

WELCOME TO
ALERT CadetTM
A Parent's Guide

2022 Edition

ALERT Cadet Headquarters
One Academy Blvd. – Big Sandy, Texas – 75755 – USA
903-636-9228
www.alertcadet.org
cadet@alertacademy.com

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WELCOME TO ALERT CADET!

Dear Parents,

We recognize that many of you are just starting on this adventure called ALERT Cadet. We realize creating a guide with a layout of how you could use the tools ALERT Cadet offers would be helpful.

This booklet is specifically written to serve as a useful resource for ALERT Cadet families. It is an overview of the Cadet experience and explains the awards, ranks, activities, and much more. In this resource you will find information that will assist you in using the ALERT Cadet program to its fullest.

We desire to answer many of your questions about the program here in this booklet. Further information is also available on our website at www.alertcadet.org, or by contacting Headquarters or one of the Senior Leaders.

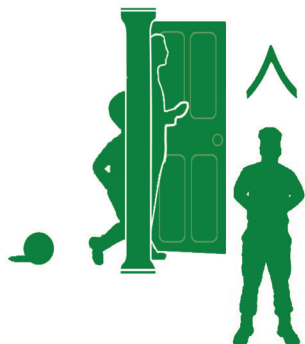
Please remember that the ultimate purpose of ALERT Cadet is to deepen your walks with God and each other. We pray this will help lend clarity and depth to what ALERT Cadet has to offer.

As always, if there is any way we can assist you further, please contact us!

Your servants,

The ALERT Cadet Leadership Team

PICTOGRAPH



Approximately
ages 7-12

PREPARATION

- 1) Start the Basic Training Manual
- 2) Advance from Basic Training and earn the rank of Cadet
- 3) Lay the foundations of faith, character, and skills using the Handbooks

Approximately
ages 13-14

PASSAGE

Advancement into the LTC

- 1) Transition to manhood by completing goals and establishing freedoms and responsibilities
- 2) Communicate personal testimony

Approximately
ages 14-17

PURPOSE

Ranks of CFC, Spc, and Cpl

- 1) Take ownership of Biblical principles
- 2) Complete the Specialist Project
- 3) Develop and pursue the who, what, where, when, why, and how of life purpose

THE ALERT CADET TOOLBOX

The ALERT Cadet program exists as a toolbox to assist fathers in turning their hearts to their sons and in leading them into Biblical manhood. This booklet is designed to explain the various aspects of our toolbox.

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ALERT CADET MOTTO & COVENANT

The ALERT Cadet Motto

The biblical basis for ALERT Cadet is to assist fathers in developing sons who are able to overcome the evil one (from 1 John 2:14).

“Strong to Overcome”

The ALERT Cadet Covenant

The character qualities desired of ALERT Cadet fathers and sons are outlined in our covenant:

By God’s grace,

I will be swift to hear what is true,
And give honor where honor is due.

I will learn what it means to obey,
And be truthful in all that I say.

I will be neat in room and dress,
And show to others true gratefulness.



THE THREE P'S OF ALERT CADET

The ALERT Cadet experience can be described as having three phases. We call these the Three P's. Each "P" specializes in a portion of 2 Peter 1:5-7, which is a Biblical picture of growth and maturity.

Preparation

A strong foundation of faith and preparation to enter the Passage

Rank: Cadet

2 Peter 1:5 – Faith, Virtue, and Knowledge

Practical Focus: Cadet Handbooks



Passage

The transition from boyhood to manhood

Advancement: Leadership Training Corp

2 Peter 1:6 – Self-Control and Patience

Practical Focus: demonstration of knowledge and skills by completing goals as determined in the Preparation Phase: demonstration of maturity



Purpose

Help with focusing in on God's personal calling

Rank: Cadet First Class

2 Peter 1:6 – Godliness

Practical Focus: demonstrating Fruit of the Spirit: be able to lead a Bible study, define what you believe about basic doctrinal beliefs, and know why you believe what you believe



Rank: Specialist

2 Peter 1:7 – Brotherly Kindness

Practical Focus: demonstrating knowledge and skills by fulfilling the requirements for the Specialist Project, defining what you believe about daily living choices, and knowing why you believe what you believe



Rank: Corporal

2 Peter 1:7 – Love

Practical Focus: defining your life purpose and setting goals to be equipped to fulfill that purpose



The following pages will help further define each "P".

THE FIRST P – PREPARATION

The Preparation phase is designed for entry-level ALERT Cadets. This is an ideal time to use the Cadet tool of curriculum. Use this alongside your school or personal growth goals for your son. Talk as parents about what you would like to see your son learn in skills and select Specialties to make up each of his Cadet Handbooks. Be sure to also ask him what his interests are. We all know we make progress in areas in which we have an interest, and we drag our feet in areas we don't like. This is meant to be relationship building, not a burden! If you home school, you may select Specialties in an area you want to study and learn about as a family. You can use our Specialty booklets and your son will get his credit for doing that Specialty. (Please see the **Curriculum** section of this booklet for more information.)

Looking Ahead!

In addition to assisting your son to lay the foundations of Faith, Virtue, and Knowledge by working through the curriculum, you need to be preparing for the Passage.

Set goals as parents and then discuss them with your son. Create a vision for him, and generate excitement. Help him to see this time as a time of preparation for the Passage as well. Your enthusiasm will be contagious and help encourage him toward working on the goals you lay out. (You will find more information and ideas about how this might look in the Passage section.)

Some items to discuss as a couple and define as you look toward the Passage Phase:

- 1) Determine and define what the actual Passage will look like.
- 2) What new freedoms and responsibilities will your son be given?
- 3) How will you mark the Passage as a family?

