

WASATCH HIGH SCHOOL AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC (UT-20171)
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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

As you prepare for high school, we invite you to join our team! Wasatch High School's Air Force Junior ROTC program is a world-class, student-led academic course and organization. AFJROTC is an excellent elective for every career path.

AFJROTC encourages education after high school—its college prep! It's **NOT** military prep!

Please read the attached pages, which provide a thorough introduction to AFJROTC and outline the course offerings. We think you'll agree AFJROTC is an exciting and unique opportunity to gain leadership abilities and skills while studying Leadership Education and learning about Aerospace Science and Space Exploration. At the same time, students prepare for life after high school and begin to build their professional career. Students also serve in the school and community. The learning environment is respectful, friendly, and fun based on clearly explained firm, fair, and high standards.

It is important to understand that the nature of AFJROTC as well as its high visibility within the school and community requires the members to adhere to higher standards than might normally be found among the student body. Successful students eagerly conform to these high, yet attainable standards. ***Parents or guardians will be disappointed if they expect AFJROTC to be a disciplinary or rehabilitation program.***

Students who develop their leadership abilities and meet our standards typically have a higher degree of self-confidence, self-discipline, and poise as compared to their peers. They excel as leaders or members in student government and on virtually every team, organization, club, or group on and off campus. The personal qualities they develop in AFJROTC and these other experiences will serve them well in the future. Additionally, as instructors we guide and mentor each student to help them accomplish their academic, extra-curricular, career, and life goals.

We hope you will seriously consider the opportunities AFJROTC provides after reading the enclosed information. For parents or guardians, please ensure your child has made an informed decision about AFJROTC. All you need to do is ask them, "Have you thought about how AFJROTC could benefit you?" Students wanting to take advantage of the opportunities, and contribute to the success of their fellow students and the AFJROTC program, are welcome to join Wasatch High School Air Force Junior ROTC!!

If you have any questions after reading the enclosed information, please feel free to contact us.

Best regards,

MICHAEL P. LIECHTY
Lt Col, USAF (Retired)

KEVIN R SATER
Master Sergeant, USAF (Retired)

AN INTRODUCTION TO AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC

Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) is an academic class to develop scholars, leaders, and citizens with positive values, character, and conduct. Students in all high school grade levels can benefit from AFJROTC. Leadership education is the key academic part of the course. Students learn to lead by using positive influence gained by being an outstanding, firm, and supportive example. Academic emphasis is also placed on aerospace science technology and related careers. Students earn grades in academic and performance components. The performance component includes weekly dress, appearance, and uniform standards; daily behavior; drill and ceremonies; wellness; community service; social activities; and fundraising for community service and field trips. A few activities are conducted after school and on weekends. The learning atmosphere is respectful, friendly, fun, and hands-on. Our goals are firm, fair, and clearly explained to build a team where each student is successful as they help every other student and the AFJROTC program as whole to be successful.

Students are expected to live with honor, following our Honor Code, *“I will not lie, cheat, or steal nor tolerate those among us who do.”* Successful students eagerly conform to these high, yet attainable standards. ***Parents or guardians will be disappointed if they expect AFJROTC to be a disciplinary or rehabilitation program.***

AFJROTC operates within the framework of a military organization. This provides a structure for students to develop leadership and management skills. Students earn positive recognition, responsibility, and other opportunities for their integrity, service, and excellence.

The goal is for all students to continue their education following graduation, and the vast majority do. Students who apply themselves in the AFJROTC curriculum, leadership opportunities, and follow the instructors' guidance and mentoring have been very successful in gaining admission and scholarships to their colleges of choice. Students are encouraged to be responsibly independent and seek a successful career and life as they define it. Most AFJROTC students ***do not*** enter the military or the aerospace industry.

AFJROTC is ***not*** preparation for the military. ***Students have no military or government service obligation.*** There are, however, benefits for students seeking appointment to a service academy, Air Force college ROTC scholarships, or enlistment in the military services. These benefits are not available to the general student body.

There are optional events, teams, clubs, camps, conferences, and trips only AFJROTC students may earn the opportunity to participate in. AFJROTC assists with funding or completely funds many of these activities.

AFJROTC COURSE TOPICS

AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC-I (GRADES 9-12)

Monday/Tuesday: History of Aviation

Wednesday/Thursday: Leadership Education- wear of the uniform, Air Force customs and courtesies, and basic drill. Many hours are also dedicated to learning healthy lifestyles, ethics, managing stress, drug and alcohol prevention, and citizenship.

