

# Agenda

- Welcome & Introduce Cadet Candidates and Families
- West Point Parents Club Overview
- 50 Year Affiliation Class Speaker from USMA 1976
- West Point Association of Graduates
- Break-in-My-Boots Road March & Ice Cream Social
- What We Learned and Wished We Knew Beforehand!
- Questions & Answers

# Introductions

- Cadet Candidate Name
- USMAPS or USMA 2026 Class
- Town you live in / High School
- Interesting fact about you



# West Point Parents Club of North Texas (WPPCNTX)

## Mission:

- 1. To provide information** to parents, guardians, and families of Cadets of the United States Military Academy.
- 1. To provide a welcoming and supportive venue** for camaraderie among families and friends of West Point cadets.
- 1. To promote a favorable attitude** toward West Point and its goals and purposes in the North Texas community.
- 1. To support the recruiting** of prospective candidates for West Point.

# How We Accomplish Our Mission

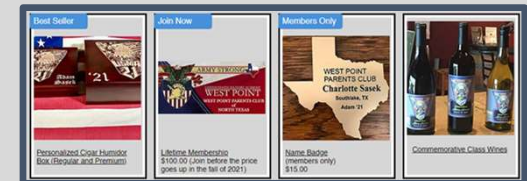
## Club Meetings



## Fun Events that support our Mission



## Fundraising & Merchandising



## For Your Information



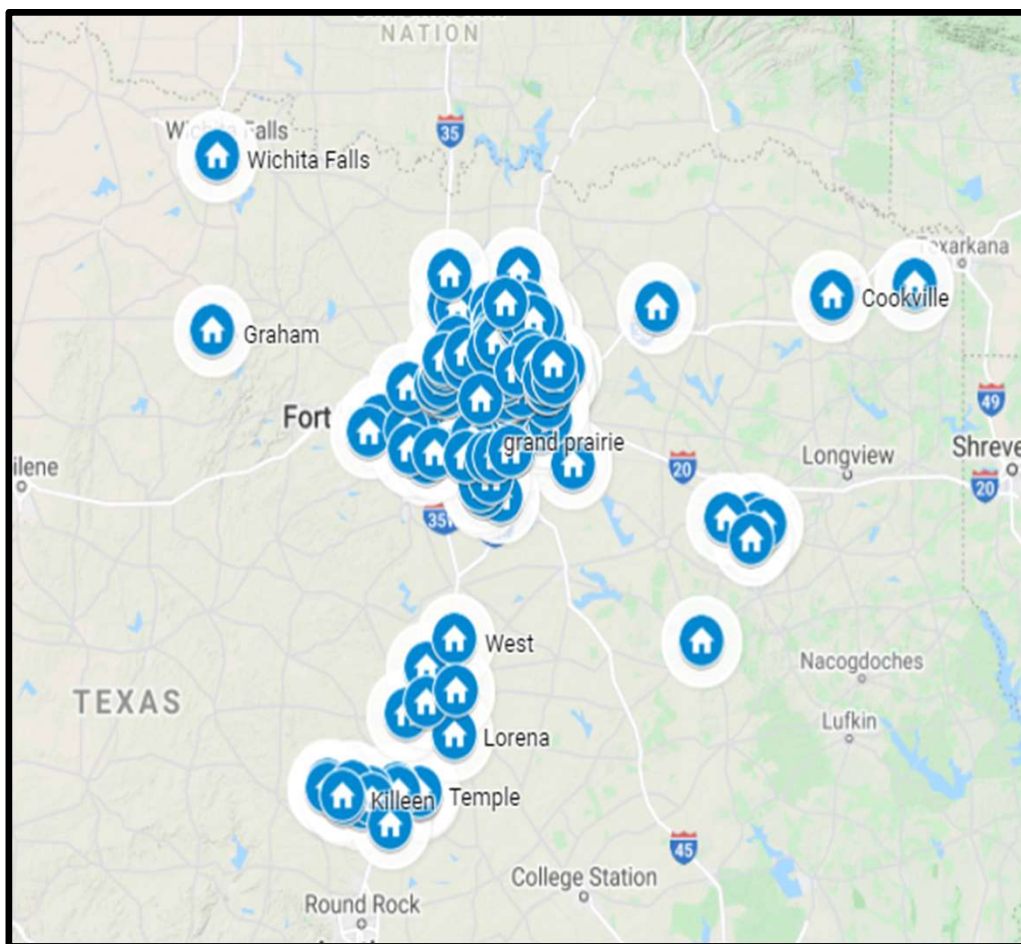
**Liaison**



West Point, WPAOG, West Point Society of North Texas, other Parent Clubs & Military friendly orgs

**WPPCNTX**  
**Nonprofit Corporation**

# About the West Point Parents Club of North Texas



503(c)(3)  
nonprofit  
organization

All donations are  
tax deductible!

We hold a variety  
of events  
throughout the  
year!

Run by a volunteer board  
of directors who also have  
cadets at the Academy  
right now

We received the **Pershing  
Lifetime Giving Society  
Award** for our continuous  
donations to the  
West Point Association of  
Graduates (WPAOG)  
and the West Point Cadets.

**We support more than 400 parents  
across North & Central Texas, and we  
have over 1,000 alumni parents too**

# 2022 Board Members

The Club's fiscal year starts on March 1 and ends on Feb 28

## **Voting Board Members:**

1. President – Rich Russo USMA '93 and 2024
2. Secretary – Barbara Kakembo 2025
3. Treasurer – Derick Hutchins 2024
4. VP Membership – Hemant Deshmukh 2026
5. VP Fundraising & Merchandising – Michele Windsor 2023 & 2025
6. VP Events – Erik Emblem 2023

## **At Large Board Members (non-voting):**

- Glenda Kass 2023
- Mark Reynolds 2024
- Dan Larson 2025
- Guennael Delorme 2026

We are recruiting for additional positions for Class of 2026 or USMAPS parents!  
See Rich Russo for more details.

