the Summer Encampment webpage **here**.

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## WHAT DO PARENTS NEED TO KNOW TO PREARE FOR ENCAMPMENT?

- Start with reading this **entire** Preparation Guide and check out all links provided for more details.
- Refer to the OPS (order on the landing event page for encampment at the bottom) for detailed information on how to register and fill out all of the forms.
- Set up their Parent/Guardian portal [here](#).
- Link their cadet in their Parent/Guardian portal.
- Fill out or update their cadet's CAP Health information now and 1 month before encampment.
- Update their cadet's current medications 1 month before encampment.
- Submit their cadet's current tshirt size in eServices >click on your cadets name in upper right-hand corner>Characteristics>tshirt size>save changes.
- Don't wait until the last minute to complete registration. SET A REMINDER IN YOUR CALENDAR.
- Can track the encampment event through the Florida Wing Facebook page [here](#).
- NO PHONES, AI/META GLASSES, SMART WATCHES, RECORDING OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES are allowed at encampment.

## WHAT OPTIONS ARE THERE FOR CADETS WHO CANNOT AFFORD THE ENCAMPMENT?

Thanks to Air Force support, CAP has special funding available to cover encampment fees and uniforms, emphasizing serving economically disadvantaged cadets through the Cadet Encampment Assistance Program or CEAP (say, "seep"). An inability to afford encampment should not hold back cadets who want to participate in the encampment. The detailed application procedure is located [here](#). CEAP Webpage is located [here](#). If your cadet is not awarded a CEAP Scholarship, the Squadron could provide a scholarship and transfer funds from its account to the wing. This procedure is outlined in the Operations Order on the Encampment Webpage on the Wing Website.

## ENCAMPMENT TIMELINE:

- 09 Mar 2026 - Cadet Staff Applications Open
- 06 Apr 2026 - Student Applications Open
- 05 Jun 2026 - First-Time Cadet Applications Due
- 25 June 2026 - Update CAP Health and any current medications
- 01 Jul 2026 - Payment & Refund Deadline
- 15 July 2026 - Flight information must be submitted PRIOR to this date for cadets flying in.
- 24 July 2026 - Staff arrive to encampment
- 25 July 2026 - Cadet students arrive to encampment
- 01 Aug 2026 - Encampment graduation



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## WHAT SHOULD A SQUADRON COMMANDER DO TO PREPARE A CADET TO ATTEND AN ENCAMPMENT?

- Provide classes on the following topics weeks before encampment (see manual references in parentheses):
- CAP customs and courtesies (Learn to Lead Modules 1 and 2).
- Proper wear of ALL of the complete CAP uniforms and grooming standards (CAPR 39-1).
- Basic drill maneuvers (drill and ceremonies).
- Personal hygiene and self-care (basic first aid, cleanliness).
- Idea of what homesickness is for cadets who have never been away from home. Discuss with him/her the resources available at the encampment (Chaplain, Training Officers, squadron members).
- Review stress management tools such as the block breathing technique.
- Explain to your cadets what it is like to live with little privacy. This can be a shock.
- Explain the earlier wakeup times and to prepare for this schedule days in advance for optimal rest.
- Prepare them to adjust to extremely structured days with personal down time in evenings.
- Explain that they cannot contact family members during the event.
- Physical readiness for long strenuous days (Hydrating, Running, daily exercises, etc.)
- Remind and encourage cadets to start hydrating days before they depart for event.
- Prepare them for the food program. (If special dietary requests must submit in Registration Zone).
- Remind cadets there are NO PHONES, AI/META GLASSES, SMART WATCHES, RECORDING OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES allowed at encampment.
- Remind cadets to update their CAP Health History and current medications 1 month before encampment.
- Hold a Parent Encampment Meeting to help answer parents questions, calm anxiety/stress/frustration, educate parents how to use Registration Zone, use the Parent Portal and link their cadets, and remind them to not wait until the last minute, ect.

## ARE THERE ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION CONCERNING ENCAMPMENTS?

Yes. CAPR 60-70 governs CAP Encampments. Cadets and seniors who have attended previous encampments are a great source of information and training. Additionally, Florida Wing maintains a supplement to CAPR 60-70 that details encampment operations. The supplement can be found on the FLWG website [here](#).