



Snow Shoveling



Cadet Board



Leader Board



Marksmanship
Competition

NEWSLETTER



Cadet and Leader

Board

Cadet Winner:

By: Olivia St. Esprit

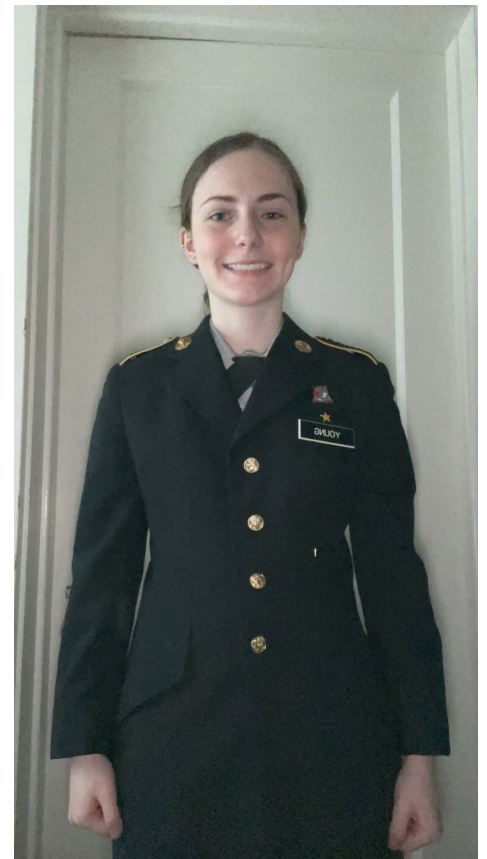
The first phase of the Cadet Board was held in December. Four cadets were chosen for the cadet board, but only three people were able to compete in it. SGM selected a very great and competitive group of people! The final selection came down to the matter of a few points, but I was selected as the winner. I can definitely say that this experience was very nerve racking, yet a super fun experience! It was really interesting to see how much I personally know about JROTC, and everything that was covered at the board compared to others in my LET level. It took a ton of studying to get down all of the information that could possibly be asked at the board, but it was so worth it! I am very honored to be selected to compete in the Cadet Board, as well as being the winner!



Leader Winner:

By: Delaney Young

This year I competed against my fellow cadets in the JROTC Leader Board. Since I am a LET 2, I was eligible to compete on the leadership side of the board. Last year when I competed on the Cadet Board, I had some knowledge such as basic drill movements, army values, military time, and the phonetic alphabet. This year when I competed on the leader board, I had way more knowledge than I did last year. I had learned more complex drill movements, financial values, leadership values, and myself as a leader. Though this year we faced some obstacles with COVID-19. When I was boarded last year we were in person, this meant we had to wear our uniforms, sit in front of 3 upperclassmen while they asked us questions, and we had to maintain good body language. Due to COVID-19, we couldn't have the board in person like we would traditionally. Since COVID-19 started, we have all had to adapt to change and think on our feet. This year we did the board via Zoom meetings. Though it wasn't the same experience as it would've been in person, everyone did their best and it was very well organized. I thought since it was going to be through a Zoom meeting it wasn't going to be as fun and challenging, but I was wrong. It was still challenging and nerve wracking and it was a different, yet fun, experience. Out of the 3 cadets that were boarded for the leader board, I did not expect myself to win. My fellow classmates that I competed against are a lot smarter than I am and I congratulate them for participating and giving it their best. This year just goes to show that we will continue traditions even if it means having to go through constant change, we will get through it.



Snow Shoveling

By: Erin Bell

This winter hit us with some pretty crazy snow storms, leaving us with almost a foot of snow at times. Cadets were eager to get out and shovel sidewalks and walkways for others in our community!

