



UNITED STATES NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS

FORT CUSTER COMBINED TRAINING



FORT CUSTER COMBINED TRAINING (FCCT) 2020 COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE.

Navy League Orientation, Navy League Leadership Academy, Navy League STEM, Master-At-Arms, Stem, Military Vehicle Maintenance, Tactical Medical

Welcome Letter

Greetings! As Commanding Officer (COTC) of Fort Custer Combined Training, I'm pleased to welcome all of you to Team Family! Please take time to read and comply with this Welcome Letter. I recognize that some of you are brand new to this program and others of you are Fort Custer "experts". We have offered this training at Fort Custer since 2007 and have streamlined key learning's into this letter. If you have questions about this letter start by asking **your unit's chain of command**. This Welcome Letter, training website and our Facebook page are the only authoritative sources of information about our training.

OUR MISSION

During your week of training cadets will receive the highest level of training that is consistent with NSCC/NLCC National Goals in an atmosphere of respect, support, and esprit de corps. Commitment to Excellence, is our motto for the training.

These Cadets are entrusted to our care. We will train them to the best of our collective ability. We will develop them into smartly disciplined, physically fit, basically trained Navy League cadets or Sea Cadets. We will instill in them, and demonstrate by our own example, the highest standard of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

We are committed to the safety, success, and the growth of all hands, from the most junior Navy League cadet, to our most senior Sea Cadets, and including our junior officers and department heads.

I look forward to serving with each one of you very soon.

COVID-19: We are taking all necessary measures to ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of our cadets and adult volunteers. We are also responding to restrictions from host facilities and state and local governments which have banned large gatherings. As we approach the start date of FCCT, we will reevaluate the status of the training amidst the outbreak. We will be closely monitoring air travel alerts; however, at this time, we suggest that you only purchase refundable airfare should you need to cancel your flight in the future. NHQ will cover training fee reimbursements to all approved participants of cancelled trainings.

LCDR *Lisa Stoyanovich*, NSCC

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1. TRAINING VENUE & DATES:

Fort Custer Training is hosted at Fort Custer Training Center, Battle Creek, MI (located in southwest Michigan). Fort Custer's training facilities are used by the Michigan National Guard and other branches for the armed and security forces.

Training starts Friday, 17 July 2020 for Staff Cadets at 1000 & Air Travelers. Saturday 18 July 2020, Intake Day for all other training.

All training ends after Graduation Saturday, 25 July 2020. Time your arrival to the base (details under How to Report) NO EARLIER than 0930 (9:30 am) and NO LATER than 1100 (11:00 am) on Saturday, 18 July 2020. The base is in the **Eastern Time zone**. Don't Show up early, don't show up late.

2. TRANSPORTATION DETAILS:

Personally Operated Vehicle (POV)(car/van):

Any cadet driving their own vehicle will need to obtain prior permission from the COTC as per NSCC Regulations. No cadet may transport another cadet as per NSCC Regulations. Fort Custer Training Center security requires the following from all personnel entering the base:

- All guests must have a current driver's license and/or NSCC/NLCC ID card with them when they arrive.
- Drivers must be prepared to show current insurance card, and proof of registration.
- All persons, vehicles, bags, and packages are subject to search.
- **GPS address: Fort Custer Training Center, 1201 Denso Road, Battle Creek, MI 49037**

Flying to the Training:

See the separate Air Travel Guidance for details. Follow the details for safe travel.

3. TRAINING APPLICATION PROCESS:

We operate based on first-come, first-served. Once all billets are full, subsequent requests will be put on a wait list in the order received. We don't need (or want) copies of ID, immunization records, or USNSCC Application uploaded to Magellan.

Minimum rank requirements are enforced by Magellan for this training. You must, at a minimum, be a currently enrolled NLCC Recruit Cadet or Apprentice Cadet or NSCC Seaman Apprentice. The COTC will hold a percentage of spots open for Sea Cadets who have not attended RT in each training. Your unit can register you as soon as you complete RT & have been promoted to Seaman Apprentice. Tip: Get your BMR done before RT. These spots will be held until 10 July. If any are still available after that time they will go to cadets on the waitlist.