## **West Point Society of North Texas Connections:**

- WP Society of N. TX Parent Liaison – Charles Mitchell USMA '78 and 2021
- WP Society of N. TX VP Recruiting – George Salerno USMA '88





# **Guest Speaker 50 Year Affiliation Class**

**Greg Schmitz graduated from West Point in 1976.** He served in the Army Corps of Engineers on active duty for six years with assignments as a platoon leader, a company executive officer, and a company commander. He served an additional 17 years in the Army Reserve. His first reserve assignment was at the Military Ocean Terminal in Bayonne, NJ where he was called to active duty and was the Deputy Installation Commander during Operation Desert Shield. He also served in the Corps of Engineers District Office in New York City, and on a classified top-secret project based in Huntsville, Alabama. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel with 23 years total service.

As a civilian, he worked in operations at Texas Instruments, Chorum Technologies, a telecom startup, Brilliant Technologies, a small engineering firm, and OsteoMed, a medical implant manufacturer.

He and his wife, Barbara, live in Dallas and have been married 46 years, have two daughters, two sons-in-law, and four grandchildren.



# West Point Association of Graduates (AOG)

- The title “Association of Graduates”, makes it natural for parents to think that money sent to the AOG is just for grads. However, the **largest part of AOG’s mission is to support the Academy and cadets**. Eventually your cadet will graduate and see the other part of AOG’s mission.
- As a federal entity, West Point cannot raise money on its own. It relies on the AOG for **approximately 15% of the funding for the cadet experience** including:
  - Academics
  - Admissions
  - Athletics
  - The Corps of Cadets
  - The Superintendent Initiatives
  - The West Point Garrison (the post)

Click here to learn more about specific programs that AOG raises money for to specifically impacts cadets.

[Academy Funding Needs](#)

Example AOG supported events  
(click the links to learn more):

- [Reception Day](#)
- [March Back](#)
- [Class Crest Unveiling](#)
- [Yearling Flag Ceremony](#)
- [Cow Affirmation](#)
- [Ring Weekend](#)
- [Branch Night](#)
- [Graduation 2LT Bars](#)



# WPAOG Donations to West Point in 2021

Money collected from 24,372 donors (19,143 Grads)

**\$55.3 million total cash received in 2021**  
**(approximately \$12,500 per cadet!)**

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## **Where it came from:**

Major Gift Pledges: \$82M

Annual and Class Pledges: \$9.1M

Ten class gifts: \$13.9M

Corporate Pledges: \$2.5M

Planned Gift Pledges: \$13.2M

## **Where it is going:**

Facilities: \$19.7M

Academics: \$12.2M

Athletics: \$10.9M

SUPT Unrestricted: \$5.2M

Cadet activities and CMDT (USCC): \$2.1M

To be designated: \$3.7M

Long Gray Line: \$1.5M

# Road March & Ice Cream Social

## Saturday, June 4

These two events will be held rain or shine at the Trawick Pavilion in Grapevine.

- **8 am - 10 am Break-in-My-Boots Road March** - join us for an overview of road march fundamentals plus a chance to meet your classmates and USMA 1976 grads. This event is primarily for 2026 and USMAPS cadet candidates and will include a road march to help with physical preparation for the summer. Parents and older children are welcome too, but this may not be suitable for younger children. Alternatively, parents and families can safely skip this event and join us later in the morning at the Ice Cream Social.
- **10 am -12:30 pm Prepare for R-Day Ice Cream Social** - this fun session is a chance for parents and cadet candidates to hear some final words of wisdom from USMA parents and grads, plus meet their classmates. We'll even have the opportunity for cadet candidates to speak directly with current USMA Cadets home on summer leave.