Part of the application for the Leadership Training Corps (LTC) requires a Cadet to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and write out his testimony. Since the Passage represents the transition to manhood, and fathers entering into ALERT Cadet must write their testimony, we feel that this is a must in order for a young man to earn Induction into the LTC.

THE SECOND P – PASSAGE

We urge you to consider reading through the Preparation section and working toward creating a Passage for your son to transition to manhood as early as the age of thirteen.

Leadership Training Corps

1 Corinthians 13:11 says, "When I was a child, I spake as a child... but when I became a man, I put away childish things." The ALERT Cadet Leadership Training Corps is a mark of passage whereby a son, under his parents training and instruction, has decided to put away childish things and become a man. This is something that has been prepared for and while it is an event, it is also a process — becoming a man doesn't happen overnight.

It is very difficult to replace a bad foundation of a house that has already been built. One reason for having this passage is so that a young boy can focus on some foundational issues of becoming and being a man before he reaches puberty. During puberty, common problems young men face have a lot to do with lack of identity and the ambiguity about manhood that is currently prevalent in our society today. Starting on that journey of physical, hormonal and mental growth, with a basis of self-control and patience, as well as the knowledge of what a man is, will help to provide a foundation upon which to build the rest of his life and to not be distracted by not knowing when manhood will arrive - a problem for many youth today.

The desire is Christian manhood. Fathers, you must model the Biblical picture of Christian manhood for your entire family. As parents, you must clearly present that picture of Christian manhood to your son. Only then will your son have a mark to pursue. Not that we are trying to duplicate ourselves in each child, but as Paul said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I am of Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1) Make sure this passage is not a list of goals only, but building relationships and bearing fruit!

The ALERT Cadet Induction into the Leadership Training Corps signifies the Passage. When your son has completed the goals you set for him and made the choice to leave childish ways behind, you should naturally define new freedoms and responsibilities for him. Now is the time to fill out the LTC application and get the LTC epaulet loops for his ALERT Cadet

THE SECOND P – PASSAGE

uniform. By joining the Leadership Training Corps, each Cadet must begin the journey of taking on responsibilities and leadership for those around him. The focus should not be on “lording it over” others, but rather becoming a servant to others. He can start at this young age, especially by helping to lead younger brothers or younger men in the Unit.

THE THIRD P – PURPOSE

One of the biggest challenges for young men nearing or at the end of high school is that they lack definition in life, and they are often unsure of what’s next. As parents, you can assist your son in finding this definition in life and help him discern what God is wanting him to do. All the ranks within this Purpose phase have aspects to their requirements that will assist your son in learning more about God and himself so he can hone in a bit more and help make these decisions easier.

Cadet First Class

One of the requirements on the Cadet First Class application is for a young man to define what he believes about basic doctrine and to know why he believes what he believes.

Dads, we want to encourage you to choose topics of doctrine and share your personal journey of understanding. Then ask your son to study it for himself. Come together again for your son to share with you his findings. Topics could include: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Creation, Salvation, Baptism, Heaven and Hell. Don’t just quote a catechism; make it personal and heart to heart.

Picture this as your children's "Faith Bag."

Everyone has a Faith Bag. Up to now you have been teaching your son what to believe about God, Scripture, Creation, etc., thus filling his Faith Bag. At some point in all our lives, usually during early adulthood, we unpack this bag and examine its contents one by one. We choose to either keep an item as is, or make slight modifications. Alternatively, we may toss away the item altogether. As you prepare your son, share your own experience of "unpacking and repacking" your Faith Bag.

THE THIRD P – PURPOSE

We can guide our children as they unpack and repack their Faith Bags, but the decisions must be theirs. If they don't own it they won't live it. As they enter adulthood and embark on a life more separate from their parents, whatever is in their Faith Bag will become their foundation for life. As children go through this necessary process, give them reputable tools: Bible study aids, biographies of Godly men and woman, and trusted mentors, allowing them to examine doctrines so they will own them. Encourage your children to always evaluate what they believe through the light of Scripture. It is vitally important for each person to repack their own Faith Bag *before* being confronted with the temptations that come with adult freedoms. It's critical that their foundation be rock solid! Once the son knows what he believes, sharing this with others will help solidify this. One requirement for Cadet First Class is that your son lead a Bible Study. Work with him to develop this skill.

Specialist

At this point, it's time for your son to refine his skills and to teach them to others with the Specialist Project. The Project should be a life interest that your son has and a life skill he is interested in learning in depth; this gives him the opportunity to pursue some basic knowledge in an area, to find out if it is something he would like to pursue further – perhaps as a ministry tool or a vocation. (Approved Specialist projects will become an ALERT Cadet curriculum Specialty.)

Alongside the Specialist Project, you will be taking another step with your son as he defines his own beliefs. Now that your son has an understanding into why he believes something, it is important for him to define his beliefs about daily living choices, such as appearance, behavior, conduct, entertainment, morality, etc. Do the same as you did before. Start with sharing your stand in these areas, your heart as to why you want these standards for your family, and your Scriptural basis. Remember that these are areas where Scripture is not so clear and specific. God is a father, and just like *your* children, His are not all the same. We can't expect God to raise us all the same way in our walks with Him. Does your son feel secure enough in his relationship with you to share his heart and his findings as he seeks God in these areas? Will he fear your response if his belief is not exactly the same as yours? He will likely differ in some way. After all, do you share 100% of the same

THE THIRD P – PURPOSE

standards of life as your father? Is it a standard or a preference? Learn to seek the Heavenly Father together in these areas and use this to draw your relationship closer rather than apart.