To request a training billet, complete these steps **IN ORDER** to secure a confirmed spot. The faster you complete ALL these steps, the sooner you will have an "Approved" place at the training. We don't mark "confirm" until you have submitted a completed Training Form NSCTNG001 *or* paid online. We mark "approved" when you've done both. Get your NSCTNG001 uploaded first, and as soon as possible.



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- ✓ Step 1: Ask your unit's training officer to register you for a training on Magellan (unit officers have credentials for access to Magellan, parents don't).
- ✓ Step 2: Complete and sign an NSCTNG001 – this is **essential**, as we need those “wet” parent/guardian signatures and initials. Your unit's officers **must** help with this and upload it to Magellan. Don't wait!
- ✓ Step 3: Upload documentation to Magellan of any medications that Cadet (or Staff Cadet) will take during the training. Your unit's officers must help with this. No meds? No med forms needed.
- ✓ Step 4: Upload any ADA Request for Accommodation into Magellan well in advance for review, and COTC approval. An approved Request for Accommodation at the home unit does not automatically apply at the training. Your unit's officers must help with this.
- ✓ Step 5: Pay the \$220 training fee for the training (online payment only, details later in this letter)
- ✓ Step 6: Review our Training Website www.custercadet.com and join the secure Facebook training page at **2020 Fort Custer Combined Training**. These are the only places where updates will be posted, and questions answered. Training changes can happen fast and without warning check often.

4. PAYMENT OF TRAINING FEES:

The Training Fee for 2020 is \$220.00 per Cadet.

We use an online payment system, which you can find on the website, www.custercadet.com under the “Online Payment” tab. Our online payment system allows the ease of secure credit card payment or PayPal 24/7. Make payment after your cadet has been registered to secure a spot. There is a service fee charge added to the training cost.

Important! Please include the first and last name of the cadet and the home unit for whom you are paying in the “Note to Seller” fields rather than your own name. Parents often have last names that are different from the cadets; how are we to know for whom you are paying if you don't tell us? Paying for multiple cadets in one transaction? **PLEASE tell us the names of every cadet for whom you are paying**. Example, Tommy Shipmate, Tomcat Squadron or Tommy Shipmate & Lori Shipmate, Wolverine Division.

In accordance with NSCC regulations, Training Fees are non-refundable, except under extraordinary circumstances, at the sole discretion of the Fort Custer COTC.

5. MEDICAL CHECK-IN AND RESTRICTIONS:

This is a medically friendly training. Cadets **DO NOT SELF-MEDICATE**; all medicine will be turned in to our medical staff, and your cadets will have the opportunity to take their medication during scheduled Med Call times. It is the responsibility of the cadet to report to Med-Call for their medication. Cadets who bring inhalers or epi-pens will be allowed to keep them on their persons at all time and will use them as needed. They **must** be documented **IN ADVANCE** on the appropriate medical forms, Medical History Supplemental (NSCADM001 pages 7 & 8) which should be submitted along with the Request for Training Authority, NSCTNG001. Cadets with pre-existing medical conditions that will affect training will not be allowed to participate. An example of this might be, a sprained ankle, an in grown toenail, or a broken arm. While we want our cadets to complete their training, safety is our first concern. If in doubt contact the COTC.

Cadets will likely be marching and/or on their feet for hours. In the past in-grown toenails have prevented cadets from participating. A foot check will be done during check in. You may be denied training if you have



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an ingrown toenail. Check your feet now to see if you have an ingrown toenail(s) and see your physician to have it treated.

Cadets will be checked for head lice during check in. If head lice are discovered the cadet will be denied training.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT MEDS: BRING THEM! In the past, we've seen parents (or cadets) try to wean themselves off ADD/ADHD medications while at FCCT. Please don't. This environment is **not** the place to go "cold turkey". Talk to your doctor in advance and let them know your child is headed to an environment with **many** more stressors than normal home life. All meds **MUST** be in their original container from the pharmacy. Please don't mix meds to consolidate into one bottle. Since our escort officers administers the meds, we must positively know what we're giving your cadets.

