

Thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedules to provide a “home away from home” for our Forth Class (freshman) cadets. These cadets are referred to as KNOBS. For those of you who are from outside of The Citadel family, the term knob was coined to refer to the new cadets and their haircuts that closely resemble a doorknob.

For those of you who are new to our program, we have provided below the answers to frequently asked questions.

What does sponsoring a knob require of a sponsor family?

We would like to see you invite your knob(s) over to your home several times a month and contact him/her by phone, e-mail or postal service. Some sponsors go all out and have their knobs over two or three times a weekend but we discourage providing a place for them to go for all their free time. They do need to spend some time bonding with their class/company mates. What most knobs want while at your home, is just a place to relax, have a nice stress free meal (not necessarily home cooked), and someone to listen/talk to them.

In addition to opening your home for the knob occasionally during the month, you may also be the link between knob and parent. Many parents endure an anxious first semester and you can provide them with first hand knowledge as to how their child is getting along. Some parents will want that weekly update on their cadet’s well-being.

How do I get in touch with my cadet (knob)?

Each cadet is required to have a cell phone but use during cadre will be restricted. You may leave a message but don’t expect a reply until cadre is over. Another way is through e-mail. All cadets will have access to computers and should check their messages frequently. You are also able to contact them through regular mail. Each cadet has a mailbox assigned before he /she arrives on campus. Please be patient if your knobs do not respond to your messages right away. During those first two weeks, their time is so regimented that they may be unable to get back to you. If you continue to have trouble contacting them after the first week of classes, please call our office for assistance.

When are knobs allowed to come to my home?

Their free time is dependent on several things. Ordinarily, general leave starts on Friday afternoon after parade but knobs may end up staying with the company for two additional hours (for spirit runs, sweep details, etc.). On Saturday, all knobs may be released no later than two hours after SMI (Saturday Morning Inspection). If there is no SMI they will be free to leave after military training and/or other commitments. During the fall, knobs will be free to leave after home football games. On Sundays through Parents’ Day, knobs will be free after chapel services; after Parents’ Day Weekend (October 9-11) knobs are free at approximately 8:00 AM. On Friday and Saturday nights, general leave ends at midnight. On Sunday knobs must be back in the barracks for evening formation (6:00 PM through Parents’ Day and 7:50 PM afterwards) and sometimes earlier depending on individual companies. For those cadets that are Roman Catholic, they may need to return to campus early in order to attend chapel services at 7:00 pm. Learn your knobs’ requirements so that they can get back to the campus on time to meet all their needs. All general leave will be restricted if your knob is not militarily proficient and any overnight or weekend leave they earn second semester will be restricted if they are not academically, militarily, and physically proficient.

What are knobs allowed to wear at my home?

Most knobs have no civilian clothes with them. They should bring PTs with them if they want to be a little more comfortable. It wouldn’t hurt for you to remind them to bring their PTs. Some knobs leave civilian clothes at their sponsor’s home sent by parents, but under no circumstance should these clothes be worn away from your home or taken back to school.

Can a knob spend the night or a weekend at my home?

Usually not. During 1st semester, no knob, with the exception of members of some athletic squads, is allowed overnights. During 2nd semester, as mentioned above, those knobs that are academically, militarily, and physically proficient are allowed one overnight and one weekend during the semester. They may ask to stay at your home at this time. If your knob achieves Gold Stars and/or Dean’s List for academic excellence, he/she will receive an additional overnight.

What is expected if upper-class cadets are also in your home?

Your home should be a safe haven for knobs. They should not be expected to brace, square corners, etc. On the other hand, knobs should, however, show respect for the upper-class cadets, follow uniform rules while on leave, etc. Interaction between knobs and upper-class cadets will probably be limited. You should not have to change your daily routine at home in order to accommodate one or the other.

May I send “care packages” to my knob?

This is your choice, but be careful not to draw attention to your cadet with frequent, large packages. Sending small packages of food/goodies back to the barracks with your knob might be the best way, but check with your knob. He/she knows what is expected of him/her within the company. If you want to do something special for your knobs’ birthdays, we’ll be happy to help you. Please call Mrs. Shelton Milner at 953-4875.

What should I do if I hear that my knob is having a problem?