It seems that one reason why a number of older sons and daughters pull away, and even stray, is because they have no desire to seek the Father's heart, to deepen their relationship with Him. When the children in our lives enter this world, we dedicate them to the Lord, to raise them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Yet we might forget our responsibility as the role models to continually point them to the Father. We might worry about personally losing their heart, instead of teaching them to seek the Father's heart. Rather than teach them to hold to our values, teach them to study God's Word and seek Him for direction and purpose for their own values.

Our Faith Bag is also our Survival Kit for life.

When camping or hiking it is vitally important to carry a survival kit. The kit should contain things like a compass, first aid supplies, a fire kit, a whistle, a flashlight, etc. A well-stocked Survival Kit may mean the difference between life and death if we become lost or injured in the wilderness. But it also adds extra bulk and weight. At times, we may not see the importance of carrying a Survival Kit, especially on a short hike or not far from home. But it is precisely in those circumstances that most injuries and "lost person" incidences occur.

The same is true in our journey of life. A properly stocked Faith Bag will help guide and protect us. It will also give us the help we need in tough situations or a crisis, spiritually, morally, ethically, or otherwise. Guide your son in using the doctrines and Scriptural principles in his Faith Bag to determine his standards and choices in appearance, behavior, conduct, entertainment, morality, etc. Show him real examples in every day life, such as going to different stores, evaluating movies and internet, and choices in clothing. If the option aligns with the truths in his Faith Bag (Scripture) it's good. If not, it should be rejected. If a son truly believes and owns the items in his Faith Bag/Survival Kit, he will not reexamine its contents in the darkness of temptation. He will examine temptation in light of God's truth and reject worldliness for the joy and thrill of God's ways.

Corporal

It is time for your son to make a game plan for what's next based on his interests, direction from God, and advice from parents.

In order to help your son focus in on interests and callings, there is a simple exercise you can do with your son. Have him take a sheet of paper and write out (in no particular order) all the things that interest or define him, things he likes and would like to do, and things he feels he would like to be part of his life and ministry.

You are not looking for anything in particular here. You might have thoughts like: relationship with God, church, missions, vocation options, skills, children's ministry, family, friends, education, or healthy eating. You might even have future wife and family on this list.

Now take these and try to narrow them down to the top ten. Some topics can be grouped together. For example: the topic may be "Relationship with God," then under that it may say "Daily Prayer" and "Scripture Memory." These would be goals under that priority. Write these topics on 10 index cards and put them in order of priority.

After you assist your son in doing this exercise, have him evaluate opportunities through this list. The options that best line up with the most index cards are ones that will best fit his interests and desired skills. They will also be more likely to become a significant part of his future. This is a way to narrow down a myriad of options to find what best fits him. It is amazing how helpful this is! It is good to sit down once a year or so and see if the priority cards still remain the same.

Do you know what a rhema is? There are two primary Greek words that describe Scripture which are translated "word" in the New Testament. The first, logos, refers principally to the total inspired Word of God. The second is rhema, which refers to the spoken word. More specifically, a rhema is a verse or portion of Scripture that the Holy Spirit brings to our attention with application to a current situation or need for direction. Has God already given you a rhema for a life focus?

MOVING FORWARD

What happens next? The big picture of ALERT Cadet is based on the concept of discipleship. It starts with fathers turning their hearts toward their sons and leading them into biblical manhood. However, the goal of discipleship should always have a multi-generational perspective. In keeping with this idea, the next step in the goal for fathers, and probably the most crucial part, should be that these sons then begin to influence and disciple others, especially when parenting their own sons.

We can learn from Scripture the importance of this principle. Many times in the Old Testament, God would instruct the Israelites to train their children in the knowledge of the LORD, and in remembering the works of God. However, those children would not pass on that instruction to their own children. God would do a mighty work in the nation of Israel, and within two generations the people could be following after other gods. Paul speaks of this principle in 2 Timothy when he instructs Timothy to take what he received from Paul and, in turn, commit it to "faithful men" who would teach others also.

Sergeant Ranks

Once an ALERT Cadet reaches the age of 18, he has the option to apply for the rank of Sergeant. For details of progression through the sergeant ranks please refer to Chapter 9 of the Leadership Manual.

The role of the Sergeant is one of servant leadership. As part of this, promotion to Sergeant will be given to a Cadet who remains an active member in ALERT Cadet and seeks to serve the needs of younger cadets. It is given to an ALERT Cadet who is already taking up various responsibilities to lead, guide, and instruct under the authority and direction of his father and other ALERT Cadet leaders.

The purpose behind having the ALERT Cadet Sergeant ranks is to give older Cadets the opportunity to remain an active part of ALERT Cadet. This can open up the opportunity for an older Cadet to encourage and motivate younger Cadets in their own progression through the ALERT Cadet program.

The focus of the Sergeant should be that of a servant-leader. This means that his goal is to meet the needs ,build up, and encourage in his home, unit, area, region and/or nation.

Opportunities for Sergeants

Part of the reason for promoting a Cadet to Sergeant is to "give honor where honor is due." The rank of Sergeant is a way to recognize a Cadet who has progressed through the ALERT Cadet program and has continued on to serve.

For details of progression through the sergeant ranks please refer to Chapter 9 of the Leadership Manual.

