



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY
5500 ARMSTRONG ROAD, BUILDING 13
BATTLE CREEK, MI 49016-1099
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7 October 2009

TO: Parents of Class 21 Cadets

SUBJECT: Spaghetti Dinner

Dear Parent/Guardian and Mentor:

Your cadet is in the most exciting part of the demanding residential portion of the Youth Challenge Program. However, that doesn't mean things are easier for them. There is the pressure of GED Testing along with the Challenge of cadet leadership that faces them everyday. By now your sons and daughters are really running the program on their own (under the very watchful eyes of the Cadre, of course). They are responsible to make sure the barracks is inspection-ready each morning, that time hacks are scrupulously met every hour of every day, that uniforms are squared-away all the time. VOTECH training still takes up three of their weekday evenings and community service projects mark their weekends. But everyday brings them closer to graduation on 6 December. Until then, your effort to visit your cadet at the Academy during scheduled visitations is *very important* to each and every one of them.

So this last Parent/Mentor Visitation is meant to be special. Class 21's Student Council has planned an All-You-Can-Eat (AYCE) Spaghetti Dinner for this last visitation. Your cadet is looking forward very much to seeing you as are we, the cadre, teachers and staff at the MYCA. *It will be held at Battle Creek Central High School located at 100 West Van Buren Street, Battle Creek, Michigan 49017.* Directions are enclosed with this letter

PLEASE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS VISITATION SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, 31 OCTOBER

PARENTS, MENTORS & GUESTS OF FOURTH PLATOON CADETS

1200-1230 Guest Arrival and start of Silent Auction

1230-1530 All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner (\$15.00 per person. Cadets & 6 and under eat free)

1500- Silent auction Ends

1530-1600 50/50 Raffle and pick up Silent Auction items purchased

1600-1615 Explanation of Pick Up Procedures for Thanksgiving Day Break

1615 Visitation Ends

SUNDAY, 1 NOVEMBER

PARENTS, MENTORS & GUESTS OF FIRST PLATOON CADETS

1200-1230 Guest Arrival and start of Silent Auction

1230-1530 All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner (\$15.00 per person. Cadets & 6 and under eat free)

1500- Silent auction Ends

1530-1600 50/50 Raffle and pick up Silent Auction items purchased

1600-1615 Explanation of Pick Up Procedures for Thanksgiving Day Break

1615 Visitation Ends

SATURDAY, 7 NOVEMBER

PARENTS, MENTORS & GUESTS OF SECOND PLATOON CADETS

1200-1230 Guest Arrival and start of Silent Auction

1230-1530 All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner (\$15.00 per person. Cadets & 6 and under eat free)

1500- Silent auction Ends

1530-1600 50/50 Raffle and pick up Silent Auction items purchased
1600-1615 Explanation of Pick Up Procedures for Thanksgiving Day Break
1615 Visitation Ends

SUNDAY, 8 NOVEMBER
PARENTS, MENTORS & GUESTS OF THIRD PLATOON CADETS

1200-1230 Guest Arrival and start of Silent Auction
1230-1530 All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner (\$15.00 per person. Cadets & 6 and under eat free)
1500- Silent auction Ends
1530-1600 50/50 Raffle and pick up Silent Auction items purchased
1600-1615 Explanation of Pick Up Procedures for Thanksgiving Day Break
1615 Visitation Ends

Important Notes:

1. The front door of Battle Creek Central High School will not open until 1200.
2. No other food, **with the exception of dessert (see below)**, will be permitted in the cafeteria during this visitation. If a visitor isn't able to consume spaghetti, please call the Commandant of Cadets, 269 968-1048, to make alternative arrangements for food.
3. The Menu for the AYCE Dinner includes:
 - Spaghetti with your choice of plain or meat sauce
 - Salad and Dressing
 - Dinner Rolls & Butter

Who May Come to Visitation: Unlike other visitations, this one is open to parents, step parents, SIBLINGS, Mentors, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends of the family and just about everyone who will have contact with your cadet during the post-residential phase. There are TWO EXCEPTIONS:

NO BOY FRIENDS OR GIRL FRIENDS ARE PERMITTED. We will not be checking ID's, so parents we are putting you on your honor. Your cadets live by a strict code of honor here at the Academy. Now it is your turn. Please honor this rule. In the long run it is by far the best for your cadet.

What You May Bring or NOT BRING:

1. **Please DO NOT bring soda-pop or other sugary drinks.** The Student Council will be selling ice –cold bottled water and Gatorade. Proceeds from these sales will fund projects for Class 21...and your Cadet won't overdose on sugar!!!
2. **Dessert.** Dessert is not part of the AYCE menu. However, cadets will be allowed to have dessert that you bring. Remember, their systems have been weaned off of sugar for the past nearly four months. Too much sugar may not set well later and as soon as you leave they must get back into their regimen here at MYCA.
3. **Silent Auction Basket (See the enclosed sheet about the Silent Auction)**

Other Important Information:

1. No alcoholic beverages are permitted in Battle Creek Central High School.
2. Battle Creek Central High School is a public building and is therefore smoke free. If you must smoke during visitation, **please do so out of sight of all cadets.**
3. Ice will not be furnished.
4. There will not be facilities for heating desserts that you might bring.
5. Please don't bring things for your cadets to take back to the barracks with them. This is much easier for us to administer if you will simply mail them to your cadet.

John V. Wemlinger
Colonel, US Army (Retired)
Commandant of Cadets
MYCA