

103 Thunderbird Squadron

Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron

Adventure, Opportunities, Excellence



Aviation,
Survival,
Leadership,
Citizenship,
First Aid,
Range,
Drill,

Recruit and Parent Information Guide

Squadron Contact Information

Mailing Address:

1513 Forbes Avenue North Vancouver B.C.
V7M 2Y4

Telephone Number:

604-987-8818



- Administration office hours are Wednesday evenings from 19:00hrs to 21:00hrs. If you call outside of these timings, please leave a clear message and we will return your call.
- If a cadet cannot attend a parade night or an activity for which they have signed up, we ask that they phone the squadron telephone number and leave a message stating their rank, name, flight, and reason for absence. The cadet will then be marked as 'excused' rather than 'absent'.

Important Websites:

103 Squadron Website:	www.103air.com
Canadian Cadet Website:	www.cadets.ca
Air Cadet League of Canada:	www.aircadetleague.com
Regional Cadet Support Unit (Pacific):	www.cadets.ca/regions/pac/
Regional Gliding School (Pacific):	www.cadets.net/pac/rgs

Squadron Email:

Contact@103air.com

Mandatory Events

All cadets must attend the following events. If a cadet cannot attend for whatever reason, he/she must submit, in writing, a request for excusal to the unit Commanding Officer.

- Tag Days – Fall
- Tag Days – Spring
- Remembrance Day
- Parade Nights (Call squadron # to be excused)
- Annual Ceremonial Review (ACR)

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AIR CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA
TO LEARN - TO SERVE - TO ADVANCE

Français



Sponsoring Committee of 103 Thunderbird Squadron RCACS

Dear Recruit and/or Parent:

Thank you for your interest in Canada's most popular and successful youth organization! This guide is intended to provide important information to both brand new recruits and parents who have recently joined us, as well as potential recruits and parents who are interested in the Air Cadet Program. Please keep this guide throughout your first year of the program, so that you may refer to it for any questions that you may have. If you can't find the answer here, feel more than welcome to ask a member of the parent sponsoring committee or an officer of the squadron.

103 Thunderbird Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron (RCACS) serves the North Shore as one of British Columbia's best Air Cadet Squadrons. With close to 60 cadets, 8 Canadian Forces officers, and a complete parent Sponsoring Committee, the squadron offers youth aged 12 to 18 an extremely interactive and beneficial training program centered around aviation, leadership, survival training, range, drill and citizenship.

The cadet training year is split up into two parts: local training and summer training. Between the months of September and June, 103 squadron conducts local training on Wednesday nights from 18:30hrs to 21:30hrs at the Squadron's Headquarters. On these parade nights, we teach interactive classroom training that will benefit you for the rest of your life. On certain weekends, cadets can participate in optional practical training activities such as familiarization flying and survival training exercises. This is oftentimes the most fun part of the program!

The second part, summer training, takes place between the months of July and August. During these months, cadets are sent as ambassadors of 103 on various summer training courses that are specific to a certain aspect of the cadet program. This is also the time when cadets have the chance to receive a Glider Pilot's License and/or a Private Pilot's License (free of charge) through summer training courses. If aviation isn't your thing, you can attend other summer training courses based on topics such as Leadership, Survival, Physical Fitness and Instruction where you receive a weekly training allowance (you get paid to go!).

If you are a cadet that has recently joined our squadron, we encourage you to make some friends and talk to your fellow cadets about their experiences within the program. Parents are also encouraged to get involved with fundraising and recruiting activities through the parent sponsoring committee. If you are still thinking about joining and are simply gathering information about the Air Cadet Program, keep in touch with us and let us know of any questions that you may have. Also, please feel free to call to set up an appointment to tour the squadron facilities and see what a training night is really like!

We hope that you'll join us for an exciting year of growth and opportunities!

Regards,

103 Thunderbird Squadron Staff and Sponsoring Committee

Values of the Canadian Cadet Movement (CCM)

Vision of the CCM:

We commit to develop in each and every cadet qualities of leadership and an aspiration to become a valued member of their community. We reinforce values necessary to prepare youth to meet the challenges of tomorrow and to embrace the multicultural dimensions of Canada.