## AND WE WILL HAVE ICE CREAM!

# *What we have learned and wish we knew before hand!*



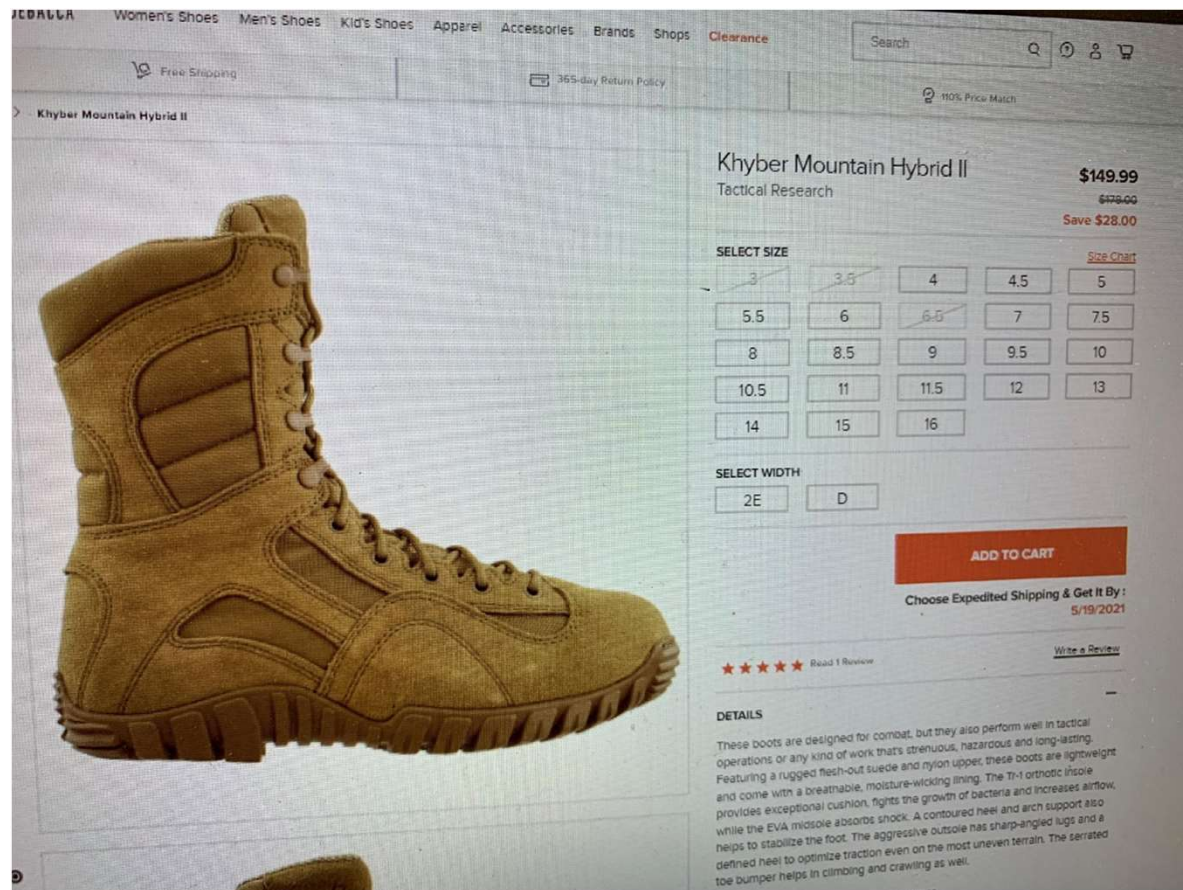
# Topics for this section

- Preparation
- Examples of boots, shoes, knives, socks, and more
- Bank Accounts
- Thoughts on Saying Goodbye
- Getting There
- Reception Day (R-Day) & the Oath Ceremony
- Beast
- Tips for Staying in Touch
- Acceptance Day (A-Day)
- Fun events: Parents Weekend, Plebe-Parent Weekend, etc.
- Books

# Preparation

- Push-ups, pull-ups, running, road marching
- Break in boots & running shoes...ruck / run
- Break in low Quarters...house / mall
- Better socks, insoles and underwear
- The packing list & the bag – large Ziploc bags
- Wear black socks and low quarters on R-Day
- Bring your mobile phone and a charger





Make sure your boots say that they are **AR 670-1 Compliant**.

AR stands for "Army Regulation." 670-1 is the Army's book that defines uniform requirements.



**BATES LITES® BLACK LEATHER OXFORD, X  
BLACK**

E00932

This model number of Bates Lites Black Leather low quarters are recommended.

New Cadets must have leather shoes (not the shiny plastic finish, it must be real leather). Don't worry, West Point will teach you how to make these leather shoes shine!



Search



MULTI-TOOLS / BLACK & SILVER SURGE®

21

TOOLS



## BLACK & SILVER SURGE®

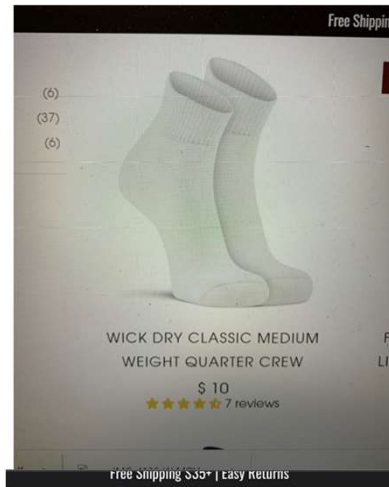
This heavy-duty workhorse has extra-large scissors, full-size knife blades, replaceable wire cutters and more.

Send



A multi-tool will make your life easier. If you are flying to West Point, be sure to check airline regulations to be sure you can bring it on the plane. *Knives typically can be packed in your checked luggage, but not carried on.*

If you are staying in a hotel before R-Day, consider mailing it to the hotel and asking for it at the front desk when you arrive.



HOME > MEN'S MILITARY SOCKS >  
DRESS LIGHTWEIGHT CREW



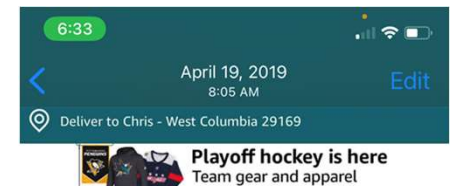
## DRESS LIGHTWEIGHT CREW

Fox River Socks are excellent. 10 pair each of white ankle socks, black dress socks, and boot socks are recommended.



## WICK DRY MAXIMUM MEDIUM WEIGHT MID-CALF BOOT

Consider compression shorts / underwear. Look for synthetic fabrics because cotton will not hold up well in the humidity of a West Point summer.



Niksa  
3 Pack Compression Shorts Men Quick Dry Black Performance Athletic Shorts  
Amazon's Choice for "men's spandex shorts"



Size Chart

Size:  
Select Size



# Links to Important Items

Multi-Tools: <https://www.rei.com/c/multi-tools>

Rite In The Rain Notebooks: <https://www.riteintherain.com/field-f...>

Headlamp (w/ Red lens): [Princeton Tech,](#)

Mini-Fan: [amzn.to/2VNtrXY](https://amzn.to/2VNtrXY)

# **Bank Accounts**

- **Scholarships** -> see the club website for info on using scholarship money, education IRA and 529 plan money
- **USMA Treasurers Account** -> West Point will have you deposit \$2,000 before you start. This is optional, but if you don't, the Army will send you a smaller paycheck for several months.
- **Get a checking account** so the Army can deposit your paycheck. A **credit card in the cadet's name** is also recommended. USAA or bank of your choice.
- USAA and Pentagon Federal Credit Union will be on site during R-Day if you don't have a bank account.

