



Information for New Cadets and Parents

1075 Camberley Squadron

Introduction

The Air Cadets

The Air Cadets, or Air Training Corps to give it its official name, is a national uniformed youth organisation sponsored by the Royal Air Force. As an Air Cadet you will get the chance of taking part in activities that others can only dream about. Learn to fly or glide, rock climbing or hill walking, experience trips overseas or simply make new friends and gain qualifications. The Air Cadets can literally put you on cloud nine.

Aims of the Air Training Corps

- To promote and encourage among young men and women a practical interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force
- To provide training which will be useful both in the services and civil life
- To foster the spirit of adventure
- To develop the qualities of leadership and good citizenship

Our Mission

To facilitate a modern, dynamic, sustainable air-minded youth organisation of choice that offers fun and challenging opportunities.

1075 Camberley Squadron

1075 Squadron was formed in 1941 a few weeks after the national formation of the Air Training Corps. It has served the needs of the "air minded" youth in Camberley and the surrounding area ever since.

1075 Squadron is one of 28 Squadrons that make up Surrey Wing, which is based largely on the geography boundaries of the county of Surrey. In turn, Surrey Wing is one of 6 Wings in London and South East Region. The Air Training Corps is made up of 6 Regions, and is controlled by a Regular Royal Air Force officer of Air Commodore rank, and a team of regular, reserve and civil servant staff from its HQ at RAF Cranwell, Lincolnshire.

Contacting us

1075 squadron meets every Monday and Friday from 19:00 hrs until 21:30 hrs at our Headquarters on the A30, London Road in Camberley. Our contact details are:

Post: 272 London Road
C/o TA Centre
Camberley
Surrey GU15 3JP

Telephone: 01276 64099

Email: Commanding Officer: oc.1075@aircadets.org

Adjutant: adj.1075@aircadets.org

Training Officer training.1075@aircadets.org

Web: www.1075squadron.org.uk

Or follow us on facebook



www.facebook.com/camberleyaircadets

Joining

Eligibility to join

To join the Air Cadets you must be at least 12 years old, and in Year 8 or later in School. You must join before your 17th birthday. Other than that there are no restrictions. The organisation is open to boys and girls of any background, ability, religion or nationality. You don't have to join the armed forces, or even have a desire to become a pilot, just have a passion for fun and adventure.

To be able to join you must have your parents' consent, which is given through the completion of RAF form 3822A. There will also be a requirement of the payment of an initial membership subscription that will cover basic training (the first 3 months) - see Subscriptions).

On joining the Squadron you will become a Junior Cadet and will start your basic stage one training. With this status you will only be able to take part in activities that take place at the Squadron HQ.

How the Recruit Intake works

Each intake starts with an induction evening where you and your parents will attend a presentation about the Air Cadets and how you can join us. You will be given all the paperwork required to join and get a chance to ask any questions you have before making the final decision to join us.

If you do decide to come back and join us the first three months will contain your basic training. This provides you with the key knowledge you will need for your cadet career. Learning how to march and wear your uniform. Learning about the Air Training Corps and the Royal Air Force, how an airfield operates and the history of flight. We will even teach you how to map read and survive outdoors in preparation for camping expeditions.

But it is not all learning, you will have fun too with trips away, together with sporting and social activities at the Squadron. At the end of the recruit training you will become a first class cadet and then the world is your oyster as this unlocks many of the amazing activities the air cadets has to offer. With the basic knowledge you have learnt you will be able to enjoy activities like flying and expeditions to a greater degree.

Enrolment

You will be enrolled as a full member of the ATC when you have completed Stage One of your basic training. This will take place about one month after you join. When enrolled you will make the Cadet's Promise in a small ceremony with the Squadron Padre.

On enrolment you will become a Second Class Cadet and will be given your RAF form 3822, the Cadet's Record of Service Book. This book is to be carried with you at all times when on Cadet activities and will be used to record all activities you take part in, and any awards or qualifications you gain. After you have been enrolled you will be eligible to take part in activities away from the Squadron HQ, so long as you meet any other requirements in place.

Uniform

On payment of the initial membership subscription you will be given a Squadron Polo shirt. This is to be worn on Squadron parade nights until you get your uniform. Additional or replacement Polo shirts can be purchased from the Squadron.

