

Shenandoah Valley Young Marines Info Page

Updated Sept 1, 09

Who: Boys and girls 8 to 18 years of age or until graduation from High School.

Where: Winchester Elks Lodge
466 Front Royal Pike
Winchester, VA.

When: 1st Sunday of the month from 1:30pm-5:00pm approx. We do try to stick to a schedule but sometimes the meetings may finish early or run over. Please check the web site Calendar of Events for time and dates. We also may do an outing or two a month, which may be an event, community service, or fundraiser. Meetings begin and approximately end at the times mentioned above. We ask your cooperation in this important area. We will go over the calendar at every meeting with updates and it will be posted on the web site: <http://www.svym07.com>

Please be prompt when dropping off and picking up your child

Who we are not: The Young Marines is not an intervention program for troubled youth. We **DO NOT** take the place of parent involvement in their child's life. The structure of the program does not allow us to accept youth who do not have a minimum level of obedience and respect for authority. The Young Marine program adds a dimension of discipline and demands a level of respect not typically asked of youth today. The Young Marines program is **not** a summer camp, babysitting service, day care program or military school, nor is it a punishment. We will reinforce standards of good behavior, academic achievement and the desire to always do their best.

Registration: Parents of a YM must fill out a registration form and the YM must have a current physical. An initial non-refundable deposit of \$30 (without unit t-shirt) or \$45 (with unit t-shirt) is due at registration. Re-registration is an annual fee of \$35 in Sept. Fees cover National dues, ID cards and other expenses.

Dues: There is a \$5.00 monthly due charge to help offset the cost of awards and Unit Gear. There is no due charge in Sept. this is Re-registration Month.

Meetings: Parents are welcome to observe our meetings. We try to make all major decisions at the Parent/Leaders meeting; if you do not attend, do not ask us to repeat what was discussed. We ask that you do not disrupt or become involved in the training unless you are a registered adult volunteer or are asked. If any other children accompany you to a meeting, they must be supervised at all times. YM must attend the regular monthly meetings to be able to attend the events. There is no provision for an "ala carte" membership in our organization; showing up only for the activities and not the meetings is not allowed. If you miss 2 meetings in a row you must attend the next meeting before being able to attend the next event. Absences must be approved by the unit Commander. We are not molding Marines so we do not teach weapons, warfare or tactics, but we do wear the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor on our uniforms and take pride in our appearance and conduct. We cannot give your child self-esteem, but we can give him or her opportunities to increase a feeling of self worth by earning responsibility and leadership. When something is earned, it has more value and is worth keeping. The Young Marine program is not a program for couch potatoes. It is a challenging, exciting and motivating program that requires commitment to excel.

Events: We try to do 1 event a month which may consist of visiting a museum, a unit activity, community service project, or a fundraiser. The cost of events and activities depend on available unit funds. And we get these funds by doing Fundraising.

Special Events : Some special opportunities do come our way from time to time. When these are offered there will be times I can only take a certain number of YM and RA. I like to give every YM a chance to attend these Special events. You never know who you are going to run into. A service uniform is required for most events. The way we decide who gets to go is by the team leaders and unit officers. And what they look for is

- 1.) Uniform - Is there uniform clean and press for meetings and events
- 2.) Behavior - We can't take a YM into the White house, Capital, Pentagon or any other official government building if the YM can't sit still and going to run the halls.

- 3.) Discipline - We need YM who can stand still for a certain amount of time and who are able to follow orders.
- 4.) YM courtesies- Is the YM using sir"/"ma'am, Thank you's ect...
- 5.) Attendance - this isn't as important as the top four because we know all of our YM don't drive and they are dependent on their parents to get to meeting and events. But we do look at if they sign up for an event and are a no show this shows us they are undependable.

Most of the above items the YM can practice at home and we practice these at the meetings and events.

Recruit Training: You must complete a registration application and pay the registration fee before your child begins recruit training. Upon joining, the youth undergo a 26-hour orientation program spread out over several weeks. This orientation program is called "Recruit Training." The youth learn the general Young Marine subjects such as history, drill, physical fitness, customs and courtesies, and military rank structure. Training will consist of monthly meetings and outings. All paperwork must be turned in before being promoted to a Young Marine Private. When the recruit graduates into a Young Marine they will be awarded the YM patches, nametapes, boot bands, web belt and cover. If a recruit completes recruit training within a 4-month period from the time of registration, they will earn the Young Marine basic ribbon. If the recruit is unable to finish recruit training by the end of the 4 month period and fails to meet a graduation requirement, they must either be recycled or undergo additional instruction to correct the deficiency. Recycling a recruit should only be done when they fail the required attendance for graduating.