# Thoughts on Saying Goodbye

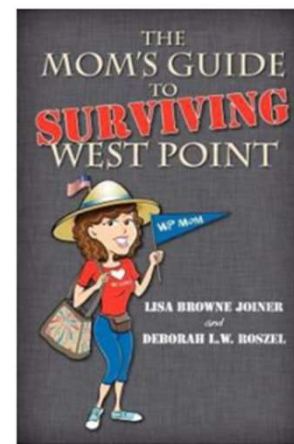
At home

vs.

At West Point

Talk with your cadet and decide which option is best for them. Some kids want to get the emotions over with privately. Others want their family to be with them to the last second.

[10 Things I Wish I Had  
Known My First Year as a  
West Point Parent - R-Day](#)



# Saying Goodbye at West Point



Parents had 60 seconds to say goodbye to their new cadets during a quick briefing Monday at Eisenhower Hall. By the end of the day, the new cadets paraded in front of their loved ones and took the oath of office.



New cadets come through Thayer Hall after receiving clothing and other items like duffel bags Monday during Reception Day, or R-Day, a day most cadets remember for a lifetime.

- **Pros:**

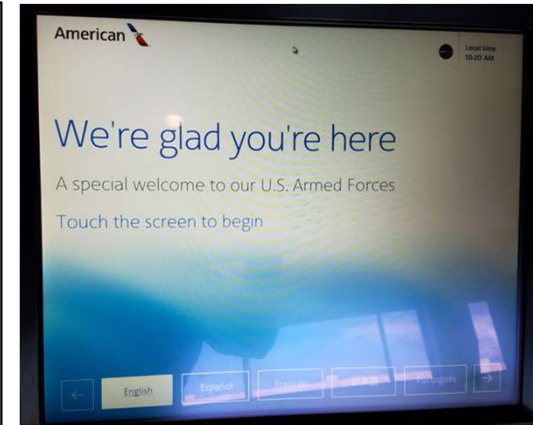
- West Point is a beautiful place, and you can tour the grounds and scout the surrounding towns for future visits
- R-Day has many activities that day including the “goodbye” briefing, and the opportunity to see the R-Day parade in the afternoon. For more info see the R-Day experience described in the West Point Mom’s book
- You’ll get to buy some great swag at the gift shops and pop-up tables
- You *may* get a glimpse of your cadet as they are issued equipment, learn to march, and make their way to their new cadet company area

- **Cons:**

- Can be expensive for large families
- Expect to be up early – cadets report in groups starting as early as 6 am
- The 60 (or 90) second goodbye happens very fast. You will likely not be able to pick out your cadet during the day or spot them at the parade.
- West Point is not visitor friendly – limited parking, long walks, few places to eat, it can be very hot, and the long day can be tough on little kids
- You may get emotional during the goodbye. Can your cadet handle that just before they head out for a very stressful 1<sup>st</sup> day?
- You may have to have the uncomfortable conversation about bringing along, and possibly paying for, a boy-friend / girl-friend to attend



# Saying Goodbye At home



- **Pros:**

- More people can be involved - you can make it into a special event with family & friends
- West Point will bus the cadets in from the airport – no stress about missing their report time!
- Cadet candidates can get their emotions under control, so they start R-Day ready
- Cost-effective for larger families, especially since you will see very little of your cadet the first day and may not be able to spot them at the parade
- A lot less hassle when trying to beat the crowds and the lack of parking at West Point
- Listen to what West Point publishes for your R-Day. The class of 2024 parents could only drop the kids off and did not get the “typical” R-Day experience described in the West Point Mom’s book. With COVID we need to be flexible.
- Your cadet will be reimbursed for a hotel stay and plane ticket – bring the receipts to R-Day!

- **Cons:**

- You may feel like you are “missing” the West Point experience (don’t worry, you can spend a lot more time with them on A-Day weekend at the end of the summer!)
- You may wonder how your kid will make it to West Point by themselves (don’t worry, they figure it out and likely meet others along the way)

# Getting there

Click these links on our Parents Club's [Visit West Point page](#) to find information on:

- [Visitor Control Center - get a pass to enter West Point's grounds](#)
- [Getting to the West Point Area: Airports, Buses, Cars & Car Services, Trains](#)
- [Where to Stay](#)
- [Things to Do](#)
- [Great Places to Eat](#)
- [Gift Shops](#)