Requirements for Becoming a Sergeant

A father desiring to have his son promoted to sergeant must complete the "Sergeant Application" form and submit it to the Unit Leader for his approval and forwarding to Senior Leadership, or in the case of a Third Delta family, submit it directly to Senior Leadership. For details of progression through the sergeant ranks please refer to Chapter 9 of the Leadership Manual.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

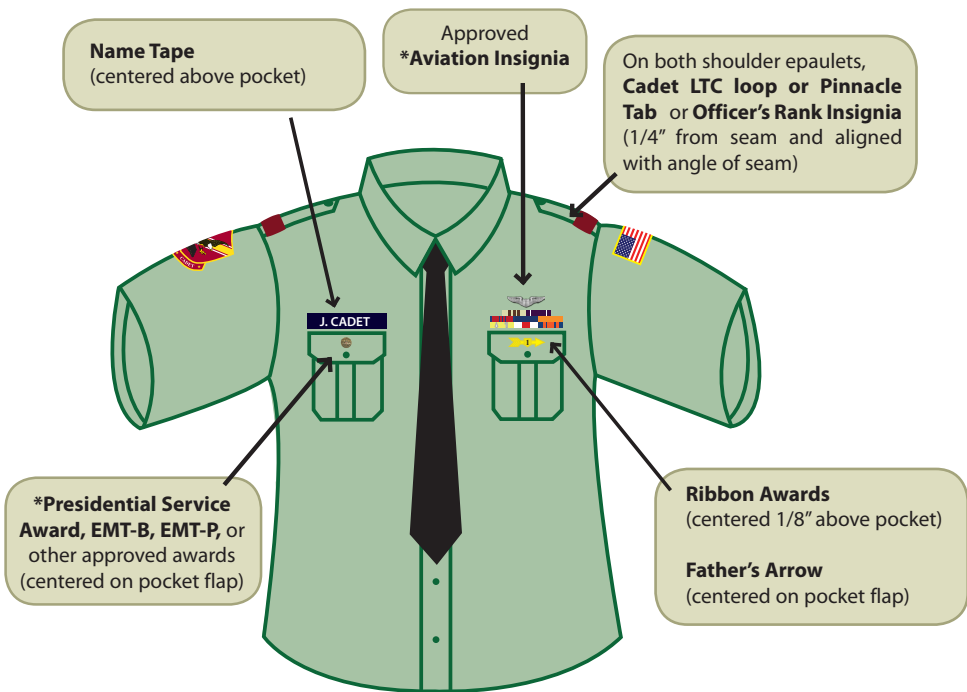
The basic element of ALERT Cadet is a father and his sons. Fathers serve as the leadership in the ALERT Cadet program, so a young man is always under the authority of his father. A father and his sons may participate in a local unit and its activities, if one is available, or use our toolbox on their own.

An ALERT Cadet unit is comprised of three or more families in a geographic area who have completed their *Basic Training Manual*. Information on establishing or maintaining a unit may be found in the ALERT Cadet publications *Forming a New ALERT Cadet Unit* and *ALERT Cadet Leadership Manual*.

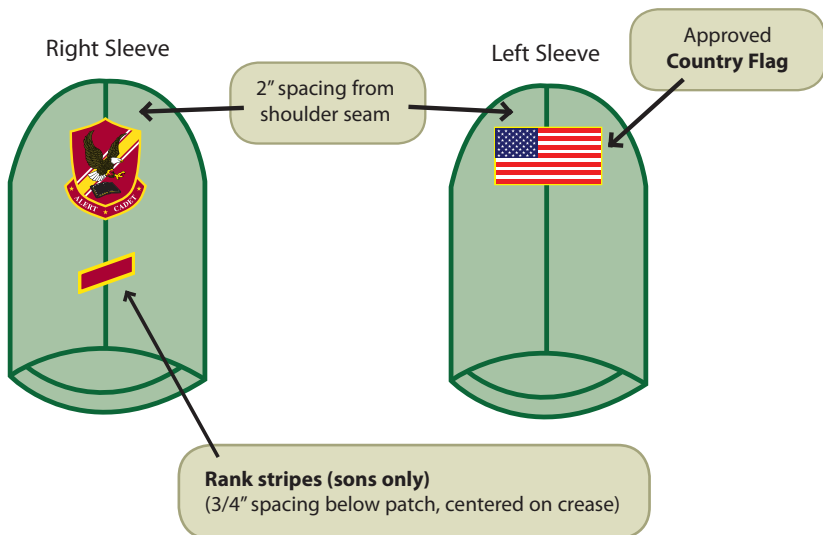
Lieutenants, captains, and majors serve as unit, area, and regional leaders to support each father and his sons, and organize camps, service projects, and special activities. The ALERT Cadet Headquarters staff strive to meet the day-in and day-out needs of the Cadet families, units, and leaders.

The Executive Officer holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and his role is to direct the activities and resources of the ALERT Cadet program and to serve the fathers and unit, area, and regional leaders. The Commanding Officer of ALERT Cadet holds the rank of Colonel and functions as the "vision keeper". Our ministry operates under the Institute in Basic Life Principles, which is a recognized Christian, non-profit, 501(c)3 organization.

ALERT CADET UNIFORMS



Cadet Chambray



* Awards not offered by ALERT Cadet, but approved to wear as they are in support of ALERT Cadet goals.

ALERT CADET UNIFORMS

The purposes of the ALERT Cadet uniform are identification, recognition, and motivation. At any time during Basic Training, a father and son may purchase their duty uniform. Upon Advancement, they may receive an ALERT Cadet chambray, completing their duty-dress uniform.

The chambray uniform shirt may be either long or short sleeved. Generally, the long sleeve chambray is preferred with the dress uniform; however, the short sleeve chambray may also be worn.