Friday: Physical Training- exercise and team sports

AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC-II (GRADES 9-12)

Monday/Tuesday: Science of Flight or Global Studies

Wednesday/Thursday: Leadership Education- human behavior, team building, and leadership techniques

Friday: Physical Training- exercise and team sports

AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC-III (GRADES 9-12)

Monday/Tuesday: Exploration of Space

Wednesday/Thursday: Leadership Education- college and career preparation

Friday: Physical Training- exercise and team sports

AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC-IV (4TH YEAR CADETS ONLY)

Fourth year cadets in good academic standing are allowed to manage the entire cadet corps. This hands-on experience affords the cadets the opportunity to put the theories of previous leadership courses into practice. All the planning, organizing, coordinating, directing, controlling, and decision-making will be done by the cadets. They practice their communication, decision-making, personal interaction, managerial, and organizational skills. Additionally, lessons are presented on management techniques, conflict resolution, negotiation skills, mentoring, and self-development.

All classes will practice military drill periodically to build teamwork and self-discipline. This includes an in-depth introduction to the elements of military drill, individual and group precision movements, procedures for saluting, and developing a “commanding” voice. Throughout, emphasis is on developing leadership, followership, poise, attention to detail, and precision leading to a high level of self-confidence.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. Will my student be required to wear a uniform?

A1. Yes. All AFJROTC students wear a uniform one day a week. All uniforms are provided on loan for free. We also provide all alterations. Students are required to clean them as necessary.

Q2. My son wants to take AFJROTC but doesn't want to cut his hair. Can he still take the class?

A2. Students must meet Air Force dress and appearance standards, including hair, shaving, make-up, and jewelry. Failure to meet these standards or wear the uniform properly will adversely affect a student's grade. Habitual failure to meet standards may result in a discipline referral, just as a habitual problem would in another class, or removal from the program.

Q3. Will my child have to serve in the military after taking AFJROTC?

A3. Absolutely Not! There is NO military obligation for AFJROTC students and we do not provide student names to military recruiters.

Q4. How much homework is assigned in AFJROTC?

A4. Homework is extremely rare in AFJROTC. Assignments are completed in class so students can work as a team and receive assistance from the instructors. Plus, we limit homework so students can focus on completing assignments in their core classes.

Q5. What is the physical training like in AFJROTC?

A5. We do physical training (PT) on Fridays. Students participate in running/walking, push-ups, sit-ups, and other exercises. The workouts are self-paced but students are encouraged to push themselves physically to achieve greater levels of fitness. Students also participate in team building sports and activities on PT days.

Q6. Will AFJROTC prepare my student for a career after high school?

A6. AFJROTC is a leadership development program that will prepare a student for college and almost any career option.

Q7. Can I take AFJROTC and participate in extra-curricular activities?

A7. Yes. We have a number of students who take AFJROTC while participating in athletics, band, student government, etc. AFJROTC students are encouraged to continue their participation in school activities.

Q8. The Introduction to Air Force Junior ROTC mentioned a few activities after school and on weekends. Can you give me an example of what to expect?

A8. All activities that take place outside normal school hours are voluntary. Students can choose from activities such as drill team, marksmanship team, Raider team, model building, rocketry, and more. We also have a Military Ball, which is a formal dinner and dance, every Spring. We finish the school year with our annual award ceremony where students are given local and national awards, as well as scholarships for some of our top performers!

Q9. How do you discipline students in AFJROTC?

A9. We use positive reinforcement for positive behaviors. These include formal and informal incentives beyond what is provided through the school. Students can earn ribbons that are worn on the uniform for good attendance, academic excellence, proper uniform wear, participation in activities, good conduct, and many others. There are a total of 50 ribbons that can be earned! Students will also receive promotions in rank and increased responsibility as rewards for positive behaviors. Students in good standing academically and behaviorally will be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities. There are negative consequences for negative behaviors to include communication with parents and, ultimately, removal from the program.

Q10. Is physical discipline like push-ups or standing at attention for long periods used in AFJROTC?

A10. Absolutely not! Air Force policy forbids instructors and cadet leaders from using physical discipline. Parents or guardians will be disappointed if they expect AFJROTC to be a disciplinary or rehabilitation program. Hazing is also strictly forbidden. AFJROTC is not “Boot Camp” or basic training.

Q11. Do AFJROTC students gain an advantage for admission to the various service academies, college Air Force ROTC scholarships, or enlistment in the military?

A11. Students who meet the academic, physical, and character requirements have a far better chance for admission to the service academies and Air Force college ROTC scholarships as compared to their peers who are not in AFJROTC. Students who enlist can earn up to two ranks automatically because of their participation in AFJROTC.

Q12. I'm very interested in AFJROTC but how much does it cost?

A12. There is no class fee. All uniforms are loaned to students for free. The physical training clothing is given to students for free. The only required expense is the cost of maintaining the Air Force uniform during the school year. This includes dry cleaning and laundry detergent. There can be some travel expenses when we attend competitions but the Air Force provides most of the funds necessary for these events. Student participation in fundraising (with parental help, of course) helps to reduce the out-of-pocket expense.

Q16. What are the standards and goals for the students?

A16. We expect our students to strive to excel as scholars, leaders, and citizens while working together to help make their fellow students and the AFJROTC program successful.

We expect our students to live by the *Honor Code*, “I will not lie, cheat, or steal nor tolerate those among us who do.”