If your Cadet is in perfect health (all check boxes are NO) then there is no need to upload the Medical Exam, the Medical History or Medical History Supplemental (NSCADM001 pages 7 & 8).

The final decision regarding training participation due to a medical concern lies with the Fort Custer Commanding Officer, per USNSCC Regulations. Her decision is final.

6. HOW TO REPORT:

Escort officers/parents will not leave until notified that the cadet(s) has been fully checked in by admin, medical, and sea bag inspection is complete. In-take may take as long as one hour.

Cadets arriving via Private Vehicles (POV) will report in appropriate civilian clothes between **0930 and 1100 on Saturday, 18 July 2020 at Augusta Armory on base (follow the USNSCC road signs). We ask that you not arrive before 0930. Doors will open at 0930.**

In your possession you will have:

- Service Record, YES, we still need them.
- ID card
- Complete sea bag per the attached sea bag list.
- Proper haircut (Males). NL Orientation males must have a #1 all around.
- Medication (if required)
- For individuals traveling as a group, the service records should be in one envelope.

Cadets arriving via Commercial Travel, (air) will travel in appropriate civilian attire per USNSCC Regulations. Commercial travelers will arrive on **Friday 17 July 2020 before 1300.**

STAFF CADETS: Cadet will report in appropriate civilian attire at **1000 on Friday, 17 July 2020 at Augusta Armory. Follow USNSCC road signs.**

7. HAIRCUTS:

All cadets must conform to the following haircut guidelines.

Female: Hair secured in a bun with hair tie similar color as hair.

Male: NL Orientation recruits must have a #1 all around. Advance training cadets must have a proper military haircut.

8. WHERE TO GET UPDATES AND INFORMATION

Website: www.custercadet.com

Facebook address: 2020 Fort Custer Combined Training



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Our website and closed Facebook page are the **only** methods we communicate updated information about the training. It is where we will post updates, training day highlights, and graduation details as Internet access at the base permits.

Questions: If you have a question, it's likely others have the same question. Please take the time to search the Facebook page and/or the website first to see if your question has already been answered. Once the training begins, understand my focus and that of all my officers is on safe delivery of the training, not communicating with parents or the home unit.

I understand perfectly well that some people don't use social media. That's great for your personal life, but it's the only way we must address any questions you may have, and the advantages are well worth it. If you don't already "do Facebook," create an account just for this purpose; many other Sea Cadet trainings also use Facebook exclusively because it's free and easy. Need help? Ask your cadet, I'm sure they can help you.

Some of you choose a Facebook name for your account that does not include your last name to protect your privacy. There is a price to be paid for everything, and the price you'll pay for that choice will be to get a little extra scrutiny as to who you are if you request access to the page. Before granting access, you will be required to answer a few questions, this is to prevent spammers from access and **I'm sure you can all appreciate why we want to know who is on our page.** This is a closed group for the security of our minors.

Also, while we will post a few pictures on the Facebook page during the training, we will post most pictures after the training concludes due to no or very slow internet access. Training highlights will be posted each night.

9. HOW TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CADET AT TRAINING:

It is essential for parents, relatives, and friends to understand that:

Per NSCC regulations, visits from parents, relatives, friends, and even unit officers are prohibited.

Cadets are not allowed to place or receive phone calls, nor emails. In case of family emergencies, parents are to contact local unit COs. The unit CO will then contact the COTC of FCCT. If there is an emergency regarding a cadet, a call will be placed to the parents and the unit CO.

Cell phones brought by cadets traveling commercial air will be turned in **upon arrival** at FCCT and will be returned prior to graduation/departure. We will ensure they are charged up the night before graduation. If cadets are traveling by car, leaving the cell phone at home is really the best choice.