Description of ALERT Cadet Uniforms

The **dress uniform** is only worn for formal occasions, such as award ceremonies, parades, and presentation of the national flag.

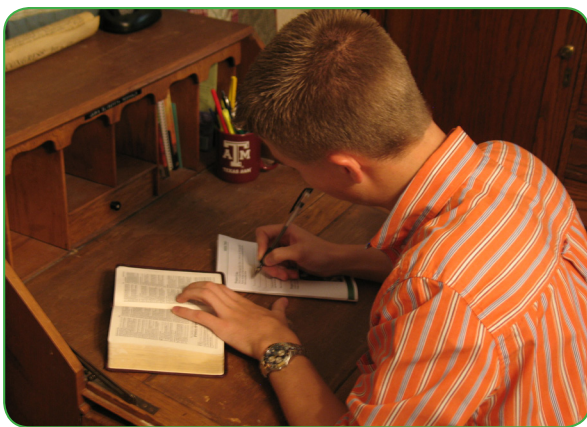
The **duty-dress uniform** is worn for ALERT Cadet activity such as unit meetings and other events where the formality of the dress uniform is not required.

The **duty uniform** is worn for recreation, service projects, other work-related activities, and some physical training activities.

The **PT uniform** is worn exclusively for physical training.

Basic Training Manual

The ALERT Cadet *Basic Training Manual* is designed to teach skills and character related to the ALERT Cadet Covenant. Various activities and projects focus on developing the character qualities of alertness, honor, obedience, truthfulness, orderliness, and gratefulness. The *Basic Training Manual* can be completed in as little as two weeks.



Handbooks

ALERT Cadet sons and their fathers progress through a series of five Handbooks (*Novice, Pilgrim, Craftsman, Servant, and Soldier*) designed to take an ALERT Cadet son from being a child to being a man. Each handbook consists of six phases. Each phase has two parts: the Foundation and the Specialty. The Foundation includes Scripture memory, Scripture meditation, prayer, journaling, and physical training. Fathers and sons may choose their six Specialties, targeted to meet their interests, for each handbook. The Specialty includes character development, life skills training, and either an adventure project or opportunity for service. It is up to each father's discretion as to what pace he and his son progress through the material, perhaps pausing to focus on specific character attributes or life lessons.

ALERT CADET OFFICER RANKS

The rank of a father represents his position within the ALERT Cadet organization. The ranks are shown from lowest to highest.

Warrant Officer (WO)

Every Cadet father at the time of Advancement from Basic Training is commissioned to the rank of Warrant Officer.



2nd Lieutenant (2Lt.)

Each unit leader initially holds this rank when there is only one squad in the unit. Squad leaders in units with multiple squads also hold this rank.



1st Lieutenant (1Lt.)

Each unit leader with squad leaders under him holds this rank.



Captain (Cpt.)

Each Captain is an area leader and/or an executive assistant for the ALERT Cadet organization. He is a member of the Senior Leadership Team and supports area-wide activities and assists in the shepherding of ALERT Cadet families.



Major (Maj.)

Each Major is a regional leader for the ALERT Cadet organization. He is also a member of the Senior Leadership Team and is responsible for region-wide activities and for shepherding the units and distant families in his jurisdiction.



Lieutenant Colonel (Lt.Col.)

The ALERT Cadet Executive Officer holds this rank.



Colonel (Col.)

The ALERT Cadet Commanding Officer holds this rank.



ALERT CADET AWARDS

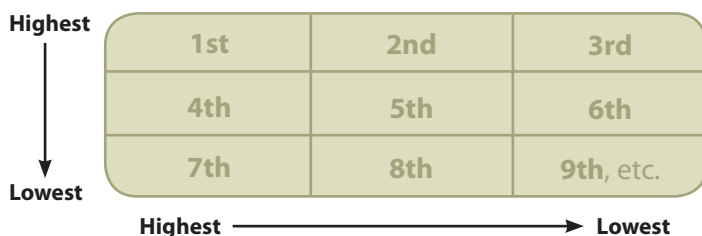
Most of the awards in ALERT Cadet are recognized by presentation of military-style ribbons that are worn on the chambray as part of the dress and duty-dress uniforms. Ribbons are awarded for:

- Courageous actions
- Service to others
- Scripture memory
- Progress through the Handbooks
- Physical fitness
- Participation in ALERT Cadet sponsored activities

Fathers are eligible and encouraged to earn most of the same awards as their sons. The engagement of the father in the ALERT Cadet program will determine the success of the son as well.

All ribbons, once earned, may be worn by the ALERT Cadet father or son, regardless of future events. For example, if the Physical Fitness Excellence ribbon is earned at one test, but not the next, the ribbon is not forfeited.

The available ribbons are listed below and are in the order they attach to the ribbon backing, or “rack.” This order is called “precedence” and begins in the upper left corner, as you face the wearer.



Stars are placed on the ribbon to recognize further achievement in the same category. For example, the award for completion of the first phase of the *Novice Handbook* is the Novice ribbon, but the award for completion of the second phase in the *Novice Handbook* is a bronze star. A silver star is used in place of five bronze stars and denotes the completion of the *Novice Handbook*.

For awards where it is possible to earn recognition more than six times,

ALERT CADET AWARDS

a combination of bronze, silver, and gold stars is used. There may be no more than four stars total per ribbon. Gold stars are always worn to the wearer’s right (viewer’s left) of any subsequent stars, followed by silver stars.

