



The Citadel Family Association
c/o Admissions Office
The Citadel
171 Moultrie Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29409

Visit The Citadel Family Association on-line at
www.citadelfamilyassociation.com

Questions and answers

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know the ache of leaving a child at college. [But], how do you survive this? What advice can you give me that will help me help our son get through this as easily as possible?

CFA Representative: *It sounds as if you're in the right place in your mind: excited, confused, scared and proud. And you should be. It's perfectly natural. The Citadel is rarefied air: at once full of pomp and circumstance and, at the same time, demanding and tough. It can also be petty, trivial, mundane and sneaky. It's a fine academic organization. Its leadership training is evolving, for the better, and yet, at some levels, sometimes it can behave like a state agency. All in all, it's probably the best real-world training 18-year-olds can get. Cadets are exposed to great leadership, competent leadership and bad leadership. It's important to recognize and learn from all three. They learn to work within a system of rules and regulations that, at first seem cut and dried, but, as they learn the ropes, they see that, as in any system, there are*

nuances and gray areas.

They will make friends who are closer to them than you or I could ever begin to understand. And I can think of no better proving ground.

On Matriculation Day, find a CFA representative (in the blue shirts) and lean on us. That's what we're there for. Take advantage of the Company Representatives. There are at least two per company. These are parents who will field questions



from parents throughout the year. Phone numbers and email addresses are published on page 3 and on the CFA website (www.citadel.edu/cfa). Of course, you won't know your son or daughter's company until Matriculation Day but you will have an opportunity to meet your Company Representatives then.

CFA Officers

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The Citadel Family Association All In The Family



Matriculation Day 2009

Feeling lost? Confused? Don't quite know what's supposed to happen? That's natural

By David White

The mottos of the Boy Scouts and the US Coast Guard are almost the same. Be Prepared and *Semper Paratus* (Always Ready) make a great philosophy for Matriculation Day.

On 15 August you and your soon-to-be-new knob will report to the parking lot at Johnson-Hagood Stadium where, from the comfort of your own vehicle, his or her name will be checked against a master list. You will be given an index card with a letter. This is your knob's company ... as well as home, hearth and family while at The Citadel.

You will then proceed to the appropriate barracks housing your company. There, the



gates of one sallyport (*Citadel-speak: opening in the side of the barracks*) will be open. Park near that opening and unload all of the gear right on the sidewalk. Leave someone with the gear while you move your vehicle to one of the parking areas.

In the meantime, your son or daughter will enter the barracks and begin in-processing. The specifics of this process are some of the many joys and mysteries of discovery your child will experience at The Citadel. Parents are not a part of this process.

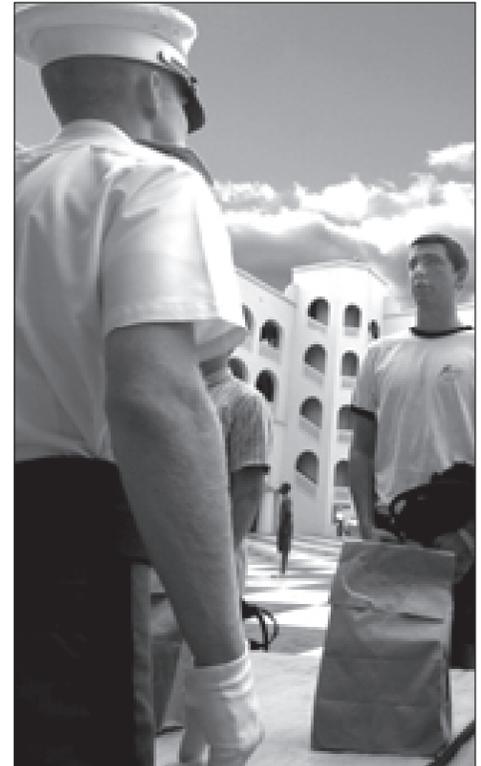
(You may rubberneck from outside, however.)

Once your knob has received his or her room assignment as well as a few issued items, he will return to you on the sidewalk. Then you are welcome to enter the barracks and help him move in.

Take note: your knob's room will be on the Fourth Division (*Citadel-speak: fourth floor*) and there is no elevator available for the able bodied. And certainly no elevator available for moving in gear.

Prepare for hot. Drink lots of water. Wear shorts, hat and sturdy shoes.