After about a month with the squadron you will be issued with your Cadet uniform. This is on long term loan from the RAF and should be treated with respect. Note: It costs the RAF in the Region of £150 to supply it to you. You will be issued with the following items: Beret and Badge, Dark Blue working shirt, Light Blue Wedgwood shirt, Black tie, Brassard and badges, Jersey, Trousers and belt or skirt, and Jeltex Waterproof Jacket

To supplement this you will have to supply appropriate black shoes, black socks for boys and barely black tights for girls.

The Squadron can also issue the camouflage uniform used for outdoor activities, although as this is not issued by the RAF it cannot be guaranteed and so you may be required to supplement it with private purchases.

Full training on how to wear and look after your uniform will be given. Your uniform is only to be worn on approved ATC activities and all issued items must be returned to the Squadron on leaving. Uniform that has been damaged beyond reasonable wear and tear, or lost may be charged for. Items that no longer fit, or are subject to fair wear and tear will be replaced free. There are also certain restrictions on haircuts, make up and jewellery that are expected to be followed. These will be explained to you during your basic training.

Parade Nights

The Squadron parades throughout the year on Mondays and Fridays, except for public holidays and over the Christmas/New

Opportunities

Year period. The Squadron HQ opens at 19:00 hrs every parade night and closes around 22:00 hrs. Cadets are expected to arrive by 19:15 hrs and will be able to leave from 21:30 hrs.

During most parade nights there is a tuck shop available for cadets to buy drinks and refreshments during a break period between two 40 minute training periods.

Training and Classifications

The Air Cadets operates a progressive academic training system based on classifications. At each stage, except for junior cadets/second class cadets, cadets sit multiple-choice exams on set subjects to progress to the next stage. This works as follows:



Junior Cadet/Second Class

Cadets join as a Junior Cadet and become a Second class cadet on completion of stage one training.

Stage One: The Air Training Corps, Drill and Uniform

Stage Two: The Royal Air Force, History of Flight, Airmanship, Map Reading, Initial Expedition Training and Basic Communications



First Class

The first class badge is awarded on completion of stage two training.

The following subjects are then studied: Principles of Flight, Aircraft Knowledge and Basic Navigation



Leading

Completion of the subjects listed above is through online multiple choice examinations, allowing you to gain the Leading Cadet Classification.

Any three subjects from the following are then studied, working towards the Senior Cadet Classification:

Basic Air Navigation, Aircraft Handling & Flying Techniques, Air Power, Piston Engine Propulsion, Jet Engine Propulsion, Rocketry, Airframes, Avionics & Aircraft Electrical Systems, Military Aircraft Systems, Basic Principles of Pilot Navigation, Advanced Radio & Radar, and Data Communications



Senior

Again senior cadet classification is achieved through online examinations. On completion you will work towards Master Cadet Classification studying three additional subjects not studied at senior level.

Master

After completion of the Master Cadet exams the academic training is complete for cadets. At this point cadets also receive the award of a BTEC Certificate in Aviation Studies worth 2 GCSEs (A-C grade). Master cadets start to take on more responsibility and will work towards Instructor Cadet status.



Instructor

To reach the Instructor Cadet Classification cadets need to complete a methods of instruction course to reach this level as they are expected to teach younger cadets.

CADET NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER RANKS

As in the RAF there are opportunities for promotion in rank, gaining extra responsibilities. These promotions are on merit and are not automatic after time served. The ranks available to cadets in the ATC are detailed below:

Cadet Corporal



Cadet Sergeant



Cadet Flight Sergeant



Cadet Warrant Officer



The main role of the Cadet NCOs is to maintain discipline among the cadets and assist in the operation of the squadron. They are also there to help out younger, less experienced cadets with problems they may have.

Flying

Cadets are eligible to go flying once they have reached the age of 13 ¼, subject to medical fitness, and are enrolled. Most flying is Air Experience Flying in the Grob Tutor 2-seat training aircraft. The squadron normally goes air experience flying at No 2 Air Experience Flight at MoD Boscombe Down, Wiltshire.

Flying in other aircraft is also available from time to time. Selection is based on previous flights and general performance of the individual cadets based on flight points.

