

R-Day Questions and Answers

26 June 2006

What does the R in R-Day stand for?

The “R” in R-Day stands for reception.

What is the purpose of R-Day?

R-Day offers a hands-on leadership development experience for upper class cadets while providing an initial leader development experience to new cadets as they prepare to face the challenges of today’s ever changing world.

R-Day reinforces a critical element of the mission of the U.S. Military Academy, which is to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the Nation as an officer in the United States Army.

When should my cadet candidate report to Eisenhower Hall on June 26?

Last digit of candidate’s SSN	Reporting Time (EST)
0, 1, 2, 3	6:30 a.m.
4, 5, 6	7:30 a.m.
7, 8, 9	8:30 a.m.

Where should I park?

Please enter West Point through Stony Lonesome Gate where you will be directed to convenient parking areas. There will be a shuttle bus traveling from parking areas to Eisenhower Hall.

What is the security like at West Point?

The automobile driver and all occupants over the age of 16 must have valid photo identification (driver’s license or school photo identification will be sufficient) to enter the Academy. Allow extra time at the entrance gates for the ID check and shuttle bus to Eisenhower Hall.

Is handicapped parking available?

Yes, handicapped parking is available at the Eisenhower Hall tunnel for access to Eisenhower Hall and the Clinton Field parking area for access to the Oath Ceremony.

We'll be arriving in the area on Sunday, June 25. What can we do that day?

Vision, a Town of Highlands community group, will sponsor a "Welcome USMA Class of 2010 Reception" for cadet candidates and parents from 2 - 5 p.m., on the front lawn of the Holy Innocents Church on Main Street, Highland Falls, directly across from the Visitors Center.

The Town of Highlands will feature a Farmer's Market at the municipal lot in town on Main Street, Highland Falls from 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

In addition, a concert featuring the U. S. Military Academy Band Jazz Knights will be held at Trophy Point Amphitheatre at 7:30 pm. The event is free and open to the public. All visitors will be required to show appropriate photo identification. The Jazz Knights will perform a "Tribute to the Vocalists."

The West Point Museum and Visitors Center will be open until 4:30 p.m.

What are some other activities I can participate in or visit on R- Day?

The following activities are available:

6 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Parent Shuttles operational from parking lots to Eisenhower Hall
6 a.m.	Eisenhower Hall Restaurant open
6:30 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Parent Information Center open (Eisenhower Hall)
7 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Military equipment static display at Daly Field
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Open House & Gift Shop (open until 4:30) at Herbert Hall Alumni Center-Parents receive 10% discount
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Tour Cadet Store
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	USMA Library – Self-guided tour
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Tours of West Point; Ike Hall (Last pick-up at 1 p.m.)
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Constitution Island tours (South Dock)
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Self-Guided Tour of Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	West Point Cemetery and Old Cadet Chapel (Self-tour)
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Fort Putnam Historical Site open
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Cadet Chapel, Catholic Chapel, Jewish Chapel open
9 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.	West Point Museum Open (Pershing Ctr., Highland Falls)
9 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Visitors Center & Gift Shop Open (Pershing Center, Highland Falls)
11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Catholic Mass at Most Holy Trinity Chapel
11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Lunch Shuttle runs
1 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Organ Recital at Cadet Chapel
3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Superintendent's Welcome in Eisenhower Hall
4:30 p.m.	Families move to the Oath Ceremony
5:40 p.m.	Oath Ceremony
After Ceremony – 8 p.m.	Parent Shuttles resume (Daly Field to Michie Parking Lots)

Where can I purchase lunch or dinner?

A lunch shuttle will be available from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. This shuttle will run in a loop from the Eisenhower Hall tunnel to the West Point Club, Thayer Gate and the Post Exchange. In addition, lunch and dinner are available at various establishments along the Main Street of Highland Falls, just south of Thayer Gate.

On-post establishments and hours

Ike Hall Café, located in Eisenhower Hall, 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The West Point Club, located near the Cadet Library 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Grant Hall, located in the Central Area, 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thayer Hotel, located near the Thayer Gate

11:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (Lunch), 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (Dinner)

Call for Reservations, 845-446-4737, option 3

Burger King/Post Exchange, located near Stony Lonesome Gate, 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Subway, located in K-Lot, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The Bistro (take-out only), located in K-Lot, 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Are there first aid stations available?

Medical Aid Stations are located at Eisenhower Hall and Doubleday Field. The Military Police can assist in any emergency (845) 938-3333. You may also dial (845) 938-4004 for a medical emergency. If using a post phone, dial x3333 or x4004.

Where can I catch the shuttle bus?

****Parent Shuttle Buses:** 6 a.m. -3 p.m. - to Eisenhower Hall from lettered parking lots (A-F). These shuttles will take parents back to Lots A-F during the day. (Go to the location where you were dropped off to catch a shuttle to return to your vehicle.)