"Mail Call" is held daily. The cadets love getting mail. Feel free to mail an encouraging note to your cadet by Thursday 16 July so they will receive it Saturday night. This is especially important if your cadet is in NL Orientation as this may be the first time they are away from home. You may choose to drop off your mail during check in and we will be sure they receive it. There will be a "Mail Drop" at Station #1 or In-Take. Please address any correspondence to your cadet in the following manner:

United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps
Cadet, Last name, First name
Fort Custer Training Center
2501 26th Street, Building 2900
Augusta, MI 49012
Name of Training

Cadets are welcome to send mail to family and friends and should bring blank envelopes and stamps as none will be provided. You will be surprised how many do not know how to address an envelope. You may want to practice that at home.



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Parents, your letters of positive encouragement are very welcome; PLEASE do not send “care packages.” Your cadets will not be allowed to have them, and our officers do not need the extra calories. Let Grandma know too. If you wish, you might include a card to “Any Cadet w/o mail;” there is nothing sadder than mail call for a cadet who hasn’t received a single note.

Bad things happen in life, and that is a tragedy. Be smart about deciding what news to share with your cadets during the training. For real emergencies, contact your unit CO; he or she will contact us, and we will take care of whatever needs taking care of. For anything other than life or death emergencies, giving bad news to your cadets should wait until they are back with you.

Tell all family members and friends to whom you forward the mailing address: **NO** mail to be sent after WEDNESDAY, 22 July 2020.

10. CADET PREPARING FOR SUCCESS AT FORT CUSTER:

All cadets need to understand that this is a TRAINING evolution, and there are certain minimum standards, that you must adhere to while onboard. Everyone will be challenged to do things that are new and different. The biggest challenge for the NL Orientation cadet is being away from home for the first time. Please send mail to your cadet, this helps to relieve the homesickness.

Pack your own sea bag. You are responsible for what you do and do not bring to training, so the best way to accomplish this is by packing your own sea bag. A sea bag inspection will be conducted immediately upon arrival at check-in. Items on our sea bag list are there for a reason. Parents/Cadet/Officers, please do not second guess what you need or not need. To speed up the sea bag inspection place like items into a zip lock bag, pressing on the bag to eliminate the air. Then label the outside of the bag with a Sharpie.

Break-in your footwear. A lot of military drill will take place during training. During the past several trainings we have had cadets who have arrived with foot problems. Specifically, in-grown toenails. Your cadet will be in their boots and on their feet from 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. everyday drilling, running, walking, or in class. An in-grown toenail will make it very difficult and painful for your cadet. It may make it impossible for him/her to complete the training. Please screen your child’s feet and treat any problems before the training.

Evening Routine. Each evening the cadets will be given time to hygiene. There may be up to twenty-four cadets in the barrack. With only three shower stalls this can be a challenge. There is not time to shampoo hair twice or apply conditioner or take a long hot shower. For this reason, each cadet will only have three minutes to shower. They may want to practice this at home.

11. GRADUATION:

The combined training graduation commences promptly on Saturday, 25 July 2020, at 1000. The base won’t admit you earlier than 0800, and no one will be admitted to Augusta Armory Drill Hall later than 0955. It is a small space and I ask that you limit attendees to four.

Cadet may wear NLCC/NSCC ribbons earned prior to training at graduation; ribbons/medals earned and documented in the service jacket ARE authorized for wear at graduation. Every year someone misses this message, and it’s a shame for cadets who have earned ribbons to not be able to wear them at graduation. Again, wear of earned ribbons is ENCOURAGED and authorized for all hands.

All persons on base are subject to search. Only purses, cameras, and diaper bags will be permitted in the drill hall. There is no room for strollers.

Graduation will conclude at approximately 1045. The checkout process will be clearly communicated to you at this time. Please follow it exactly; we will make every effort to expedite your departure, but this process is designed to ensure that each cadet is positively accounted for and returned safely to your care. You can’t wander around the base after graduation. The Army Guard loves us, but they are eager for us to leave as soon as graduation is over.



