

USafa PREP SCHOOL VISITOR INFORMATION

SECURITY PROCEDURES

The Air Force Academy is open to non-DOD ID card holders from 8:00AM to 6:00PM everyday. Non-DOD ID card holders names (compiled from RSVP card) will be sent to the gates for entry out side the 8-6 time frame. The driver should have their state issued license available to show at the gate. The Academy has two gates; the north and south. You may enter either gate but it is preferred you use the south gate. The north gate hours are: Mon-Fri: 6AM-10PM; Weekends: 6AM-1:30AM. The South gate is open 24 hours.

Please be aware that the Force Protection Condition may change at any time based on world events or events closer to home, which may change some of the scheduled events and require additional security precautions for the safety of all our guests.

PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION

PARKING : Parking for the Baccalaureate will be in the Fairchild parking lot just northwest of the Chapel and in the Field House parking lots for the ceremony. **Due to the limited number of parking spaces in front of the field house, it is very important that all guests enter the EAST field house parking lot as shown in the attached maps.** Vehicles must be parked in designated parking spaces east of the field house barriers where the shuttle will be operating.

SHUTTLES : Shuttle services will operate from the Field House east parking areas Tues., 16 May, from 0900-1000 and again from 1100-1230 (handicapped shuttles will be available).

GRADUATION WEEK WEATHER

Due to our location on the Front Range of the Rockies and our high elevation, weather at the Academy can be highly unpredictable and change rapidly. It can be sunny and warm one day and rainy, foggy and cold the next day. The daytime high temperature is usually in the 70's, and the evening low is usually in the 40's at this time of year. In the past, some Academy graduations were held in very cold, wet weather, and that could happen this year. We recommend you have sunscreen, clear, unopened water bottles and hats for good weather and rain coats/hats for bad weather.

HIGH ALTITUDE HEALTH CONCERNS

The Air Force Academy cadet area is at approximately 7,300 feet above sea level. At this altitude, it is possible to contract an illness known as acute mountain or high-altitude sickness. The common symptoms of this disorder include headache, malaise, nausea, vomiting and shortness of breath. Most cases of acute mountain sickness are mild but the altitude may exacerbate other existing medical conditions. High altitude sickness usually resolves within a few days once an individual has had a chance to acclimatize to the increased elevation. The best way to avoid illness is to allow yourself to acclimatize. Do not over-exert yourself in the first days after your arrival and make sure to drink sufficient fluids to avoid dehydration. Do not go sight seeing at higher elevations (i.e., up in the mountains) until after you have been in Colorado Springs for a few days. Alcohol consumption may worsen these symptoms, so make sure to drink in moderation.

BASE EXCHANGE AND COMMISSARY

Non-military family members and guests of cadets may use the Base Exchange and Commissary during Graduation Week only when accompanied by a cadet candidate or military member. You will find a large variety of retail stores just outside the South Gate for your shopping needs.

HANDICAPPED ASSISTANCE

Disabled guests should bring or rent any walkers, wheelchairs, breathing support or other special-needs equipment they require. They should also bring their state-issued "Handicapped" placard or other documentation in order to park in designated handicapped lots.

LODGING IN THE LOCAL AREA

There are numerous motels and hotels in the Colorado Springs area; however, the Pikes Peak Region is a nationally known resort area, and May is the beginning of a busy tourist season. For lodging information, you may contact any of the below listed organizations:

1. Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1-800-368-4748, <http://www.experiencecoloradosprings.com>.
2. USAFA Information, Tickets & Tours Center, (719) 333-3241, <http://www.usafa.af.mil/10abw/10msg/svk/itt/itt.cfm?catname=10abw>.
3. Colorado R&R, toll-free (877) 517-3381 or (719) 333-7367, <http://www.coloradorandr.com>.
4. Rampart Lodge, USAFA's military lodging facility, (719) 333-4910, <http://www.usafa.af.mil/10abw/10msg/svk/lodging/lodgebro1.cfm?catname=10abw>.