To this end, we offer dynamic training in a supportive and efficient environment where change is a positive and essential element.

We further commit to attain this vision by living shared Canadian values with particular attention to:

- Loyalty – The expression of our dedication to the ideals of the Cadet Movement and to all its members,
- Professionalism – The accomplishment of all tasks with pride and diligence,
- Mutual Respect – The treatment of other with dignity and equality, and
- Integrity – The courage and commitment to exemplify trust, sincerity, and honesty.

Cadet leaders encourage all cadets to incorporate these goals into their daily lives. The Cadet Program has succeeded in producing responsible, active and engaged members of society when cadets embrace these important principles into their lives.

Motto of the CCM:

“To Learn, To Serve, To Advance”

Aims of the Air Cadet Program:

1. To Promote Physical Fitness
2. To stimulate an interest in the air, land, and sea activities of the Canadian Forces
3. To develop in youth the attributes of good citizenship and leadership

The Oath of Loyalty

“I, (Full Name), hereby affirm my loyalty to her majesty the queen, her heirs and successors.”

Did You Know?

The vast majority of glider licenses in Canada are earned through the Air Cadet Program, with a national yearly average of about 75%. In some years, this figure can jump substantially. In 1999, air cadets earned 98% of all glider licenses in Canada, along with 10% of all national power licenses.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

What do I need to join?

You are eligible to join a cadet squadron if you are between the ages of 12 and 19 years of age. You must have reached your 12th birthday before you can be registered for the program. The documents required for enrollment in the Canadian Cadet Movement are:

- Proof of provincial health insurance (BC Care Card)
- Birth Certificate
- Proof of residency status (for non-Canadian citizens)

We also require cadets to have an interest in the program, a sense of dedication and respect, and a willingness to learn.

Why should I join Cadets?

Cadets offers challenges, friendship and adventure! It's an opportunity to expand your own horizons, contribute to your community and make friends for life. Many former Cadets credit their participation in the program with giving them a head-start toward their successful careers. Did you know that astronaut Chris Hadfield, Olympic biathlon gold medalist Myriam Bédard and actor Jim Carrey were all Cadets in their teens?

What do Cadets do?

Cadets are teenagers like you who take part in activities at Cadet Units within their local community. These activities are designed to help you to become more self-confident, to develop your leadership skills, to improve your physical fitness and communication skills, and to teach you self-discipline through challenging training.

What does it cost to join?

The Air Cadet League of Canada - British Columbia Committee, requires the donation of \$200.00 per cadet per year of enrollment to cover provincial costs such as maintenance of the aircraft fleet and other such expenses. This fee is payable by cheque or cash to "103 Thunderbird RCACS" and can be accepted at the time of enrollment.

When does the squadron meet?

103 Thunderbird Squadron conducts its training parades on Wednesday evenings from 18:30hrs to 21:30hrs. Teams such as the drill team, range team, and first aid team will meet during other evenings of the week. Activities such as survival training exercises and flying will be conducted on weekends.

Will Cadet training affect my schoolwork?

Education is very important to Cadets. Cadet training is a hands-on, activity-based program that should complement your school studies. In fact, the BC Provincial school board accepts Cadet subjects and years of service for school credits. As well, there are several scholarships and training bursaries available through Cadets.

Do I have to buy my own uniform?

No. The Canadian Forces loan complete uniforms to Cadets. In return, Cadets are expected to take good care of their uniform by maintaining them weekly.

If I don't pay to join Cadets, then who pays?

The major partners in the Cadet Program are the Department of National Defense and Air Cadet League of Canada (a civilian non-profit corporation). These organizations work together to provide the facilities and material required to operate each Cadet Corps and Squadron.

What will I do at weekly meetings?

Some of the activities you can expect at your unit include ceremonial drill, first aid, sports, and citizenship events that support your community. Many Corps and Squadrons have a music program. Occasional weekend activities include survival training and marksmanship. There will also be plenty of time to have fun and make new friends!