Late in the morning, there will be a gather *continued on page 3*



A Citadel Family: Welcome to the Association

By James & Mary Game, Chairman CFA

Spoken like a true mother of a cadet, here-in is an excerpt from "Donna Rose, First Lady of the Citadel," in the Matriculation 2008 issue of *All in the Family*:

"And now, all of you are getting ready to bring your sons and daughter to The Citadel so they, too, can begin the next phase of their young lives. I know it's a time of joy, excitement, a bit of sadness and lots of apprehension.

John and I can't still remember how hard it was to leave Brad. To this day the feeling come back each time we think about it, especially on Matriculation Day, and we know exactly how you feel. I wish I could give each of y'all a big hug and tell you it is going to be okay, but each cadet and each family has to go through this experience in his and her own way."

We know firsthand that what Mrs. Rosa is saying is so true. From your knob's first day, you belong to a support system that is just a phone call/e-mail away to helping you understand the system at The Citadel so that you can support your cadet. Your membership in The Citadel

Family Association is automatic and free.

Our son will be a junior this year and it seems like just yesterday that we dropped him off for sports matriculation in July 2007.

What a day that was on that beautiful July morning at 7 a.m. We shed plenty of tears ourselves that day, but the CFA representatives we met at the drop off point were there those first hours and days. They provided us a shoulder to lean on, an ear to listen and gave sound advice from a parent perspective of someone who had been where we were and had been "in our shoes themselves."

Two years later, as chairman of the CFA, we can honestly say that we took this position for one reason and one reason only: simply to help other knob parents have the positive experience that we had as parents of a cadet on matriculation day.

If you have the opportunity to become involved with the CFA, we encourage you to do so. We invite your ideas, input and involvement. On behalf of the CFA board and the many wonderful volunteers, congratulations

and welcome to the CFA and The Citadel. We look forward to personally meeting you and to getting to know your family in the days, weeks, months and years ahead!

Best Wishes.

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Battalion & Company Representatives

Frequently-Asked-Questions Answered

Athletic Matriculation Day

All In The Family
is sponsored, with our appreciation, by:



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Palmetto Battery	Robert & Peggy Werner '12	burnergolfer@yahoo.com	817-235-5160
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More than one Matriculation Day? Notified athletes to report July 30

Did you know there's more than one Matriculation Day in a school year? While the majority of the class of 2012 will report on Saturday, August 15, there's a group of young adults who will have already experienced the infamous "left behind" feeling by then. Those are athletes scheduled to arrive at The Citadel on Thursday, July 30.

Incoming knobs who have been notified that they are to be a part of Bulldog athletics will begin their Citadel experience early. The latest additions to the women's soccer and volleyball teams along with the new recruits for the Bulldog football squad will have their own Matriculation Day.

Fear not! The Citadel Family Association will be on hand throughout Athletic Ma-

trication, just as on August 15, to answer any questions. The Blue Shirt Brigade will be available to lend a hand and heart to the families of the newest Bulldogs.

So, when the majority of the class of 2012 begins to settle in, some of you will already have your knob look. Welcome aboard!

Parents of athletes reporting early are invited and encouraged to attend the CFA Picnic on at The Joe, August 15. See you there!



Parents' Weekend
24 October 2009
Homecoming
7 November 2009

Citadel Language

- **Brace** — To pull the chin and stomach in and the shoulders back and down.
- **Cadre** — Cadets of the upper three classes who train incoming fourth class cadets.
- **Confinement (a.k.a. Cons)** — Awarded as punishment; confined to quarters for breach of discipline.
- **Fourth Class Cadet** — A first year cadet; also "knob" or "Smack."
- **Mess Fact** — Fourth class cadets may be required to give mess facts at the lunch and evening meals. These mess facts may be any item of "knob Knowledge," the next day's menu or a current event from the day's newspaper.
- **PT** — Physical Training.
- **SMI** — Saturday Morning Inspection. A formal, personal room inspection.
- **TAC** — Tactical Officer. A military officer assigned to oversee all cadet activities at the company/battalion levels.

What you're feeling is natural. Find a CFA rep in a blue shirt. We're here to help you

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ing in McAlister Field House, after which you and your child will have the opportunity for a few final minutes together before they fall into formation and their military training begins.

As of press time, the final schedule was being negotiated. Once finalized, it will be included in packet of material sent to you. It will also be posted on their website, www.citadel.edu/admissions/c/matriculate8.htm.

Through it all, look for the folks in Citadel blue shirts. They are Citadel Family Association (CFA) representatives who will be available to you for answers to your questions, limited assistance with logistics, and a comfortable

shoulder to lean on. The CFA is an organization of parents of cadets. In fact, you, by bringing your son or daughter to The Citadel, are already a member of the CFA.