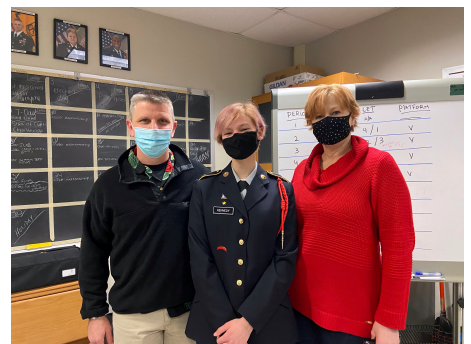
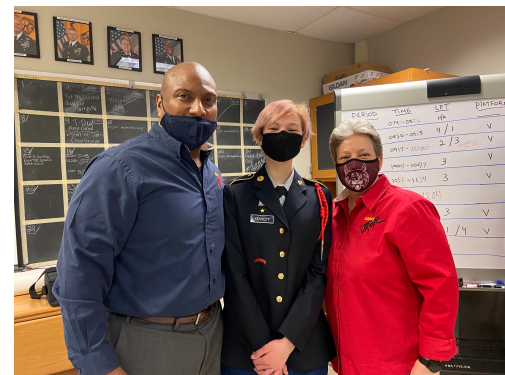


Farewell, Mady!

By: Erin Bell and Mady Kennedy

“I moved to Pennsylvania the summer before I started 8th grade and immediately met some amazing people. I changed so much in the three years that i lived there and am so grateful to all the people who helped change me. I love and miss you all so much!” - Mady Kennedy

Early December 2020, we had to say goodbye to an amazing cadet. Mady was one of the most dedicated cadets and her parents were very dedicated to helping out the program, as well. Before saying goodbye, we held a small promotion ceremony where Mady received the rank of Staff Sergeant.



Keep Up with the Teams

Raiders

By: Olivia St. Esprit

JROTC Raiders is a series of physically demanding events, which are completed through dedication and teamwork, amongst other things. Raiders competitions consist of specific events including: physical training test, max pushups in 2 minutes, max sit-ups in 2 minutes, and a 1.5 mile run, the Gauntlet, a 1 mile run up a steep incline; CCR(Cross Country Rescue), and 1 mile run with rucksacks and a litter. To be a member of the Raiders team you must try out and be selected by the Captain and Co-Captain. Before the real Raiders training begins, you will train once a week as a group in preparation for Zero Day (tryouts). Zero Day is used as part of the evaluation and is the final step in the selection process. Though I personally didn't get to participate in Zero Day, as it was canceled due to COVID-19, I can tell you that it is very demanding both physically and mentally. Once the Raiders team is selected, the real Raiders practices begin. We practice more often collectively, and for longer periods of time. Some of the practices begin at 5:30 in the morning, and are held regardless of weather conditions, three days per week. If you have the determination, motivation, work ethic, commitment, and enjoy teamwork and lots of physical activity— then Raiders is definitely tons of fun!

Drill

By: Carly Ward

Drill takes a lot of discipline and a lot practice. So far this year, our team has been working hard on perfecting our movements from basic facing movements to handling the rifle. Everyone has been doing an amazing job and learning very quick! The cadets recently started practicing again, every Tuesday and Thursday at 0600. As a team, we are all doing our best to get to where we want to be, although we were pushed back a few weeks due to COVID-19. I have high hopes for what is to come with these cadets, especially since they have already come so far!

Competition Color Guard

By: Jaret Starkey

An extension of the Drill team is the Competition Color Guard team. Drill members who are interested in this event can try-out for the team and those on the team can compete in another event at the Drill competition. Unlike previous years, this year there will be two teams competing during the competition, and A team and a B team.. Try-out practices for this team have just begun, but things are looking good for the team! Like a normal Color Guard group there are two flags and two rifles, and all the cadets trying out for each spot are catching on very quickly to the new things that are involved in the competition aspect of Color Guard.

Marksmanship

By: Aiden Deodys

Recently I attended the marksmanship competition for our team, the competition was fun and a great experience even though we didn't get close to winning. I joined marksmanship because I thought it would be fun and I've always enjoyed shooting. I would recommend it to anyone interested because being on the team is a lot more than just shooting, you learn breath control, proper stance, how the rifles work, the different shooting positions, and more. Overall it's a good experience and I recommend it to everyone.



Drum 'n' Fife

By: Caleb Starkey

Drum 'n' Fife is a very unique team in JROTC, it's unlike any other. It's not a team that wins competitions back to back, or even competes, so it's not considered the most interesting team. While Drum 'n' Fife is a smaller team, it's also one of the last drum corps of JROTC in the US. Because of that, I believe that it's important that this team keeps growing and stays alive. The purpose of the team is to allow people who don't know much about music to become comfortable with playing. While learning how to play, you also learn to march in tempo and in step together. No matter your musical background, you're welcome to join the team—maybe this is the team for you!

