

MYTHBUSTERS

continued from front.

How much does JROTC cost? Uniforms and training materials are provided by the program. Cadets are expected to pay for dry cleaning their uniforms. Cadets are expected to pay for their own meals at competitions or on trips. Summer camp is voluntary, selection is limited, and cadets pay to attend. An annual JROTC Ball is held with cadets paying to attend; costs vary from year to year for this event (this year it is \$15). Cadets pay a yearly \$30 activity fee to help offset the costs of numerous activities that are available throughout the year (cookouts, Sports Day, Capture-the-Flag, field trips, etc).

Why do the students conduct drill or march? JROTC uses drill and ceremonies as a well defined, relatively easy to master training tool. This tool is used to teach and develop teamwork, leadership, instructional skills, attention to detail, bearing, respect for authority and for others, responsibility, and endurance.

Are students required to wear a uniform? Yes. After earning a uniform in the beginning of their first year, cadets are required to wear the JROTC uniform once a week on uniform day. The uniform is provided by the Air Force and is custom-fitted to each cadet. The uniform consists of a pair of trousers, shoes (must be shined), black socks, shirt, lightweight jacket, service coat, blue belt and buckle, a flight cap, and a number of other uniform pieces that make the uniform complete. Cadets earn their rank and awards to put on their uniforms. It is considered an honor to wear the Air Force uniform and cadets must wear it correctly and with pride. Members of JROTC teams may wear the uniform more often for events and competitions. Second year and above cadets are allowed to wear the ABU (Airman Battle Uniform) uniform as a reward for remaining in the program.

Why do students wear the uniform? Students wear the uniform to put all cadets on the same level. Any additions to the uniform are ranks and awards that are earned by the individual cadet. They are earned for application of positive traits and principles that will serve you and your community well in the future. These are not given on the basis of wealth or any such issue. Remember, many citizens wear uniforms: McDonalds, Post Office, Police Officers, UPS, etc.

Are both girls and boys enrolled in JROTC? Yes. All leadership positions are available to both equally.

Are there special rules students are required to follow? Yes, although not to the extreme. There are, however, regulations about the personal appearance of cadets, wearing of the uniform (cadets wear the same uniform as active duty Air Force), and even how to address the other military personnel and cadets. For example, males are not permitted to wear an earring(s) in the classroom, and females are only allowed one pair of earrings, one earring in each ear while wearing the uniform. On uniform day, males must have their hair not exceed past the ears, lengthwise, and female cadets must have their hair no longer than the bottom of the collar (in a bun or ponytail).

What kind of recognition can I get by participating in the program? There are many awards that cadets can **earn** for participation and achievement in the program. The school gives some, but others can be awarded by local military organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of Purple Heart, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. These are just a few of the organizations that give awards. All awards have certain criteria, but are open to all who achieve those criteria. Involvement, good leadership traits, and being an active participant of the program are the main requirements.

What about the leadership training? In JROTC, being a leader means first being a follower. The curriculum teaches all aspects of being a good follower and being a good leader. Cadets must learn and understand the leadership traits of a good leader. The program encourages practical application in other school activities as well as in JROTC.

How can I enroll in the program? If you want to be in the program, it is as simple as letting your counselor know. Any student can start JROTC in high school. 8th grade students are able to sign up when scheduling their 9th grade high school classes. Current high school students are able to sign up when scheduling their sophomore, junior, and/or senior year classes. If you have more questions, email us at afjrotcnc804@gmail.com.

Bonus Opportunities

- Drill Team
- Color Guard
- Saber Team
- Rifle Team
- Dodge Ball/Sports
- Veterans Day Activities
- Flight Simulators/Drone
- Holiday Party/Cookouts
- Drill Competitions
- Seymour Johnson AFB Trip
- Other Field Trips
- JROTC Awards Banquet/Ball
- KC-135 and CAP Flights
- Parades
- Summer Leadership School