Instructors/Volunteers: As parents, you are welcome to become an adult volunteer as part of the parent support group. To become a registered adult you must be selected by the UC and fill out a three-page application, provide a photo of yourself and provide three written personal references with contact telephone numbers and addresses. Family members cannot write references. To be a registered adult you must take on a job billet and help out with the unit. If you fail to fulfill your responsibly you may be dropped as a registered adult. Each team is assigned 2 registered adult members to help the team leader with the training of their team. Registered adult team members and team leaders, PltSgt, Plt Leader, UC are the ones who can sign off in the YM guidebook. An adult team member cannot sign off on their own children. As a registered adult you may be able to attend camps with your YM, receive all discounts and take part in Unit elections. **Only registered adult leaders on the YM Officer Staff will make decisions for the unit.** We are an all-volunteer organization. All of the officers and instructors in our unit donate significant amounts of their personal time and effort, money, and they often make sacrifices in their personal lives to be here and serve as leaders/ officers, yet they receive zero pay. We ask at least one parent from each family to get involved with the program to help out in some small way. Our staff is here because of their interest and their commitment to America's youth. Please show them gratitude for what they do, and please be respectful of their time. Parents: please arrive promptly at or before the completion of our unit's activities because our adult volunteers must remain present with your son or daughter until they are picked up and they do have lives of their own. We are not a social recovery program, nor are we a baby-sitting service.

Parent Support group – If you cannot get registered as an adult leader, you can be part of the parent support group. Every YM should have a parent involved somewhere in the program. Membership is open to any adult volunteer who wishes to participate and support unit activities and events. The adult volunteer need not be registered with the National Headquarters, nor have a child in the program. They can assist the fundraising, transportation, supervision, training, catering, event planning (birthday ball, walk-a-thon, etc.) and other support needs of the unit.

Deadlines: For camps and outings, we have deadlines to meet. If you fail to sign up before the deadline, either your child may not go or you may incur additional costs.

Transportation - Most trips require POV's for your child to attend an event. If your child needs a ride to an event, please make arrangements with other parents.

Uniforms: Young Marines are authorized to wear appropriately modified versions of the Marine Corps uniform. The National Executive Director issues the modifications designed to clearly identify the wearer as a

member of the YM program. The Young Marine uniform is worn during Young Marine Drills (Meetings) or other authorized Young Marine functions set by the Unit Commander.

The official uniform for youth in the Young Marines Program is the woodland pattern camouflage blouse, trousers and khaki web belt, boots, cover and red YM T-shirt.

The Unit does have a summer uniform, which consists of YM cover, unit t-shirt, khaki cargo shorts, white socks, tennis shoes,

The trousers, blouse and boots must be purchased by the Young Marine at your nearest surplus store or use:

Blouse and Trousers- for YM who wear sizes 12/14 use American – army navy XSS will fit.
<http://www.american-armynavy.com/BDUUniformWoodlandRS.htm>

For smaller sizes, Eagle Military Outfitters in Winchester carries uniforms or the adjutant has forms for a Cami distributor. We do have some uniforms in stock for the YM to try on.

Buttons must be hidden on uniforms. Unless the YM is on the small side he or she may wear the Child BDU uniform with the buttons showing. Until they are able to grow into the original YM uniform

Black Jungle Boots - <http://www.american-armynavy.com/BootJungleStyle.htm>

The Unit will issue a YM Guidebook, red YM T-shirt (these only come in adult size sm , med , lg , xl) , cover, boot bands, web belt, & patches.

Boot bands and patches will be awarded at recruit graduation.

YM Woodland pattern camouflage Uniform will be worn at all YM Monthly meeting unless otherwise specified by the Unit Commander.

Summer uniform – Unit T-shirt, Khaki Shorts, YM Cover with Rank, white socks and tennis shoes is to be worn when specified by the Unit Commander.

Winter Uniform – YM Gray Sweat shirt, Khaki Dress pants, YM Cover with Rank, white socks and tennis shoes is to be worn when specified by the Unit Commander. YM Gray Sweatshirt can be purchase at Chester gear store

<http://asiweb.vanguardmil.com/youngmarines/default.aspx?p=viewcat&showpage=1>

Service Uniforms Alpha, Charlie, Dress Uniform - see the Unit Commander for info and cost.

Unit Mission: Positively impact our young American boys and girls through programs primarily focused on drug awareness and prevention and American history.

Personal Appearance/Standards: Males will maintain a proper haircut as prescribed in the guidebook. Females will wear their hair pulled up in a bun or French braid above the bottom of the collar of the camouflage blouse.

Schedules/Parents Meetings: At each meeting, the next month's schedules and any information will be covered. There will be a parent and staff meeting from 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm on the 1st Sunday of the month. There may be times when changes in scheduled events may take place. A Young Marine who cannot participate in these events will receive an excused absence.