Award #	Arrangement				
2	★	13	★ ★ ★	25	★ ★ ★ ★
3	★ ★	14	★ ★ ★ ★	26	★ ★
4	★ ★ ★	15	★ ★ ★ ★	27	★ ★ ★
5	★ ★ ★ ★	16	★	28	★ ★ ★ ★
6	★	17	★ ★	29	★ ★ ★
7	★ ★	18	★ ★ ★	30	★ ★ ★ ★
8	★ ★ ★	19	★ ★ ★ ★	31	★ ★ ★ ★
9	★ ★ ★ ★	20	★ ★	32	★ ★ ★ ★
10	★ ★	21	★ ★ ★	33	★ ★ ★ ★
11	★ ★ ★	22	★ ★ ★ ★	34	★ ★ ★ ★
12	★ ★ ★ ★	23	★ ★ ★	35	★ ★ ★ ★
		24	★ ★ ★ ★		

Currently Available Ribbons

(Listed by Precedence)

Father Award (fathers only)



Awarded to ALERT Cadet fathers to signify sons who have reached 18 years of age. These sons must have been active in the ALERT Cadet program for at least 1 year, and either function as Sergeants or no longer participate in the ALERT Cadet program. The arrowhead and silver numeral on the ribbon indicate the number of sons the father has “released into the world.”

Commendation



Awarded for courageous action while saving or attempting to save a life. This award must be approved by the ALERT Cadet commanding officer.

Citation



Awarded for courageous action not involving the saving of a life. This award must be approved by the ALERT Cadet Commanding Officer.

Personal Excellence



Awarded for excellence in completing an ALERT Cadet handbook. To qualify, an ALERT Cadet father or son must:

- Demonstrate the qualities of discernment, honor, obedience, honesty, neatness and gratefulness.
- Complete the handbook within a 12-month period.
- Earn the Good Conduct ribbon for each phase of the handbook.
- Earn the Journal ribbon for the year in which the handbook was completed.
- Earn the Swordsman Award for the handbook.

This award must be approved by an ALERT Cadet Major.

Psalm 119 Scripture Memory



Awarded for memorization of Psalm 119. Recitation must be completed in one sitting, with up to twelve helps or prompts.

Journal



Awarded for 365 consecutive daily entries in the *ALERT Cadet Journal*, or a similar journal, without a skipped day. The father should check a son's journal weekly to verify completion of all seven days. At the father's discretion, sons are allowed to go back and complete one or two days missed during the week. ((Note that, depending on the handbook in which the Cadet is working, the above may not be the same as the journaling requirement for earning the Good Conduct Award.

Cadet Service



Awarded by the ALERT Cadet Commanding Officer for exemplary service to the ALERT Cadet organization.

Personal Service



Awarded for 100 cumulative hours of service. The application must include a summary of the service provided.

ALERT CADET AWARDS

Unit Service



Awarded to members of a local unit or a distant family for participating in significant service projects. It requires at least 25 man-hours of service with local unit members or distant (3rd Delta) families. Please see the specific requirements on our website.

Disaster Deployment



Awarded for participation with an ALERT or ALERT Cadet sponsored deployment in relief or clean-up efforts in the aftermath of a disaster for a minimum of 25 hours.

Good Conduct



Awarded for completion of all the requirements of a phase, including journaling, within six weeks. The journaling requirements for the handbooks are as follows:

Novice Handbook - 3 days per week for 4 weeks

Pilgrim Handbook - 4 days per week for 5 weeks

Craftsman and Servant Handbook - 7 days per week for 6 weeks.

The award may be given once for each phase completed in each handbook.

Phase Scripture Memory

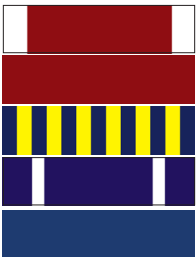


Awarded for recitation of one complete phase's Scripture memory verses in one sitting, with up to three helps or prompts. This award may be given once for each phase completed in each handbook.

Handbook Award

Awarded for completion of each phase of a handbook. The higher handbook awards are worn above the lower ones in precedence.

- ➔ Soldier-----
- ➔ Servant-----
- ➔ Craftsman-----
- ➔ Pilgrim-----
- ➔ Novice-----



Crisis Response Training



Awarded for completion of an ALERT Cadet sponsored, or ALERT Cadet approved, Crisis Response Training course that includes (age appropriate)

- Basic First Aid with CPR
- Land search and recovery/rescue
- Orienteering (map reading and compass)
- Sawyer (chain saw) safety and use
- Incident Command System
- Two-way radio use, protocol, and care
- Written exams and practical exercises to demonstrate proficiency in each area

(All the materials for this training are available upon request from Headquarters.)

Emergency Survival Training



Awarded for completion of an ALERT Cadet sponsored, or ALERT Cadet approved, Emergency Survival Training course that includes (age appropriate):

- Situational Awareness
- Personal Emergency Preparedness
- Wilderness survival consisting of:
 - Fire building, including ignition methods
 - Water collection and purification
 - Shelter building
 - Weather forecasting
 - Primitive navigation
 - Distress signaling
 - Food gathering and open-fire cooking
 - Natural medicine
- Written exams and practical exercises to demonstrate proficiency in each area

(All the materials for this training are available upon request from Headquarters.)

ALERT CADET AWARDS

Physical Fitness Excellence



Awarded for scoring at least 290 points on an ALERT Cadet Physical Fitness Test. This award may only be earned twice in a calendar year, at least four months apart. Details and scoring tables may be found at alertcadet.org/members/

Pressing-On Excellence



Awarded in recognition of God's physical or mental design in the life of an ALERT Cadet father or son who may not be able to meet the requirements for the Physical Fitness Excellence or Psalm 119 Scripture Memory awards, but completes the spirit of either of those awards to the best of his God-given ability.