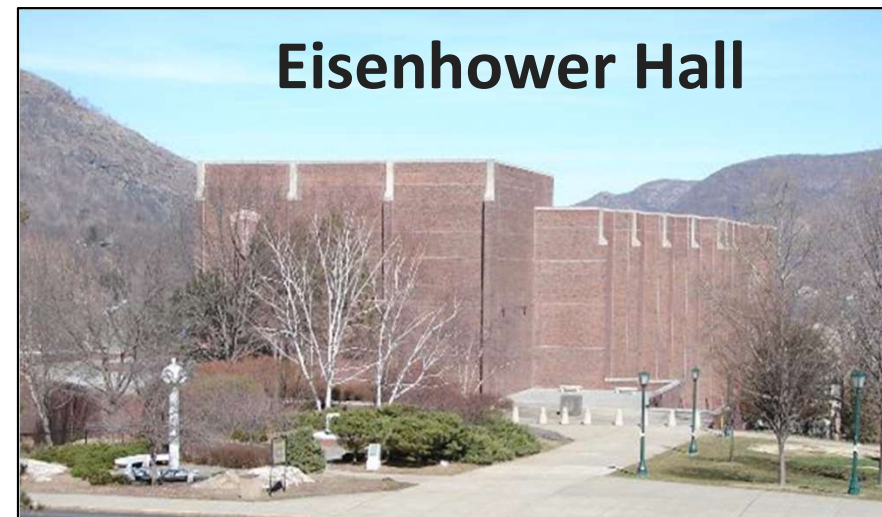
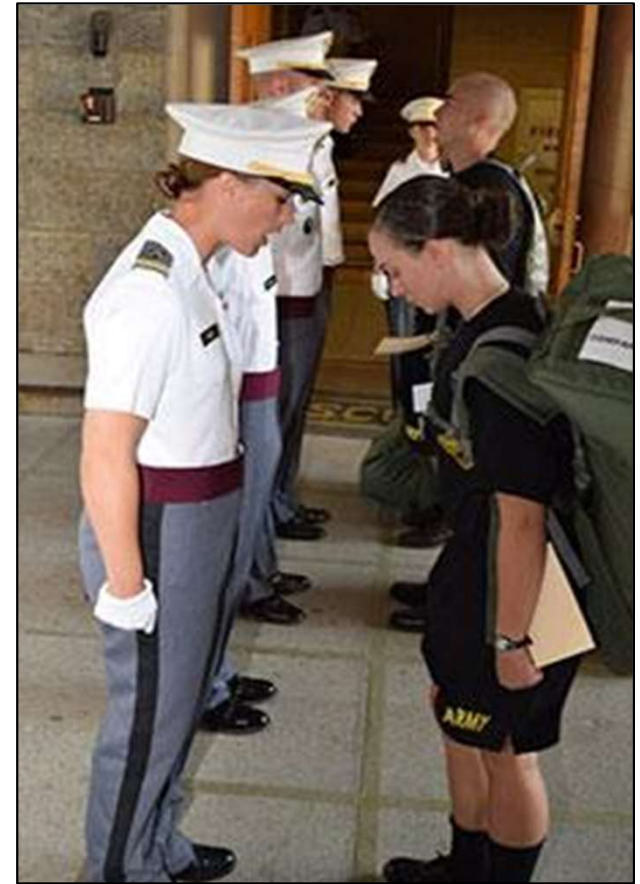
## **West Point Thayer Gate in Highland Falls**



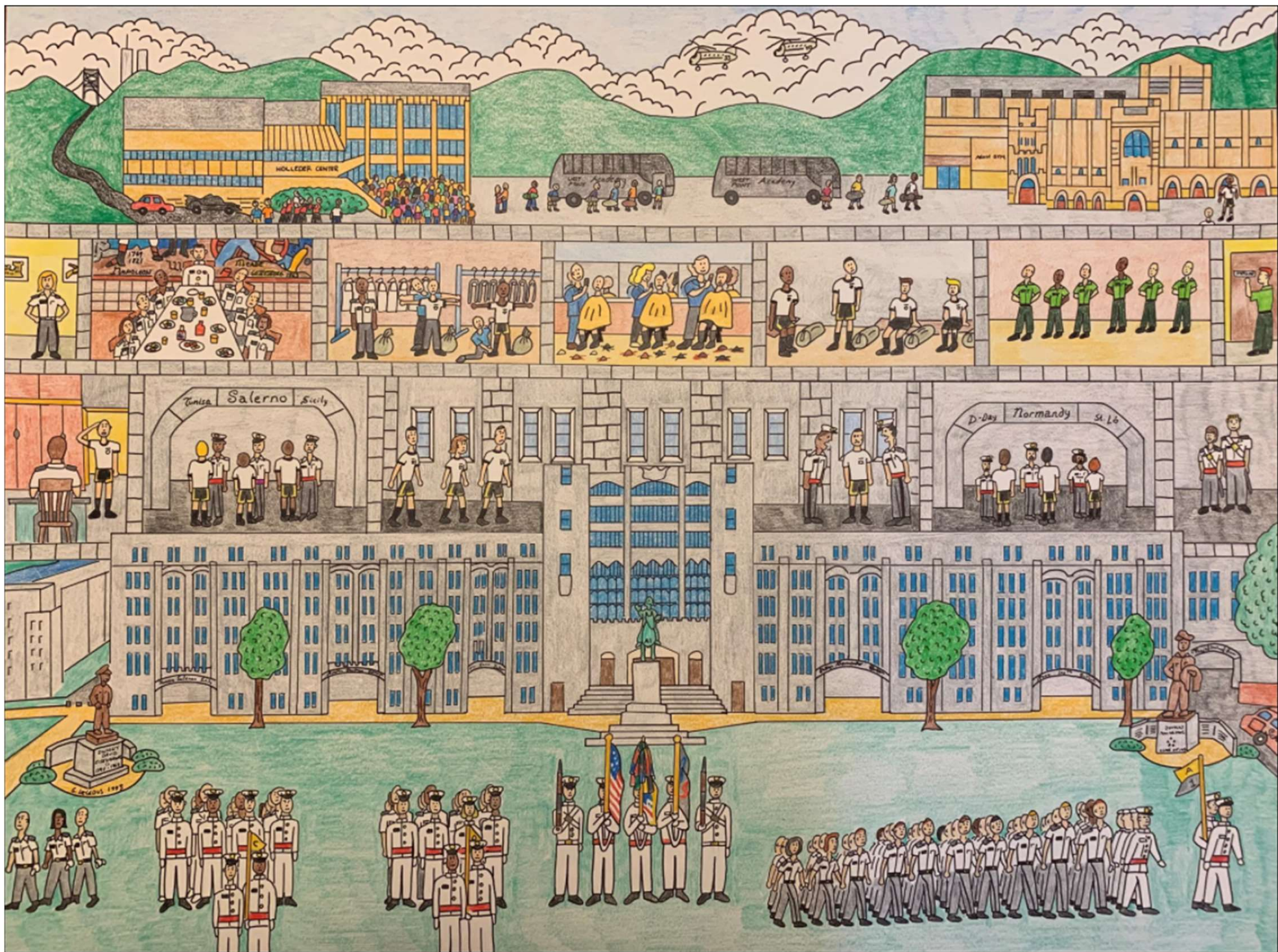
# 2026 Reception Day June 27

Note: USMAPS R-Day is currently scheduled for **July TBD**

- Get your visitor pass BEFORE R-Day
- Cadet Candidate report times are staggered - arrive early!!
- Swag & tickets
- Parade & Oath in the afternoon
- Post office box #









# Oath Ceremony



Your first day playing a favorite Parent game: “Where’s Waldo?”