If you hear that your knob is having problems with the 4th class system or academics, contact the Battalion or Company TACs (supervisory adults within the barracks) or our office if you are unable to reach the TACs. We will then direct you to other company officers as necessary and hopefully the problem can be resolved.

What should I do if I have a problem with my knob?

If you have a problem with your knob, please call this office and speak with one of the staff.

What do I do if I find out my knob is withdrawing from school?

Please notify our office. Occasionally, sponsor families will know before Citadel staff does. If we are notified by the Commandant’s Department that a knob is withdrawing, we will contact you as soon as possible. It takes two days normally for the withdrawal process and we must wait until its conclusion. If it is early in the academic year, we may ask you to take another knob in his/her place.

TIPS for sponsors:

- We highly recommend you take at least 2-4 knobs. This prevents them from being isolated from company mates and gives them the opportunity to discuss events/persons/company issues with each other when away from the campus. It helps you as they will entertain themselves, and it also helps us to provide homes for more knobs.
- Families who have neighbors or other family members also sponsoring cadets, found that they were able to do things together or to spell each other occasionally. So talk it up with others and let Cadet Activities know if everyone wants cadets from the same company.
- When you set a time with your knobs, arrive promptly, especially if you are picking them up in front of their barracks. A better meeting place is Mark Clark Hall, Daniel Library, Summerall Chapel or just off campus. Please make sure you get them back to campus on time. They have to deal with cadre when they are late returning. Please also be attentive to needs of some cadets to attend certain religious services and the times for those services.
- It is recommended that sponsors establish house rules. Knobs need to know what is expected of them and what they may not be able to do while at your home.
- Knobs should use their own cell phones when making personal calls while at your house.
- The campus does have a laundry and encourages the use of it. If knobs ask to do laundry at your house, you might question why they aren't using the laundry.
- Don't make everything totally convenient for them. They need to learn to depend on themselves and/or their company/classmates.
- Knobs are not allowed to keep cars on campus. They are not restricted from driving but cannot drive within one mile of the campus.
- Do not allow underage drinking in your home.
- Do not allow civilian clothes to be worn away from your home.

Key Dates:

First Leave for Knobs	August 26 (after SMI)
Parents' Weekend	October 6-8
Homecoming Weekend	October 27-29
Corps Day Weekend	March 23-25
Thanksgiving Furlough	November 17 – 26
Christmas Furlough	December 13 (or after last exam) – January 7
Spring Furlough	March 9-16 (after last class)
Recognition Day	March 24
Graduation	May 5
Summer Furlough	May 5 (after last duty)

Key Personnel:

Cadet Activities

Mrs. Shelton Milner, Co-Director
milners@citadel.edu 953-4875

Mrs. Ruthie Ward, Co-Director
wardr1@citadel.edu 953-5111

Tactical Officers

1st Battalion – Law Barracks
Lt Col Joel Fortenberry 953-0506

2nd Battalion – Padgett-Thomas Barracks
LTC Keith Brace 953-2101

3rd Battalion – Murray Barracks
LtCol Charles Graham 953-5245

4th Battalion – Watts Barracks
LTC Ken Boes 953-1722

5th Battalion – Stevens Barracks
LTC Jeff Pantan 953-5365

Commandant

CAPT Eugene Paluso 953-3020

Assistant Commandants

LTC Pamela Barton 953-6928

for *Operations & Training*

LTC Kevin Dougherty 953-6336

for *Leadership*

Lt Col Robert Sberna 953-6931

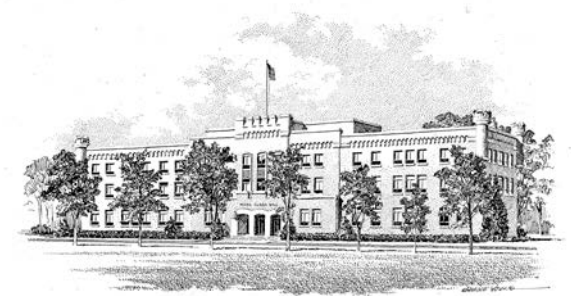
for *Discipline*

The Citadel

Fourth Class

Sponsor Program

General Guidelines



Prepared by
The Citadel's
Department of Cadet Activities

2017-2018