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Staff Cadets and Escort Officers. You will be dismissed after the camp has been secured. You will be assigned to several clear out stations. You will not depart without permission from the COTC. Time to be determined but should be no later than 1400. Many hands make the work go quickly.

12. QUESTIONS:

Before you post on the 2020 Fort Custer Combined Training Facebook page.

1. Read this Welcome Letter again.
2. Search the Facebook page to see if the question has already been asked and answered.
3. Ask your Division/Squadron/Battalion Chain of Command for help.

13. LAUNDRY

There is one laundry facility on the base, and cadets will **not** be given the opportunity to do laundry individually whenever they wish. There is another large youth program we compete with for washers and dryers, in addition to base personnel. Cadet laundry items are washed together assembly-line fashion on a schedule to maximize efficiency. For this reason, it is important that all cadet items be labeled and that they bring enough quantities of important items like socks and underwear, which sometimes need to be changed more frequently than once per day. Socks and undergarments will be washed together in each cadet's own pre-labeled large or small mesh laundry bag.



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ANNEX A WELCOME LETTER: SEABAG LIST FOR ALL USNSCC CADETS ATTENDING FORT CUSTER COMBINED TRAINING. CADETS; *All items must be labeled with your last name. For stenciling on black items such as socks – use the silver sharpie pen. All cadets have the same sea bag list, same items – labeling is essential. Several trainings have specific additional items.*

NSCC DRESS WHITE UNIFORM		
# Required	Item	Packed
1	White "Dixie Cup" Cover	
1	Dress White Uniform Jumper with USNSCC flashes	
1	Ribbon Bar with earned ribbons for graduation	
1	Black Neckerchief	
1	White crew t-shirt: please send your cadet with a new one that fits snugly (size smaller than they normally wear) to avoid wrinkles under dress whites.	
1	Pair White underwear for wear with Dress White Uniform	
1	Dress White Uniform Pants (NO skirts for females)	
1	Pair black dress shoes	
1	White belt with silver tip and silver buckle.	
NLCC DRESS UNIFORM		
# Required	Item	Packed
1	White "Dixie Cup" cover	
1	White dress shirt with NLCC flash	
1	Black pants	
1	Ribbon Bar with earned ribbons for graduation	
1	White crew t-shirt: please send your cadet with a new one that fits snugly (size smaller than they normally wear) to avoid wrinkles under dress white shirt.	
1	Pair black dress shoes	
DAILY WORKING UNIFORM NSCC & NLCC, NWU Type I, NWU Type III & CUU		
# Required	Item	Packed
3 Sets of any combination	Authorized working uniforms (NWUs Type I, Type III or CUUs) You may only have 2 sets, bring both.	
1	8-point covers, 1 for each type of uniform NWU Type I or Type III and/or CUU	
7	Pair of underwear.	
1	Black belt w/silver tip	
6	Crew neck T-shirts (blue if NWUs, or brown if CUUs, coyote brown for Type III) (We recommend one size smaller t-shirt than normally worn to keep collar high and tight)	
1	Pair of black working boots WELL broken in. Buy this item at least a month in advance and wear them daily. Improperly broken in footgear is number one cause of cadets getting sent home because of blisters so severe they can't walk. Additional insoles may be worn for additional comfort.	
1	Pair Blousing Straps	
7	Pairs plain black socks (Sufficient fresh socks prevent foot problems)	
1	Shoeshine kit	
PHYSICAL TRAINING KIT		
# Required	Item	Packed
2-3	Sets of "Official" NSCC PT Kit or (Gold Shirt and Blue Shorts) available from Vanguard Industries https://www.vanguardmil.com/collections/ns-nlcc-clothing . 2 sets is for PT and third set is for sleeping.	
6	Pairs white socks for PT	
1	Pair of athletic running shoes	
3	Sports bra - female Cadets	
PERSONAL HYGIENE KIT		
# Required	Item	Packed
1	Toiletry kit with hygiene supplies (shampoo, shower gel, soap in soap dish, toothbrush, toothpaste, shaving gear, small fingernail clippers, deodorant - NO SPRAYS or colognes/perfumes)	
1 Kit Containing	Females may bring moisturizer – NO cosmetics. Feminine hygiene products (all female cadets should bring a small quantity regardless of date of cycle) 1 Comb/brush and Female Hair Care Items: bobby pins, rubber bands to secure long hair.	
1	Pair of shower shoes (flip flops)	
2	White towels (your Division can order these from Sea Cadet Uniform Depot)	