High Adventure Camp Participation



Awarded for participation in an ALERT Cadet sponsored High Adventure Camp.

LTC Camp Participation



Awarded for participation in an ALERT Cadet sponsored LTC Camp.

Father & Son Camp Participation



Awarded for participation in an ALERT Cadet Father & Son Camp or Service Camp.

ALERT Training



Awarded to a father or son who has completed each of the following ALERT trainings: Basic, Intermediate, and Phase Three.

ALERT Cadet Quest Participation



Awarded for participation in the Quest program.

ALERT Cadet Challenge Leadership



Awarded for participation as a squad leader, assistant squad leader, or event assistant at an ALERT Cadet Challenge. May also be awarded to a father who assists in a leadership role at an ACC or ACAC.

ALERT Cadet Challenge Participation



Awarded for participation in an ACC or ACAC.

Additional Awards



Swordsman Award (shoulder braid; color varies for each handbook)
Awarded for recitation of the memory work for a complete handbook (all six phases) in one sitting with no more than nine helps or prompts.

Novice Handbook Blue braid
Pilgrim Handbook Blue/White braid
Craftsman Handbook Yellow braid
Servant Handbook Burgundy braid
Soldier Handbook Burgundy/White braid

A Swordsman Braid can only be earned for current or past Handbooks, and is able to be worn at the time of earning.

When an ALERT Cadet father or son earns multiple braids, only the highest level of completion braid should be worn on the left shoulder.

Father's Arrow



Awarded to fathers for each son who has Advanced into ALERT Cadet. The father wears this award on the left pocket centered above the button. The number on the arrow signifies the number of sons below the age of 18 currently involved in the ALERT Cadet program. As sons enter or leave the program, a new arrow with the appropriate number may be purchased from ALERT Cadet Headquarters.

ALERT CADET AWARDS



Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award has been presented by the Commanding Officer to Sergeants that have gone above and beyond their role of locally serving in their unit. This award is recognized by a silver diamond centered on the rank stripes of a Sergeant. (This award is no longer presented.)



The Pinnacle Award

The foundation of the Pinnacle Award is based on Philippians 3:14, which declares that I have not yet arrived, so I press on! Pinnacle is a way that ALERT Cadet gives special recognition to a young man who has worked hard and completed the following list of requirements. It is the recognition of a height gained on this adventure, but the young man recognizes that there are many more pinnacles in life to reach.

- ➔ Before age of 18
- ➔ Must have promoted to Cadet Corporal
- ➔ Servant Handbook completed
- ➔ Personal Excellence Award
- ➔ Either Personal Service or Unit Service Award
- ➔ Crisis Response Training Award

He will receive a Pinnacle tab that will be worn on his chambray (and field jacket) above the Cadet patch.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CAMPS

The ALERT Cadet Senior Leadership Team plans activities each year and posts the details on the website at www.alertcadet.org. Some examples of these activities are listed below.

High Adventure Camps

Older Cadets who are ready and willing to be stretched spiritually, physically, and mentally, can apply for these 1-2 week camps. Each camp focuses on advanced challenges or technical skill sets that build comradery and brotherhood among the participants. The primary emphasis during these camps is to encourage each cadet to further develop his relationship with God and others through training in servant leadership.

Leadership Training Corps Camps

These 5-7 day camps are for young men who have been inducted into the LTC. The purpose of the camps is for these LTC Cadets to learn discipline and experience a deep level of physical and mental challenge. LTC Cadets are trained in leadership skills and are given opportunities to apply them. Fathers learn new ways to mentor their older sons.

Father & Son Regional Camps

Fathers and sons work together to complete adventure activities, do service projects, receive training, and learn from dynamic speakers. For information on these multi-day camps in your area, visit the ALERT Cadet website at: www.alertcadet.org/events/

UNIT MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Unit Meetings

For those who are able to participate in a local unit, regular meetings are held to teach life skills, to recognize achievement, and to encourage one another. Meeting frequency is determined by the fathers, but most units meet twice a month. All fathers and sons are welcome to attend the unit meetings regardless of whether or not they have completed the *Basic Training Manual (BTM)*. Younger sons may also be allowed to attend if supervised by their fathers and with the unit leader's permission.

Award Ceremonies

Many ALERT Cadet units and distant families hold recognition ceremonies or dinners where fathers and sons are recognized for special achievements and for awards earned. This is also a time when mothers, daughters, and other family members are able to join in the recognition and see the work their husbands and sons have completed and the progress they have made in character development and life skills.

Service Projects

Service projects are designed to develop servant hearts in ALERT Cadet fathers and sons. Projects could be done under the authority of church leaders or local civil authorities and may be completed as a family or in conjunction with other ALERT Cadet families or units.

Community Service Activities

Cadets may come together to serve those in authority through color guard presentations, parades, or community service activities.

Adventure Outings

Adventure outings provide time for fathers and sons to invest in each other while enjoying the outdoors or developing new life skills. Outings might be hikes, camps, or bicycle or canoe trips.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible to participate in ALERT Cadet?

All Christian fathers and sons are eligible to join and participate in the ALERT Cadet program. To serve as a unit leader the father must sign a statement of faith and agree to uphold the leadership requirements for an ALERT Cadet leader. Our statement of faith and leadership applications can be found on our website.

What is expected of fathers in ALERT Cadet?