Colonel's Corner

By: Colonel Wilson

As we move into the 2nd semester, I want to thank each of you for adapting to our current situation due to COVID. We have a combination of online and in-person learning that is unlike any other year, one I hope never has to repeat itself. Thank you for remaining committed to the program and remaining flexible as we move into the 3rd quarter.

Our teams have continued to flourish over the past semester, with daily practices when we were able and individual practice when necessary. The Marksmanship Team successfully competed in the League competition, with our young team gaining experience to be one of the best teams in the future. They are committed to mastering the skills necessary to out shoot their opponents. The Academic Teams also competed in the Level I competition, and although we didn't qualify for Level II, we know how to better prepare for next year's event.

The Drill Team and the Color Guard are working on a weekly basis to improve their skills with the hope of retaining the League title for the 12th year. The teams are beginning to gel as one, and the Captains are feeling confident in their team's ability to be victorious. We are excited for the League Competition on 27 March, when these teams will be able to showcase their hard work and dedication.

The Raider Team is perfecting their team skills with the goal of retaining the League Title. Our raider cadets are practicing in the rain and snow, as they do every year, showing significant improvements of the past few months. They are on track to hold their position as the best in the league with the opportunity to compete on 8 May at Albert Gallatin High School in Uniontown, PA.

A special thanks goes out to our Parents and Guardians who have remained flexible throughout the first semester and continue to provide support every day. We couldn't do it without you and we remain committed to the success of your children as they strive to do their very best. Just a quick reminder that our Parent Support Group (PSG) meets the first WED of every month and we would be grateful if you could find the time to participate. Your cadet receives notification of the meeting every month, with our last meeting on 3 FEB being on Zoom. Please contact me if you are not receiving the info, so I can put you in direct contact with the PSG.

We are going to make it through this crazy time! If there is anything I can do to make it easier for you please let me know. SGM Weaver and I are here for you and will do everything we can to see that each of you succeed.

SGM's Corner

By: Sergeant Major Weaver

As the year continues to unfold in a start-stop motion for our program, the cadets continue to push forward with the many teams and as many additional activities that they can, to remain the razors edge amongst other programs. The challenges have not stopped our cadets from volunteering to participate in the early morning practices for Raiders, Drill, Color Guard, JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl Challenge, and Marksmanship.

Recently, out JLAB and Marksmanship teams both competed in our regional competitions and to say that I am proud of them would be an understatement! With minimal practices allowed, our teams are giving their all and are experiencing growth beyond measure, along with the resolve to add value to our program. With the annual Drill and Color Guard Competition, Raider Competition, and the Military Ball all coming up fast, our young Leaders are poised for success. One very valuable lesson that I will share with everyone reading this is "There is no growth in comfort zones... and there is no comfort in growth zones". We are all, in what may seem to be familiar territory but the terrain is much more fluid and unstable than we've ever been accustomed to and this creates an uncomfortable climate for all. This "Uncomfortability" will open the door for extreme growth, but only if we embrace the changes and allow for innovation and creativity to flourish. To the phenomenal cadets in our program, I will tell you all: Continue to grind! Continue to work hard!

Continue to challenge yourself to get out of your own comfort zone to experience that much needed and required growth! Finally, to live a life of Extreme Ownership.....taking responsibility for your actions regardless of the outcome. There are going to be many moments which occur within your lives that will knock you off the tracks, off of your path, and how you react to those occasions leaves a much deeper impression than you may currently realize.

These are things that we discuss often in our Leadership Lessons and I encourage anyone reading this newsletter to step up to the challenge of becoming young Leader and extend yourself out of your own personal comfort zones and join our battalion.....Your community needs you! We are moving forward with all plans, adjusting what we have to and I am pleased with the resolve that these young Leaders show every day.....from our 8th Grade LET o's to our 12th Grade LET IV's. "On the count of 3, Let me get a HUA"!