What about summer camps?

For those interested, cadets have the opportunity to apply for training at various summer training centers located across Canada. Courses range from two to eight weeks in duration. Each camp offers a unique mixture of outdoor activities and valuable instruction. Attendance at Cadet Summer Camps is free. The Canadian Forces provide all transportation, meals, lodging and special equipment. Every Cadet attending summer camp receives a training allowance; Cadets in staff positions at camp receive a salary.

What do I do at summer camp?

Courses offered at Air Cadet summer camps include training in leadership, instructional techniques, music, marksmanship, flying, navigation, meteorology, air traffic control, ceremonial drill, physical education, computer skills, survival training, aerospace studies and citizenship. Advanced Cadets can qualify for glider scholarships and powered flight scholarships.

Are there travel opportunities?

Definitely! For summer training, Cadets travel to one of 28 Summer Camps located in different parts of Canada. In addition, selected Cadets go on exchange trips to countries such as the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Bermuda, Japan, Sweden, South Korea, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Scotland, Wales, Italy, Australia, Singapore, Turkey, the United States and Belgium under an international exchange program. Exchange Cadets are selected on their high standards in performance, fitness and involvement in Cadet activities.

Who instructs Cadets?

Cadets learn from members of the Cadet Instructors Cadre; officers who are specially trained to instruct and supervise youth. In some cases, civilian volunteers who possess special skills are called in to assist Cadet Instructors. Both the Cadet Instructors and civilian volunteers have chosen to dedicate their valuable time to helping Cadets reach their potential.

Will I be expected to join the Canadian Forces?

No. Cadets make absolutely no commitments regarding future military service, and are free to leave at any time. However, those who decide to join the Forces later on start out with the advantage of having learned valuable skills through Cadets.

Squadron Overview

Location

103 Thunderbird Squadron is located in North Vancouver, BC. Our headquarters are located north of the LCol J.P. Fell Armoury, at the corner of West 15th Street and Forbes Avenue. It's easiest to go to Lonsdale Ave, turn west onto 16th Ave, and continue west until Forbes Ave, where you will see a red brick building. After you go right onto Forbes, you will see our blue headquarters at the end of the driveway on the left. We are between the Navy League Center and LCol J.P. Fell Armoury. You will see 103 Thunderbird Squadron signs on the building.

Parade Nights

103 Thunderbird parades on Wednesday evenings from 18:30hrs to 21:30 hrs. Cadets are asked to arrive promptly at 18:30hrs for fall-in. Parade nights will typically begin with an opening parade where Flight Commanders will take attendance, inspect uniforms, and practice drill. On the last Wednesday of every month, classes will be replaced by a Commanding Officer's Parade and sports activities. On these nights, cadets will wear their full dress uniform unless otherwise instructed. Typically, the opening parade is followed by two classes, a fifteen minute break where cadets can purchase refreshments at the squadron canteen, a final class, and a closing parade where officers will make announcements and be available for questions. Timings of a parade night are as follows:

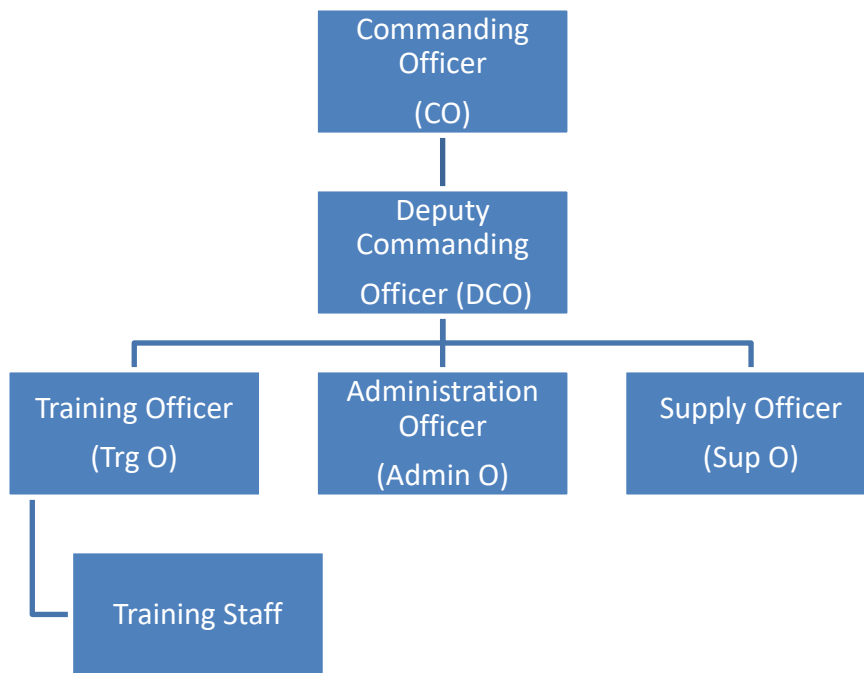
<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
18:30	Fall-in
18:30 – 18:55	Opening Parade
19:00 – 19:30	Period One
19:35 – 20:05	Period Two
20:10 – 20:25	Break (Canteen)
20:30 – 21:05	Period Three
21:05 – 21:30	Closing Parade

Did You Know?

26% of youths polled in a recent nation-wide survey stated that they had considered joining the cadet program. There are currently 55 000 young Canadians enrolled in the Canadian Cadet Movement. Of this, 24 500 cadets (44.5%) belong to the Air Cadet Program in over 448 squadrons across the nation.

Organization Chart

The following flowchart displays the command structure of the officer staff of 103 Thunderbird Squadron. This is a basic chart and is subject to change as deemed necessary by the CO. For the current roster of officers, please visit the squadron website.



Air Cadet Training Program

Proficiency Training Program

Cadets will progress through a proficiency level for every year that they are enrolled in the program. Subject material learned will differ from level to level to prevent the cadet from learning the same thing more than once. The training levels are as follows:

- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Level 4
- Level 5 – On the Job Training

Each level will consist of classroom style theory lectures, practical application, and written examinations. Cadets are required to maintain a standard of knowledge in order to successfully complete a level. In the first level, cadets will learn material contained within the following subjects:

Drill, General Cadet Knowledge, Citizenship, Physical Fitness, Sensible Living, Effective Speaking, Aircraft Identification, Aeronautical facilities, Aircrew Survival, Airframe Structure, Shooting, and many more!

Air Cadet Rank System

103 Thunderbird Squadron Promotion Policy

This promotion policy is promulgated under the authority of the Commanding Officer of 103 Thunderbird Squadron and is to amplify the requirements of CATO 51-02.

Promotions are made at the discretion of the Commanding Officer of 103 Thunderbird Squadron and are based on qualification and merit. Promotions are normally made twice a year: on Commanding Officer's Parade in October and on the Commanding Officer's Parade in April of each training year. The Commanding Officer of 103 Thunderbird Squadron is the sole authority for promotion up to the rank of Flight Sergeant. Promotion to the Warrant Officer ranks will be made upon successful completion of assessments carried out by Pacific Region Cadets and authorized by the Commanding Officer of 103 Thunderbird Squadron.

Promotions are not automatic. Promotions will be based on successful completion of all qualifications, merit, and allowed establishment for each rank. A promotion review board will be convened prior to any promotion of Cadets. Appointments to all command positions must be approved by the Commanding Officer of 103 Thunderbird Squadron prior to those appointments being announced.