A Hold Harmless Agreement A hold harmless agreement is required any time your child leaves the premises of our meeting place to partake in a function provided by the SVYM unit, unless the parent stays and transports their child to and from the activity. If your child has no hold harmless agreement and the parent cannot attend, your child cannot attend. The Hold Harmless Agreement allows adult leaders to

seek medical attention for your child if the need arises.

PFT : A PFT is held Semi annually. If your YM misses the semi annual PFT, the YM will not be eligible for promotion until the PFT is made up or until the next semi annual fitness test.

Fundraising: Young Marines and Recruits must take part in the fundraising events to receive discounts on any events. Part of the success of the SVYM unit is the level of involvement by our parents. We keep costs low with regularly scheduled fundraisers. These fundraisers are either sales or service related to allow everyone to contribute (some families are good at selling, others are better at donating time). Our parents are also the keystones to making many of our activities successful. We cannot run this program without the parent's help. A portion of the monies from fundraising events is divided up into the YM accounts of those who actively participated. If you quit or leave the unit, the funds revert back to the unit.

Promotions: The Young Marines perform together as teams, squads and platoons. The Young Marines are required to work together. They quickly learn that most any task becomes easier when cooperation is involved.

The military rank system encourages the Young Marines to do their best. Young Marines are provided the opportunity to earn leadership positions based upon their conduct and general attitude and knowledge. Sr. Young Marines have significant responsibility for helping maintain the general order, planning and conduct of the Young Marine program.

We follow the military system of promotion and advancement, and YM will continuously work toward completing the requirements for their next advancement. This is the method by which we maintain a rank-structure that emulates that of the Marine Corps. There is a rank structure in the Young Marines starting from recruit to Sgt. Major. A Young Marine must graduate Recruit Training to receive the rank of Private. The Young Marine who does an outstanding job while in Recruit Training may be chosen Honor Recruit and receive the rank PFC. For certain ranks a National exam is required. If YM fails the National Exams promotion test, they must wait until the next testing period to re-test.

A promotion board will be held during certain monthly meetings. An intention to promote form must be signed one month prior to attending a promotion board and the XO must be informed in writing. Things that count toward promotion are knowledge, appearance, PFT scores, attendance, attitude, and a willingness to follow the instructions of the Sr. Young Marine and adult(s) in charge. Study guides with the promotion requirements are located on our web site <http://svym07.com> awards page.

Awards – There is a ribbon awards system for achievement the YM can earn. Ribbons will be awarded every quarter. Some will be earned with the unit while others can be earned on their own. If working on a personal ribbon, make sure all paperwork is in order and turn in an Individual ribbon request form. You can see what ribbons are available by going to our web site. The awards officer will need to know 3 weeks prior to the ribbon awards ceremony for any ribbons that you're YM may have earned on their own.

Color Guard: We do try to include all YM in a Color Guard. We have an A Team Color Guard for special events. The only way a YM can get on the A team Color Guard is to challenge an individual member of the A Team Color Guard to a drill contest. If that YM performs better than the A team member, they will be awarded that A team position.

Guest: Young Marines are allowed to bring a guest to 1 meeting and 1 outing. A parent of that guest must be present at all times. The guest is not covered by Young Marine insurance and attends at they're own risk.

Community Service: Community Service is an important part of the Young Marines Program. A Young Marine must have a certain amount of community service hours for promotions. The Shenandoah Valley Young Marines also takes part in the **Presidential Service Award**: <http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov> which is open to any of the youth and is for community service. Also, **Congressional Awards**:

www.congressionalaward.org. To earn this award, a Young Marine must be 13.5 yrs of age or older and it's based on personal goals. Both require online registration.

The Right to Refrain: At the beginning of every meeting we will say the Pledge of Allegiance. Also, from time to time the Young Marines unit will hold functions that you as a parent may prefer your child refrain from due to religious, political or any other belief. Your child has the right to refrain from these functions.

If you would like further information regarding our program, please stop by one of our monthly meetings or Contact William Molitor, Unit Commander of the Shenandoah Valley Young Marines at wkmolitor@earthlink.net or 540-635-9528.

1. We are not a baby sitting service
2. We do not take the place of the parents, we're not here to raise your child.
3. We ask at least 1 parent from each family to help from time to time. We are all Volunteers, if you are not helping out you don't have the right to complain.
4. This is not the UC or the Adults program this is the Young Marines program it belongs to all the register youth in the unit.
5. We try to make all major decision at the Parent/Leaders meeting if you do not attend do not ask us to repeat what was discussed.
6. We offer all kinds of opportunity for your child to advance in the program but if they do not attend that's your decision but do not ask us to promote them if they have not meet the requirements.
7. We try to keep the program fun but we also must maintain order.

YOUNG MARINES

MEETS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

FROM 1:30PM TO 5:00PM

AT THE WINCHESTER E.P.O.E. LODGE # 867

WINCHESTER VA

[HTTP://SVYM.TRIPOD.COM](http://svym.tripod.com)