# Beast

- 1st day is Worst/Best
- Report to the Cadet in the Red Sash
- Where's Waldo?
- Facebook pages
- Deb Dalton
- Phone calls – answer unrecognized numbers all summer!
- Lake Frederick March Back





# Tips for Staying in Touch

- West Point will communicate information on your cadet's assigned mailbox number. New Cadets will be issued keys in the first 2 weeks. ***No packages, email, or personal phones are allowed during Beast.***
- Notes from friends are GREAT! – give out stamped postcards
- New Cadets need a list of phone numbers, email addresses, and mailing addresses of family members. **They won't have their phones during the summer.**
- Sandboxx.us can make letter writing easier

## HOW SANDBOXX WORKS

### Send Support With Sandboxx

Write your message on any device up to 6,000 characters, add a photo, and hit send – we'll take care of the rest.

### We Print & Ship Your Letter

Your letter is then printed, sealed, and sorted by our team of military experts at Sandboxx Headquarters in Arlington, Va.

### Track Your Letter To Base

Letters are shipped overnight to every basic training base in the U.S. with tracking, so you know exactly when your letter arrives.



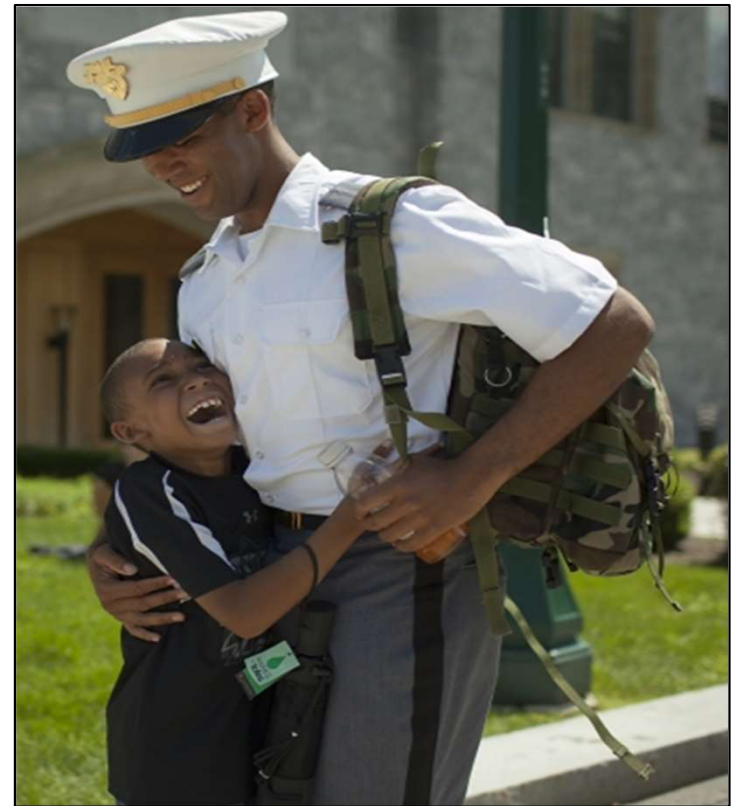
New Cadet Adelaide G. Crow  
P.O. Box 928  
West Point, NY 10997-928

Adelaide is starting Beast on June 26th. It would be wonderful if you could send her notes of encouragement during her 6 week training at West Point. No packages, please send letters in thin, white envelopes.



# Acceptance Day

- **Arrive** Friday (you will not see your new cadet on Friday)
- **Parade** on Saturday morning, cadets change and then are released for Saturday and Sunday (may have to be back in the barracks Saturday night)
- **Gabe's A day lunch** (Saturday Aug 13) at Eisenhower (Ike) Hall for all Texas Families
- **Meet your Cadet** at Gabe's A-Day Reception
- **Expect your Cadet to want to sleep, eat and do laundry – it's normal**





# Family Weekend

- October 21-22, 2022
- Scheduled Events
- Army football game
- Take your Cadet out (can use a pass). They will have to stay in the barracks at night.