The following are the national and local standards for each rank that must be satisfied prior to a promotion:

Air Cadet (AC)

This rank is automatic upon entry into the Air Cadet Program. No qualifications need to be satisfied and no rank is worn on the uniform

Leading Air Cadet (LAC)

National Standard:

Cadet must have actively participated in the proficiency level 1 of the LHQ training program for a period of five months;
(no local standard)



Leading Air Cadet
Cadet de l'Air Première Classe

Corporal (Cpl)

National Standard:

Cadet must have successfully completed Proficiency Level 1 of the LHQ mandatory training program.
(no local standard)



Corporal / Caporal

Flight Corporal (FCpl)

National Standard:

Cadet must have completed at least six months satisfactory service at the substantive rank of Cpl, and have successfully completed proficiency level 2 of the LHQ training program.
(no local standard)



Flight Corporal / Caporal de Section

Sergeant (Sgt)

National Standards:

Cadet must have completed at least six months satisfactory service at the substantive rank of FCpl; successfully complete proficiency level 3 of the LHQ training program; and preferably have successfully completed an Introductory Specialty Summer Course;

Local Standards:

Cadet must have demonstrated, to a level as would be expected from a Sergeant, proficient levels of attendance, dress & deportment, participation, instruction & leadership abilities, attitude & maturity and must have 100% attendance at Tag Days.



Sergeant / Sergent

Flight Sergeant (FSgt)

National Standards:

Cadet must have completed at least six months satisfactory service at the substantive rank of Sergeant; successfully completed proficiency Level 4 of the LHQ mandatory training program; and preferably have successfully completed an Introductory Specialty Summer course.

Local Standards:

Cadet must have demonstrated, to a level as would be expected from a Flight Sergeant, proficient levels of attendance, dress & deportment, participation, instruction & leadership abilities, attitude & maturity and must have 100% attendance at Tag Days.



Flight Sergeant / Sergent de Section

Warrant Officer 2nd Class

National Standards:

Cadet must have completed at least six months satisfactory service at the

substantive rank of Flight Sergeant; and have preferably have successfully completed an Advanced Specialty Summer course.

Local Standards:

Cadet must have demonstrated, to a level as would be expected from a Warrant Officer 2nd Class, proficient levels of attendance, dress & deportment, participation, instruction & leadership abilities, attitude & maturity and must have 100% attendance at Tag Days.

Regional Requirements:

Cadet must successfully complete WO2 merit review board to be administered by the squadron officers.



Warrant Officer Second Class
Adjudant Deuxième Classe

Warrant Officer 1st Class

National Standards:

Cadet must have completed at least six months satisfactory service at the substantive rank of WO2; and have preferably have successfully completed an Advanced Specialty Summer course.

Local Standards:

Cadet must have demonstrated, to a level as would be expected from a Warrant Officer 1st Class, proficient levels of attendance, dress & deportment, participation, instruction & leadership abilities, attitude & maturity and must have 100% attendance at Tag Days.

Regional Requirements:

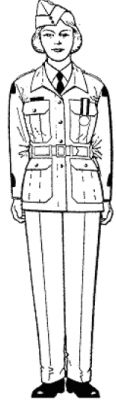

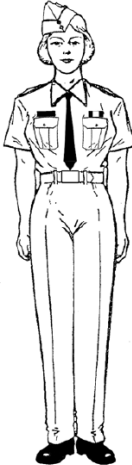

Same as WO2.



Warrant Officer First Class
Adjudant Première Classe

Air Cadet Uniforms

Numbered Orders of Dress

Number	Name	Items	Occasions	Picture
C-1	Ceremonial Dress (Full Dress)	-Wedge, shirt with necktie, tunic with nametag, trousers with belt, boots with wool socks -Medals permitted	-CO's parade -Formal parades -Other activities as directed	
C-2	Routine Training Dress	-Same as C-1 except that medals are replaced with ribbons	-Routine parades -Travel -Other activities as directed	
C-2A	Routine Training Dress	-Same as C-2 but without the jacket -Rank slip-ons, ribbons, and nametags will be worn -Fleeces may be authorized	-Indoor training -Other activities as directed	
C-2B	Routine Training Dress	Same as C-2A but without the necktie	-Usual summer dress -Other activities as directed	