Older cadets, over 16, can apply for a flying or plot navigation scholarship through the Air Cadet Pilot Scheme. If successful they will get 10 hours tuition on a light aircraft at either an AEF or a civilian flying school. There are also opportunities for training on microlights. On completion the cadet is awarded their scholarship wings that are worn on their uniform.



Gliding

Gliding is aimed at the older cadets as the opportunities for Air Experience Gliding is limited. All enrolled cadets are eligible, subject to medical fitness, to attend one of the few Gliding Induction Courses allocated to the Squadron roughly four times a year. However, these courses are aimed at cadets over 15 in preparation for scholarships. The GIC is in three stages and gives cadets an overview of operation of a glider. These are carried out at 618 Volunteer Gliding Squadron at RAF Odiham in the Grob G109 Vigilant motor glider.

Once 16 cadets can apply for a Gliding Scholarship, subject to a medical certificate being signed by the family doctor. If successful the cadet will either attend 618 VGS at Odiham at weekends or attend a weeklong course during the summer. On successful completion of the course Blue Gliding wings are presented, which are worn on the uniform. If the cadet shows the right level of aptitude and commitment they will be given extra hours to train them to solo standard. If they then successfully complete a solo flight they will be presented with Silver Wings.



Further gliding opportunities are available to those cadets showing the right level of aptitude in gliding. These include becoming a staff cadet on the VGS, helping their operations at weekends in return for further training towards advanced "Gold" wings or even full Glider Pilot Wings.

Citizenship Training

Citizenship training has been part of the ATC's training programme since it was formed. This covers a variety of activities, which either help the local community and charities, or expose the cadets to new organisations and how they work.

Each year the squadron helps to collect money for both the Royal British Legion (The Poppy Appeal) and the RAF Association (Battle of Britain Wings Appeal). The squadron Chaplain also holds regular talks and discussions based on citizenship/society issues.

The main citizenship training is carried out through interest lectures and visits. Recent talks have included Nokia, The Ghurkhas, the Royal Military Police, Surrey Police, a local historian and a Battle of Britain Luftwaffe pilot. Visits have taken place to the 2nd World War operations bunker at RAF Uxbridge, the Joint Services Command and Staff College, and the Tower of London to watch the Ceremony of the Keys.

Duke Of Edinburgh's Award

The ATC is one of the largest operating bodies of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, with many of the usual cadet activities counting towards the Awards. The scheme is made up of three levels; Bronze, Silver and Gold, with Physical, Skill, Service and Expedition sections at each level. To gain an award cadets have to complete a minimum amount of time taking part in certain activities counting to each section.

Some cadets' schools also operate the scheme and they can use activities from either organisation towards their award. Cadets who gain a D of E award through their school can also receive the ATC uniform badge on presentation of their certificate to the Squadron D of E officer.

If registered through the Air Cadets, those cadets completing the award at any level will have their registration

fee refunded.

Sports

A wide range of sports are playing in the ATC competitively right up to national level. Many cadets get to represent their Wing or Region at their chosen sport, receiving a “Blue” in recognition. The following sports are included in the ATC:

- Football
- Athletics
- Cross Country Running
- Swimming
- Rugby
- Netball
- Hockey

Some of these sports are played at an Inter-Squadron level, while others start at an Inter Wing level, with cadets attending trials to gain their place on the team.

Adventure Training

Adventure Training covers most outdoor activities the ATC has to offer. This includes weekend camps, rock climbing, canoeing and a whole host of other activities. There is usually a small charge for these activities. Full details will always be given.

Other Activities And Qualifications

There are a variety of other activities and qualifications on offer to cadets. This includes First Aid training, which can give the cadets the St John’s Ambulance Young Lifesavers Plus award. Cadets also get the opportunity to work towards a BTEC First Diploma in Public Services, when they are 16, which is worth 4 GCSEs.

Parades

Each year the Squadron holds an Annual Inspection, usually in the summer, where the cadets are inspected by a serving senior officer in the Armed Forces. It also gives the parents and friends of the cadets to see what they can do, with displays put on demonstrating current cadet activities. It is one of only two compulsory parades each year.

The other compulsory parade is the annual Remembrance Sunday parade on the nearest Sunday to the 11th November. Parents and families are welcome to attend the parade at the War Memorial in Camberley.