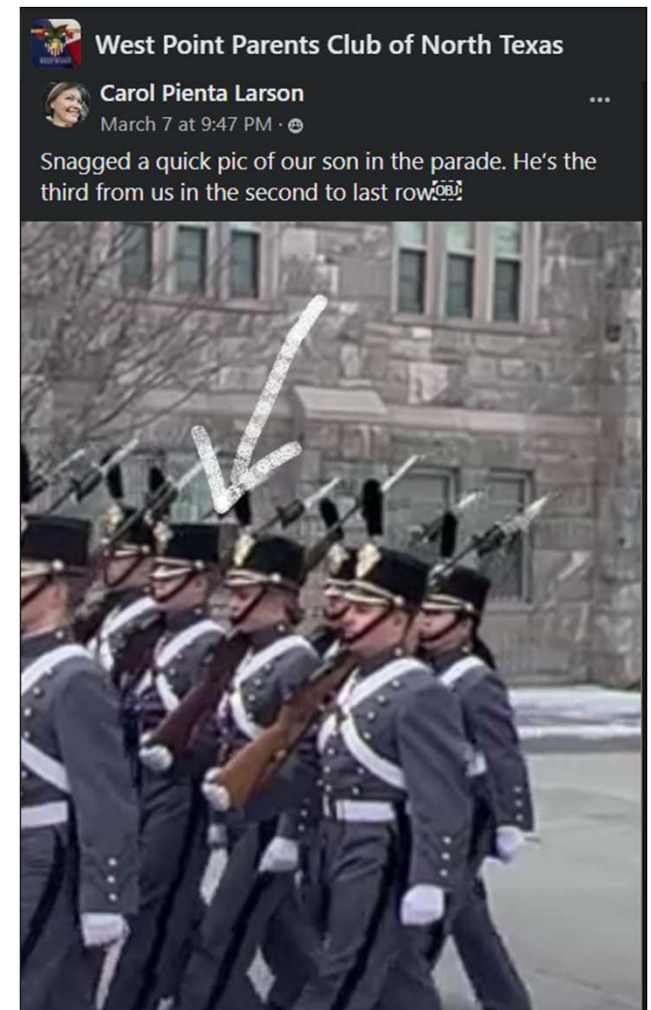
# Important Dates

Your best source of information is on our club Events page; however, please be flexible. West Point recently released the official schedules for the 2022-2023 academic year

- **Texas Tamale Tailgate**, Oct 1, 2022 at West Point vs. Georgia State
- **Family Weekend**, Oct 21-22 2022 at West Point (cadets can take a pass to leave)
- **Army / Air Force Game** Nov 5, 2022 at Globe Life Field in Arlington
- **Army/Navy Game** Dec 10, 2022 at MetLife Stadium in NJ
- **Lone Star Military Ball** Dec 30, 2022 in DFW area
- **Plebe Parent Weekend** – March 24-25, 2023

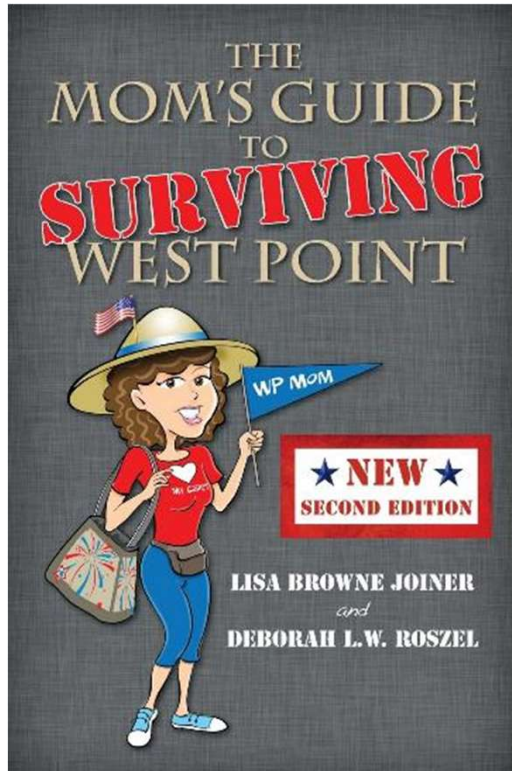
# Plebe Parent Weekend March 2023

- Friday-Sunday before Spring Break
- Reserve hotel as soon as possible!
- Scheduled events typically include:
  - Plebe Parade (upper class are already on Spring Break)
  - “Formal” Dinner/Dance in Mess Hall
  - Class Crest revealed
  - Tours of Academic buildings, Uniform Factory, Constitution Island, Cemetery, Chapels & Cadet Barracks
- 2026 Cadets can leave Sunday morning to enjoy Spring Break

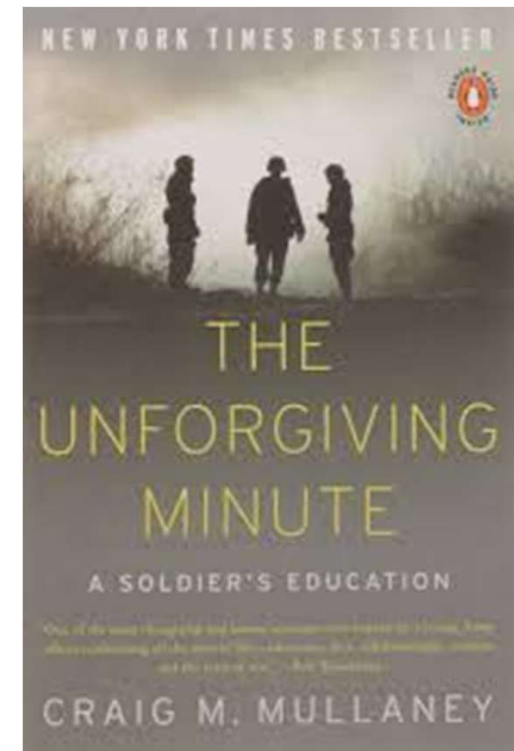
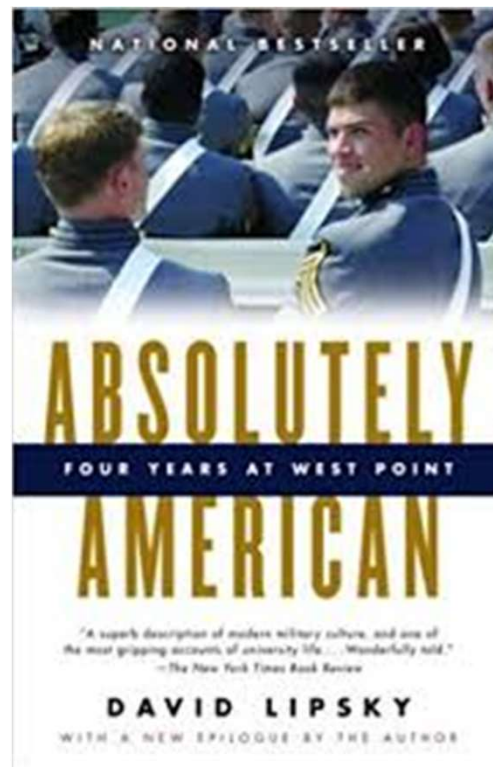




# Books we recommend



\*\* this is not just for Mom's - Dad will like this book too.