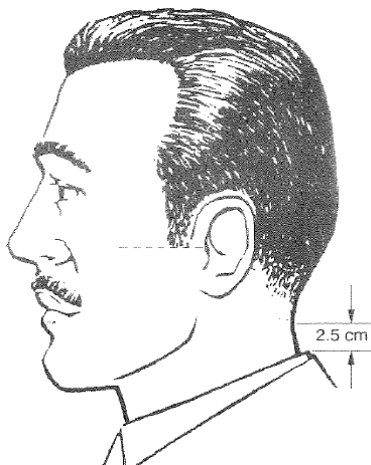
Hair Regulations

CATO 55-04, Air Cadet Dress Instructions, states that hair on the head shall be neatly groomed and conservatively styled. In particular, style and colour shall not be bizarre, exaggerated or unusual appearance. Unusual colours such as green, bright red, orange, purple, etc are not permitted. Hair must be secured or styled back to reveal the face and any accessories used to secure or control hairstyles shall be as unobtrusive as possible. Hair ornaments shall not be worn, except for female cadets' conservative barrettes that blend with the hair colour.

Males:

Hair will be groomed so that when the headdress is removed, it shall not touch the ears, eyebrows or collar. Furthermore:

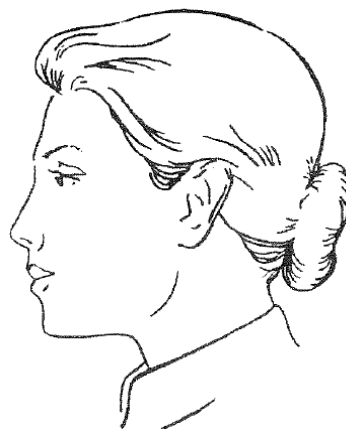
- Sideburns - shall not extend below a line horizontally bisecting the ear,
- Beards - only cadets adherent of the Sikh religion or cadets experiencing recognized medical problems preventing them from shaving may wear the beard.
- Facial Hair – other than beards or regulation moustaches will be removed before wearing the uniform.



Females:

Exaggerated styles, including those with excessive fullness or extreme height, are not authorized. Hair will be gelled back to prevent 'wisps' from touching the ears and collar. Furthermore:

- Makeup - Female cadets are authorized to wear a **minimal** amount of make-up. When wearing uniform, make-up shall be applied conservatively. This precludes the use of false eyelashes, heavy eyeliner, brightly coloured eye shadow or lipstick, coloured nail polish, and excessive facial make-up.



Miscellaneous Dress Regulations

Jewelry - The only jewellery that may be worn in uniform shall be a wristwatch, a medical alert bracelet and a maximum of two rings, which are not of a costume jewellery nature. In addition, female cadets in uniform may wear a single pair of plain gold, silver stud or white pearl earrings in pierced ears. The single stud earring, worn in the centre of each earlobe, shall be spherical in shape and not exceed 0.6 cm in diameter. Male cadets are not authorized to wear an earring or earrings.

Civilian Clothing - shall not be worn with the cadet uniform unless authorized by the Sqn CO in special circumstances (e.g. extreme cold in Northern Region). This includes, but is not limited to civilian jackets and hats.

Squadron Website

The squadron officers and members of the Sponsoring Committee use the squadron's website as the primary communication tool with parents and cadets. We strongly recommend that cadets and parents reference the website a couple times per week. The information that is posted is regularly updated and kept very current. The web address is:

WWW.103AIR.com

103 Thunderbird Squadron

[Home](#)[About Us](#)[Our Sponsors](#)[Join Us](#)[Contact Us](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[Calendar](#)[For Cadets](#)[For Staff](#)[more...](#)

Per Doctrina Vis!



Welcome to 103 Thunderbird Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Cadets.

Feel free to explore this site. You will find most information that you will need in order to join the squadron or just to find out about our activities.

103 Squadron is active from September to June each year. During that time, please visit us at 1513 Forbes Ave in North Vancouver, BC on any Wednesday evening from 6:30pm to 9:30pm.

[Support us!](#)[Donate](#)

Tweets

[Follow](#)

103 Squadron
@103RCACS

25 Oct

Did you know that 103 is still accepting New Cadets? If you know someone who is interested



103

Thunderbird Squadron

R.C.A.C.S

604.987.8818
Contact@103air.com
www.103air.com