Christmas Formal Ball

On a more fun note, the Squadron holds a formal ball every year at Christmas. This event is black tie, so the male cadets wear bow ties and the girls wear appropriate gowns. The Christmas Dinner includes a guest speaker and a formal silver service sit down dinner in a military mess.



Running the Squadron

STAFF

Every squadron in the ATC is controlled by a Commanding Officer who is usually a Flight Lieutenant in the RAF Volunteer Reserve (Training) branch. They are assisted by a team of other RAFVR(T) officers, Adult Senior NCOs, and Civilian Instructors. All staff are volunteers and fit the ATC around their day jobs. All staff have to undergo an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check and security checks.

CIVILIAN COMMITTEE

The running of the Squadron is overseen by the Civilian Committee, which is made up of parents and other friends of the Squadron. They manage the financial side of the Squadron's activities, provide welfare support and run the Squadron Canteen. Sitting separate to both the Committee and the Squadron staff is the Squadron President.

New members to the Committee are always welcome, along with volunteers to run the Canteen for the cadets. If anyone is able to give up a little time for the benefit of the Cadets and Squadron, please contact the Chairman for further details.

Emails are sent out on a regular basis giving updates and keeping parents in touch with activities.

CHAIRMAN CONTACT DETAILS

Email: chair.1075@aircadets.org

Keeping Up To Date With What Is Going On

During the first month with the squadron the cadets will be issued their own login to the squadron website. This will allow them access to a secure area where notices are posted, together with details of the weekly training programme. This includes the activities, uniform required and any additional information.

To help the staff plan the regular parade night activities, the cadets are also asked to complete their attendance or absence through the website. This will allow the staff to adapt the training programme to suit the number and level of cadets attending.

Financial Matters

Subscriptions

The public money from the RAF does not cover all the activities that the ATC has to offer, and extra money is needed to supplement the equipment provided. To cover this individual cadet subscriptions are charged at all levels (ie squadron, wing, region and HQAC). The money raised through subscriptions covers things such as sport, welfare facilities, training equipment, and most transport (including the squadron minibus). They are due from the day the cadet joins until the Squadron is informed of the cadet leaving.

To manage this, we have a civilian committee that meets 2-3 times a year. The Committee Treasurer is responsible to the Chairman and committee for the accounts of the Sqn. All parents are welcome to join and details of meetings are sent out to parents by email in advance.

We ask that prompt payment is made of subscriptions in order that we can run the Squadron efficiently. We request the initial payment in full by cash or cheque.

The level of subscription is set annually by the Squadron Civilian Committee and is currently set at £92.00 a year (Jan – Dec).

An initial payment of £40 is required on joining, and will cover the subscriptions until the end of the year. On receipt of this payment, a Squadron polo shirt will be given to the cadet at their first meeting.

THE RAF FORM 3822A MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED WITH THE SUBS PAYMENT

The subsequent payments can be made by a variety of methods. These include bank transfer, cash and cheques. You are able to pay annually, 6 monthly or monthly.

If at any time you are unable to pay the required cadet subscriptions/ camp costs, etc, please talk to the Chairman or the Commanding Officer. Your situation will be dealt with sympathetically and confidentially, and arrangements can be made to suit your circumstances.

Gift Aid

This is a scheme by which the Squadron can claim the tax back from subscriptions and donations from the Chancellor (23p in every £1). Gift Aid is a tremendous form of revenue for the Squadron. Please complete the Gift Aid declaration and permit the Treasurer to reclaim this money.

- You must have paid an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Sqn reclaims on your donations in the tax year, you can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Sqn.
- If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the Sqn reclaims, you can cancel your declaration by notifying the Sqn.
- Please notify the Sqn if you change your name or address.

There are other expenses that are optional and include:

Hoodies

The cadets themselves expressed a requirement for a top that could be with their Polo shirts etc. With sponsorship assistance from Framos, we have been able to reduce the costs of the tops from £25.00 to £20.00 each and we are now able to offer these on sale. With a potential of 90 tops at the Sqn at any one time, we have incorporated the cost of embroidering your child's name into the price!

At any time should you require further information / assistance, please contact me direct. Meanwhile, I hope your child enjoys their time at Cadets – it is an experience not to be missed.

Cheques

Please make all cheques payable to *1075 (Camberley) Sqn ATC*