****Lunch Shuttles:** 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - loops from Eisenhower Hall tunnel to West Point Club, Thayer Gate/Visitors Center, Parents and guest parking Lots A-F, Post Exchange and K Lot.

****Post Shuttle Buses:** 6:15 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. - in 30 minute intervals. Schedule is posted at all designated shuttle bus stops and shelters.

Parent Bus Tours: 9 AM-1 PM Eisenhower Hall to Trophy Point around Central Area, Herbert Hall, Cadet Chapel, to Trophy Point, back to Ike Hall

****Shuttles will have appropriate signs.**

In addition, buses will stop at other locations if signaled, provided that stopping at the location is safe.

What if it rains for the Oath Ceremony? Is there an alternate location?

In the event of *severe inclement weather*, the ceremony will be held in Eisenhower Hall. Only those holding tickets will be admitted to this ceremony because of limited seating. Overflow seating will be available at various locations around Eisenhower Hall. We recommend that parents pick up their inclement weather tickets in Eisenhower Hall in the morning even if the possibility of inclement weather appears remote.

I can't attend the Oath Ceremony is there any other way to see it?

Streaming video of the Oath Ceremony will be offered for parents and friends to view the ceremony live at <http://www.usma.edu>. After R-Day it will be available on the Class of 2009 website which is accessible from the USMA homepage.

I lost something during my visit. Where are lost and found items kept?

You can contact the Military Police Station's Found Property Room at (845) 938-5207. Please note that it may often take up to 24 hours for found items to be turned in.

How can I contact my son/daughter if there is a family emergency?

In an emergency you can call your cadet's orderly room or tactical officer. If you do not receive an answer you may call the Central Guard Room at (845) 938-3030. The Central Guard Room is staffed 24 hours a day and should **only** be called in emergency situations.

When will my son/daughter be able to call home?

New cadets will be allowed to call periodically throughout their Cadet Basic Training.

When will I be able to see my son/daughter again?

There will be no opportunity to visit new cadets until Acceptance Day, Aug. 12, 2005. Your candidate will contact you prior to Acceptance Day to provide you with additional details. It is recommended to set up a location to meet your cadet following the Acceptance Day parade.

When will my new cadet be accepted into the Corps of Cadets?

New cadets do not become part of the Corps of Cadets until they complete Cadet Basic Training. Those who have met all requirements will participate in the Acceptance Day Parade and become members of the Corps of Cadets.

When is Acceptance Day?

Acceptance Day will be Saturday, Aug 12. The parade to accept new cadets into the Corps will begin at 10 a.m.

How can I keep updated on events at the Academy throughout my cadet's time here?

Visit the U.S. Military Academy website at <http://www.usma.edu>.

Updates to the website are made daily. In addition, for planning purposes, you can access the Academy's master calendar at <http://www.dean.usma.edu/sebpublic/MasterCalendar/>.

When will my cadet be able to leave the Academy?

Labor Day weekend, Sept. 1-4, is the first opportunity for Plebes to take an overnight pass away from West Point. Additionally, classes and military training are suspended on federal holidays; and, duty permitting, cadets can escort visitors on-post during these days. Please check with your cadet for more information.

When is Parent Weekend?

Plebe Parent Weekend takes place during the weekend of Oct. 13 - 16. During this weekend, parents and friends can visit plebes and examine the facilities at West Point. The weekend will include a Plebe Review, a Superintendent's Orientation, a tour of the facilities, open houses and a formal banquet. Parents will receive official notification of the Plebe Parent program at a later date. It is recommended that parents who intend to participate make arrangements early.

Will my cadet be able to attend religious services and can I meet them during these services?

New cadets are given the opportunity to attend religious services. However, new cadets are **not** permitted to meet with parents and friends at religious services during Cadet Basic Training.

Can we tour the cadet barracks?

No, this is a cadet living area and is closed to the public.

Is the Superintendent's home open for tours?

Unfortunately, tours of Quarters 100, the Superintendent's residence, will not be available during R-Day.

What is "Beast Barracks?"

"Beast Barracks" is an affectionate reference to Cadet Basic Training.

What are the different classes of cadets?

New Cadet: A cadet candidate not yet officially accepted as a member of the Corps.

Plebe: A cadet of the Fourth Class; freshman.

Yearling/Yuk: A cadet of the Third Class; a sophomore.

Cow: A cadet of the Second Class; a junior.

Firstie: A cadet of the First Class; a senior.

When can my cadet bring a car to West Point?

Cadets are not permitted to maintain a car at West Point until the spring of their Cow (Junior) year.

Is there any way that I can purchase photos or videos of Cadet Basic Training?

Yes, Academy Photo, (845) 938-3448, will send out information regarding photo and video sales of Cadet Basic Training to parents of new cadets.

There will be a video made during Cadet Basic Training that will be available for purchase before Plebe Parent weekend. Purchase information can be obtained by visiting <http://www.academyphoto.com>.