But since we've been through Matriculation Day (some of us more than once) we know what to expect and know exactly how you're feeling. We're here to help you feel better and smooth the transition from "parent" to "knob parent."

Also plan to come that afternoon to The

Joe, Charleston's baseball stadium on the southern outskirts of The Citadel's campus. The CFA will host a barbecue where you can meet other knob parents from your knob's company (it's now your company, too), each company commander and experienced CFA members.

The bonding experience of the Citadel doesn't just happen to knobs and cadets; it happens to families, too. And it all begins Matriculation Day. Plus there's free barbecue. What could be better?



CFA representatives for every company will be found at every barracks and at a tent set up outside P-T Barracks (2nd Battalion.) We're here to answer your questions and lend a sympathetic ear.

CFA BBQ RSVP

The CFA looks forward to meeting you on Matriculation Day at the CFA barbecue. Meet other parents and your Company Reps. Share your concerns. Ask questions ... and make friends that will last a lifetime. Welcome to the Citadel Family! Look for an RSVP form in the mail later this summer!

Questions from incoming parents & answers from parents and Cadets who have been there

You have heard the stories; are they true? As the parents of an incoming knob you know your son or daughter has been accepted to one of the finest military colleges in the United States. Someone else will tell them what to do, when to do it and how to do it. You can sleep secure ... sort of ... knowing they will be checked in each night, awakened each morning and fed three squares a day. You may feel your work is done at Matriculation Day. But, for both parent and knob, the journey is just beginning.

And you still have questions. The following questions (and answers) have been collected from conversations and correspondence between parents, CFA Representatives and experienced Cadets:

Q: What is the one piece of advice you would give to a knob that would help them succeed?

Cadet: *Keep a good attitude. Do your job. Stay focused on why you wanted to come to The Citadel in the first place. You will need to remind yourself of this from time to time.*

Q: What stands out in your memory about getting your knob ready to report for Matriculation Day?

Parent: *We bought the shoes and boots beforehand so they could be broken in. We encouraged our son to work on his physical training. And we asked him many times: "Are you sure this is what you want to do?" The answer was always, "yes." We reminded him of this later.*

Q: What is the one thing you now know that you wish you had known before your knob reported on Matriculation Day?

Parent: *I think what stands out the most for me is the quickness with which the knobs are whisked*

"As a parent, how do we prepare? ... How do you survive this?"

away from the parents [late Saturday morning]. I was utterly amazed, Cadets hugged Mom and Dad and away they went. I also didn't know that I would not be hearing from my son for a few weeks and if I had known that I would have had that set in my mind.

Q: Ever think about quitting?

Cadet: *Sure, I do not know of anyone who didn't. But I made a commitment to stick it out for one year and as I look back, I am glad my parents were strong as they encouraged (and reminded) me many times, especially the first semester.*

Q: What would you tell a knob who questions, "Did I make the right decision to come to The Citadel?"

Cadet: *My parents told me, "Quitting was not an option!" Remember you are one of several hundred knobs going through the same thing. Others before us have made it and you can, too.*

Q: What advice would you give a parent and a knob?

Parent: *A knob's best*

attitude is invisibility. Be where you're supposed to be when you're supposed to be there, and be prepared. Don't do anything to draw attention to yourself. And, Mom, that includes Matriculation Day. Moist eyes and a few tears are fine. So is a hug ... but the "last hug" should be like a good handshake: not too limp, not too firm or clingy. Out and out blubbering is never a good idea. All that does is saddle a knob with the "momma's boy" label.

Q: From a parent of an incoming knob: "As a parent, how do we prepare? I know how to read the list of what he needs. I know what I need to do about his shoes. I know that it will be muggy ... I continued on page 4"

2009 Citadel Football Schedule

Sept 5 - 6 p.m.	University of North Carolina	Away
Sept 19 - 3 p.m.	Princeton	Away
Sept 26 - 7 p.m.	Presbyterian	Home
Oct 3 - 1 p.m.	Appalachian State	Home
Oct 10 - 1:30 p.m.	Elon	Away
Oct 17 - 1 p.m.	Western Carolina	Home
Oct 24 - 2 p.m.	Furman	Home
Oct 31 - 1 p.m.	Samford	Home
Nov 7 - 2 p.m.	Wofford (Homecoming)	Home
Nov 14 - 2 p.m.	Chattanooga	Away
Nov 21 - TBA	Georgia Southern	Away