# Special Events for USMAPS & 2026

**Saturday May 14 11-12:30 Parent & Cadet Candidate Orientation** via Zoom (same content as April 9 session, good chance to ask more questions and meet classmates)

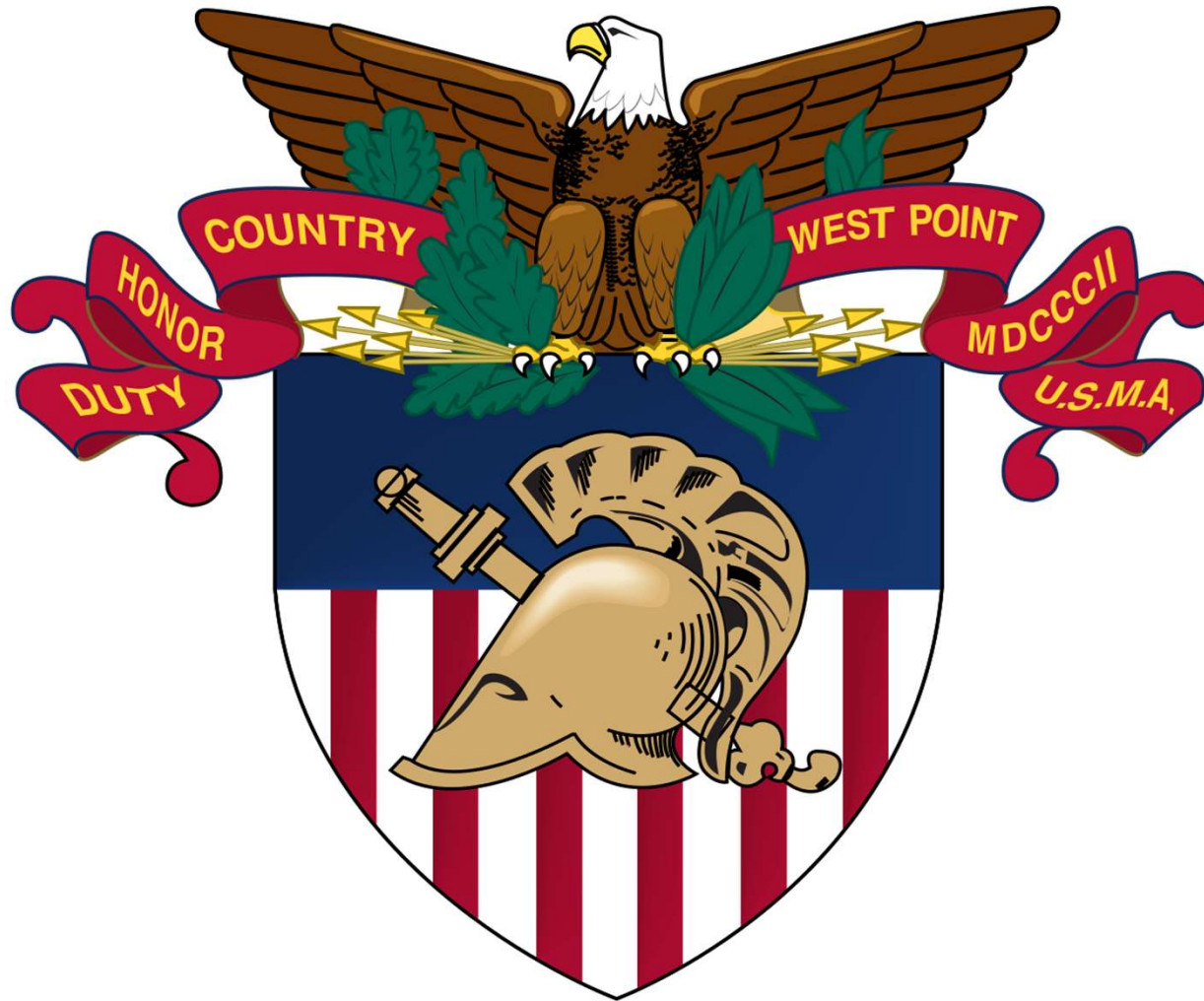
**Sunday May 15 4-5 pm Central Time - Talk with a Plebe.**

- This event is for 2026 Cadet Candidates and USMAPs only (no parents please!).
- This is a great chance to ask questions of USMA 2025 cadets who have successfully navigated USMAPS, R-Day, Beast, and their Plebe year at West Point.

**Saturday June 4 at Trawick Pavilion:**

- 8-10 am Break-in-Your-Boots road march
- 10-12:30 Ice Cream Social & meet cadets home on leave

# Questions???



Accepted: ***Cadet Candidate***

R-day & Beast Summer: ***New Cadet***

After A-Day Parade & 1<sup>st</sup> year: 4<sup>th</sup> Class Cadet - ***Plebe*** (Freshman)

2<sup>nd</sup> year = 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Cadet – ***Yearling/Yuk*** (Sophomore)

3<sup>rd</sup> Year = 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Cadet – ***Cow*** (Junior)

4<sup>th</sup> Year = 1<sup>st</sup> Class Cadet - ***Firstie*** (Senior)

1 second after graduation – ***Old Grad!***