

Welcome to 2850 Army Cadets!

The Grande Prairie Association for Army Cadets (GPAAC) welcomes you! And for those Returning, welcome back! We would like you to know a few things about who we are and what we do:

There are 2 different offices for Army Cadets at our corps:

- 1) The cadet office – located just inside the main door of the armouries, to your left. Sign up your child for cadets here and find all the staff and officers here. Contact the cadet office for anything related to the cadet program, however you will find almost everything you require coming to you via email.
- 2) The GPAAC office – located at the top of the stairs on the parade square. You will find all things related to support here – fundraising, screening, information specifically for the parents, cadet bucks program.

Our Parent Information Meetings are the life blood of how both the Association and our Commanding Officer's (currently Captain Hagarty's) team communicates with the parent body. This is an opportunity for you to see what the cadet corps is planning for upcoming events like FTX's, competitions, training and fundraising required to do all of these things at no cost to our families. We take great pride in what we can do for our corps and value your input! We have a Facebook page (a closed group) as a brag page about our cadets. Only active cadets and parents are permitted to be part of this page, and the contents are monitored by Ottawa. **Grande Prairie Army Cadets Unit 2850** Please note this is **not** a place to ask questions regarding parade nights or questions for the staff. That should be done by phone or email to the cadet office.

Parent information meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of every month during the cadet year (Sept-June) and generally meetings won't last more than 1 hour. Here are the dates, please mark them in your calendar or set up a link to the cadet calendar.

September 18th at 6:45pm
October 9th at 6:45pm ** AGM
November 13th at 6:45pm
December 11th at 6:45pm
January 15th at 6:45pm

February 12th at 6:45pm
March 11th at 6:45pm
April 8th at 6:45pm
May 13th at 6:45pm ** final meeting

Your current Executive:

President: Wayne Tozer 780-228-7800 (cell) – Texting? YES!

Vice President: Sharon Moberly 780-897-2698 (cell) – Texting? YES!

Secretary:

Treasurer: Amanda Burton 587-298-3142 (cell) – Texting? YES!

A new election of officers will take place during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October.

You can contact us by email: gppaac@gmail.com , in person at the armouries, or by text at our cell phone numbers above. Please understand that we have full time jobs that sometimes don't allow us to answer immediately, however you can expect a response the same day.

How do we do all these cool things without charging...?

Fundraising is vital to provide approx. \$30,000 of support to our cadet corps every year. Fundraising allows our cadets to participate in many events throughout the year and we look for a commitment from our **cadets and parents**; we can't do it without you. "Many Hands Make Light Work!" We commit to events that generate the best compensation for the work provided while creating a great reputation for our corps within the community. We focus to keep the cadets at the forefront of the fundraising, so they understand the work that goes into having this program. **If you have issues with getting your cadet to any event please let us know via the Facebook page, we have options.** The funds we raise benefit the entire corps, not individuals, so it's important that everyone participate in some way. Generally, the time commitment is only for a few hours at a time. This annual task is very large, so communications and information will come first from Parent Information Meetings, then by Facebook posts and email. Please ensure your email address is correct and you are a member of our Facebook page that you check often.

In the past, for example, we have participated in the following fundraising:

- 1) Cash & Camping/Cars for Christmas Lottery
- 2) Brian Harms / Press race
- 3) Wapiti Shooters club – Oilman's shoot
- 4) City of GP events
- 5) Rotary Food Drive
- 6) Evergreen Park events
- 7) GP Stompede
- 8) Community Gala events
- 9) TeePee Creek Rodeo
- 10) And many, many more!

We have established a VERY good reputation within Grande Prairie and surrounding area, and we do everything we can to continue that standard. When participating, please remember you are representing the entire corps. If there is an issue that you feel needs to be communicated, please do so to the GPAAC coordinator of that event. The email you receive will identify this person to you.

Fundraising and Volunteering hours that the Cadets put in can count towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Award if they sign up for the program. We encourage Cadets to sign up for this because most of the requirements for this prestigious award can be achieved simply by participating in the cadet program. For more information, check their website: www.dukeofed.org or contact our local rep, CI Stauffer in the cadet office.

Things of note:

For the purpose of parent meeting quorum requirements and voting status, parents are required to pay a nominal annual fee of \$1. This must be paid prior to the parent participating in any voting procedure.

The Department of National Defence (DND) requires volunteers to be screened through the Army Cadet League of Alberta. Information regarding this screening process is available at the GPAAC office. At the request of our Commanding Officer, prospective volunteers are to have 1-year committed to the corps **before** beginning the screening process. Since we need to make a recommendation regarding the application, we need to get to know you and confirm a commitment to the unit before we make that recommendation.

**** IF YOUR SCREENING IS EXPIRING, PLEASE COME SEE AN ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE ASAP AS THERE IS A NEW PROCESS FOR RENEWALS ****

Information from GPAAC... PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

What is the best and fastest way to reach you? Please provide **2 ways** we can reach you. We want to connect with you and would like to be sure you've received the information. When we do contact you, **please be sure to reply**, if only to say that you've received the communication.

This information will be used to create a contact database for the association executive only. We use this information to contact you in a last-minute scenario so please provide information we can reach you quickly.

Your Name: _____ Your Cadet's name: _____

Best way to contact you? (please print clearly)

___ Cell Phone: _____ (do you text?) Yes No

___ Email: _____

___ Facebook: _____

Over the course of the year there are MANY opportunities to help. Officers will post sign-up sheets for the cadets, and it will be mentioned in their weekly announcements both on the parade square and in the emails from the cadet office. Since we know that so many people have different schedules and may not be able to make it to every parent's meeting and event, we would like to know how you could contribute. If you are screened, you can interact with the cadets in various ways, if not; you can come to Parent Information Meetings and assist in fundraisers where only adults are required. If you have any special interests you would like to participate in please contact the cadet office directly.

Thank you for being part of our cadet corps family, it takes a village!