The father has the role of assisting his son through the ALERT Cadet program. The father has the unique opportunity to shepherd his son's heart toward biblical manhood using the ALERT Cadet program as a toolbox. Fathers are encouraged to complete the Handbook material with their sons and actively participate in all unit meetings, service projects, adventure outings, and physical training. Our many years of working with fathers and sons has shown us that the involvement of the father is critical to the success of a son and of the ALERT Cadet program.

Are fathers required to complete the Handbooks?

No. Fathers are not required to complete the Handbooks, but it can be encouraging to the son when the father actively participates with his son in what he is learning and doing. One of the goals of ALERT Cadet is to provide tools for a father to disciple his son. The curriculum is a part of that. The time you spend with your son in his projects allows you to speak into his life. A father should work together with his son on projects, assign Handbook sections, and check his completed work.

Are fatherless young men excluded?

If a young man's father is at all involved in his life, he should participate with the son. If there is not a father in the young man's life, it is permissible to have a male relative (uncle, grandfather, or older brother) or another father or father figure act as the young man's accountability partner in the ALERT Cadet program. Caution is necessary as many activities require the father to give specific input and vision to the son. An ALERT Cadet Senior Leader must approve all situations where the father is not involved.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much time will the program require?

In order to make steady progress in the curriculum, the ALERT Cadet program involves the disciplines of Journal writing, Scripture memorization, and physical exercise. An additional 1-2 hours per week are required to make steady progress in the Handbooks. Adventure activities and service projects are also scheduled.

How may we involve younger sons?

Younger sons are welcome to attend the meetings and other activities of the unit upon the approval of the Unit Leader. These sons will be greatly encouraged and motivated by seeing the older sons complete their Handbooks and learn new skills. As the younger sons mature they should begin working through the Basic Training Manual. If a son is in Basic Training, it is the discretion of the officer in charge of the event or activity that determines whether or not the son may participate.

My son is older. Where do I start?

Your starting point is two-fold. First, after you complete the Basic Training Manual, you should start into the curriculum, which provides the opportunity for you to spend quality time with your son. Second, you should study the first two phases of ALERT Cadet, Preparation and Passage (pages 5-7). You need to talk with your son about the goals you have for him as he transitions into manhood. As soon as he has fulfilled those goals, you should recognize him as an LTC (page 6). It is permissible to apply for more than one promotion at a time if your son has completed the requirements for them.

I have a special needs son. How can I assist him in being successful in ALERT Cadet?

The ALERT Cadet program is a toolbox for fathers. As such, you are welcome to adjust it as you need to in order to provide for success. If needed, you can adjust the curriculum requirements to match your son's ability. If you need help, please feel free to ask other ALERT Cadet dads and/or Senior Leaders.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How may I involve my entire family in ALERT Cadet?

The primary way families can be involved in ALERT Cadet is to encourage the fathers and sons as they progress through the program. It should be significant when an award or rank is earned.

A father can choose to involve the rest of his family in any part of the curriculum that he and his sons are working on. For example, a family can choose to memorize the same Scriptures, learn skills together, or do adventure outings or service projects together. Homeschool moms may want to have input into what specialties their sons do, in order to count the skills training as part of their schooling.

There can also be ways of involving families in unit activities. Several units have chosen to have the ladies meet at the same time as the men, then come together for a potluck style meal. Special events like camping trips or day trips can be done as families together. Also, the wives and daughters can help organize and host awards banquets and ceremonies.

A caution: Boys need their bonding time together as men. Be alert to a young man being distracted by a young woman of another family.

May I start the Handbooks immediately after finishing the *Basic Training Manual*?

Yes. However, fathers and sons must apply for Advancement before they begin the Handbooks. Handbook materials are sent upon approval of each Advancement application and are not otherwise available for purchase.

Who decides when a father or son has completed a Handbook or promotion requirement?

The father makes the ultimate decision as to when he or his son has completed a requirement or project. Sons hold their fathers accountable also. For additional accountability, fathers and sons may want to review portions of the Handbook with their unit leader (or Senior Leadership for a distant family). In this way, a father may make adjustments to the materials to meet specific physical or mental challenges in a young man's life.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

With respect to promotions and some awards, not only the young man's father, but also his unit leader and senior leader (or in the case of a distant family, two senior leaders) must approve.

Who can assist me in this process?

First and foremost, seek the Heavenly Father. He knows your struggles and what he wants to accomplish through you. With ALERT Cadet, the Officer Rank structure (page 17) explains our chain of command. If you are a part of a local unit, then you should seek the counsel from your Unit Leader. If you are a distant family, and not part of a unit, then the Senior Leadership is available to you. ALERT Cadet Headquarters can provide contact information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Mobile: _____

E-mail: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Mobile: _____

E-mail: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Mobile: _____

E-mail: _____



Father Award



Commendation



Citation



Personal Excellence



Psalm 119 Scripture Memory



Journal



Cadet Service



Personal Service



Unit Service



Disaster Deployment



Good Conduct



Phase Scripture Memory



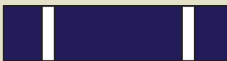
Soldier Handbook



Servant Handbook



Craftsman Handbook



Pilgrim Handbook



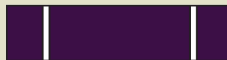
Novice Handbook



Crisis Response Training



Emergency Survival Training



Physical Fitness Excellence



Pressing-On Excellence



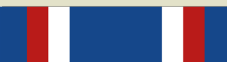
High Adventure Camp Participation



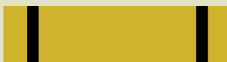
LTC Camp Participation



Father & Son Camp Participation



ALERT Training



Quest Participation



ALERT Cadet Challenge Leadership



ALERT Cadet Challenge Participation