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1	Small tube of high SPF sunscreen. No spray sunscreen.	
1	Large Mesh laundry bag (for major uniform items – blouses & pants) purchase at a dollar store	
1	Small mesh laundry bag (For underwear / socks) purchase at a dollar store	
MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS		
# Required	Item	Packed
1	USNSCC ID Card	
1	Service Record	
1	Flashlight w/ fresh batteries	
3-4	White plastic hangers. One for per uniform (purchase at a dollar store) AIR TRAVELERS-We have extra for you	
1	Canteen, canteen cover and web belt NO CAMELBACKS . Good sources are https://www.armysurplusworld.com/canteen-with-cover-and-belt-set , amazon.com, Walmart.com	
1	Sewing Kit	
7 (Optional)	Stamped pre-addressed envelopes w/paper for letters home	
2	Black ink pens	
1	Contact Lenses: Cadets who wear contact lenses should bring a pair of regular glasses to wear as necessary	
1	Green Sea bag w/name stenciled on the butt.	
BEDDING ITEMS		
# Required	Item	Packed
1	Set twin size WHITE sheets – top, fitted, and pillowcase	
1	Plain dark color twin blanket- navy blue, black, or gray preferred NO sleeping bags or comforters	
1	Pillow	
MAA TRAINING SPECIFIC ITEMS		
# Required	Item	Packed
3	NWU Velcro name tape, Last name only. https://www.vanguardmil.com/collections/usnsc-name-tapes-and-name-plates	
3	NWU Velcro USNSCC tape, https://www.vanguardmil.com/collections/usnsc-name-tapes-and-name-plates	
TACTICAL MEDICAL TRAINING SPECIFIC ITEMS		
# Required	Item	Packed
1 set each	Black tactical knee and elbow pads. A good source is tacticalgear.com.	
1	NWU Velcro name tape, Last name only. https://www.vanguardmil.com/collections/usnsc-name-tapes-and-name-plates	
1 pair	Mechanics Gloves. Tight fitting leather gloves, Harbor Freight, Menards, Lowes. Don't spend more than \$10.	
MVM TRAINING SPECIFIC ITEMS		
# Required	Item	Packed
1 Pair	Steel Toed Boots are preferred for safety. If you do not have steel toed boots you will be issued yellow safety toe caps	
STAFF CADET TRAINING SPECIFIC ITEMS		
# Required	Item	Packed
1	Wristwatch. No Smart Watches.	

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- We recommend that you wear your boots at check-in, that will avoid you having to carry them in your sea bag, saving room. EVERYTHING MUST FIT IN YOUR SEABAG, **NO** other garment or dry-cleaning bags desired. Exception to this is the bedding which may be brought in a bag.
- Ask your home unit how to pack your dress whites in your sea bag correctly. Everything listed can fit in your Seabag if folded correctly. You will carry your sea bag to the barracks, pack wisely.
- **If it's not listed in the table above – you don't need it, so don't bring it.**



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ANNEX B Fort Custer Training Center Directions And Map

GPS address: Fort Custer Training Center, 1201 Denso Road, Battle Creek, MI 49037

Fort Custer is located 4 miles west of downtown Battle Creek. The Main Entrance to the Training Center is Denso Road.

From I-94, take Exit 92 north (Climax Road) to Hill Brady Road (second traffic light). Go west (left) on Denso Road, 1/2 mile, to the Denso Road Gate. Proceed west then northwest, along 26th Street, to the Fort Custer Cantonment Area.

