

Nationals Drill Camp

★ ★ Classroom-Style Sessions ★ ★ All Cadets Will Take These Instructional Sessions

Building a Drill Team – The Skeleton, The Flesh & The Blood

Building a Drill Team is like starting a huge company. Every detail in managing the personnel, equipment, travel, practices and competition scheduling will be broken down in detail. Learn how the finest programs in the country manage multiple teams throughout their entire school year. Class will cover creating your team and how it will compete and discussions on building team identity.

How Do You Get to The Nationals – Practice, Practice, Practice

An in depth look into the different styles of drill team practice and structure and how the time you spend practicing is the ultimate factor in determining your competitive outcome.

Drill Meet Prep: Preparing for Battle

Breakdown all of the intangibles in preparing your drill team for a drill meet. Cadets will discuss different events and what demands they have in preparation.

The Secrets of Being a Great Commander

A classroom session that will focus not only on the character traits of being a great commander but also on development of each cadet's command voice.

Recruitment & Retention

Creative suggestions for recruiting members for your JROTC program and drill team. And even more importantly, how to keep those members on your team for years to come!

Team Dynamics – Save the Drama for Your Mama!

To see how the personality dynamics of your team can literally make or break your success throughout the year. Platoons will act out typical scenarios that happen in drill teams and cadets will discuss ways to make team problems better and how to avoid the ways that make them worse! The most fun class at Camp!

Inside the Judge's Mind

Enter the mind of Justin Gates, Judging Director for Sports Network International for this classroom experience. Having trained judges at over 100 different drill competitions during his 20+ year career and having reviewed tens of thousands of score sheets, learn what makes judges from each service different and what they often like (and mostly, what they don't like), from local meets, regional meets, and of course, the Nationals. You must know your judges to know how to maximize scores at any drill competition you attend.

Rifle Safety & Maintenance

All armed cadets will be led through the basic steps of rifle cleaning and maintenance along with the finer tips for repairing and preparing your rifles for competition.

Inspection – Enter the Zone

To experience the layout and exact format that inspection is conducted at the Nationals. Platoons will work on formations & entry/exit procedures for Inspection. The exact dimensions of the Nationals Inspection Room will be marked out for each platoon on the gym floor. Platoons will learn the variety of different formats that can be utilized to enter & exit as well as work on report in/report out and positioning the team within the room.

Pitons of Leadership

A drill team is only as good as its leadership. Mastery of specific skills necessary to motivate and lead a drill team will be explored in detail never before presented. Cadets will not only refine their leadership abilities, but will use them in real-world leadership situations.

Inspection – Under the Microscope

Preparing for a Nationals' Inspection is challenging for even the best teams in the country. This class will breakdown the mechanics in preparing your team to stand a drill Inspection, from uniform preparation, practical study skills for inspection questions, mastery of bearing, entry/exit procedures and more importantly, the dozens of intangible items that are often omitted by JROTC programs.

Armed Exhibition – The Art of Drill

An evolving class that is always the #1 favorite of every cadet that attends the Nationals Drill Camp. This class will open every cadet's eyes to the unlimited potential for creating art within Exhibition Drill.

Armed Exhibition – Setting the Standard for Safety

Review of an important accident case in Hawaii over 20 years ago that gave an opportunity to see drill teams through the eyes of lawyers and individuals who had no idea of the purpose of drill activities and how to keep your cadets safe. Many of the safety guidelines and explanations are direct results of the impact of that case.

★ ★ Break Out Sessions ★ ★

Inspection Practice Secondary

Work with Nationals instructors to further your preparation for this vital competition element. Work on perfecting your bearing and overall responses so that you can ace a high-pressure inspection.

Team Building

An open forum session that will discuss how to get your team to “buy in” to your philosophy and want to be as successful as you do! Cadets can discuss their specific situations and find working solutions to improve their program.

Color Guard – In Depth

Sessions will go over the proper way to case and uncase the flag and all of the steps involved along with pointers on what judges are looking for.

Regulation – In Depth

Regulation contains the building blocks of drill. Learn how to perfect your unit’s performance in Regulation and how to maximize your score in competition by learning the large and small errors that almost every team makes.

Exhibition – Beginning and Advanced

Although Exhibition drill is only limited by the driller’s imagination, creating and perfecting routines can be tricky. These sessions will help you to develop the skills you need to be the best team and individual exhibition driller possible.

Command Voice

A cadet commander needs to impart power and control simply by using his/her voice. This session will help you understand how to project your voice clearly and loudly.

Cadet Commander – Advanced Skills

This session will give pointers to cadet commanders (or cadet commander hopefuls) that will help them better command their cadets. It isn’t always just about control, you have to deal with the emotions and drama that come with dealing with teenagers. Learn how to navigate the role of cadet commander.

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INSTRUCTOR CLASSES

Instructors attending the Nationals Drill Camp will experience a separate schedule and coursework from the cadets who are taking the camp. There will be moments where both groups will intersect for the purpose of in depth instruction but our goal is to guide all instructors taking this camp on a step-by-step journey from the day one basics of creating a drill team all the way to fine-tuned details of managing a competitive drill team through an entire season. The following list is a snapshot of the types of classes we will be covering throughout the entire camp. A detailed schedule will be emailed prior to the start of camp along with a syllabus provided upon arrival.

Recruitment & Retention

Maintaining a competitive drill team can be an excellent resource for recruiting cadets into your program. Instructors will explore additional avenues for boosting the numbers of quality cadets in your program. Keeping your program thriving by retaining the best cadets will also be explored along with insight into different types of JROTC programs and how their extracurricular teams work throughout the school year.

Equipment Maintenance

Discussion about how to manage your uniforms, including alterations and maintenance. In depth talks about rifle maintenance will be conducted with hands-on demonstrations.

Building a Championship Team from the Ground Up

Taught by some of the world's finest JROTC instructors, this course will provide the basic building blocks for how a Junior ROTC can be structured, managed and ultimately led to achieve the finest possible competitive outcome.

Cadet Training

Hands-on classes in stationary & marching movements, preparing for Inspection phase of competition, teaching Color Guard basics & advanced movements, and Exhibition broken down to the beginning moves, advanced maneuvers and multiple approaches to designing a routine.

Teaching Males vs. Females & Teenage Psychology

Working with teenagers is a field of study unto itself, but in this class, instructors will learn from experience JROTC leaders that have mastered the skills of working with this age group. Additionally, instructors will break down many of the differences that are encountered when training both male and female teams. How to navigate cutting edge issues such as transgendered cadets.

Parent Booster Clubs

Working with parents is a potential bonanza or nightmare. Instructors will discover insights into establishing and maintaining a parent booster club and working with them to help your program grow. Instructors will also learn many different ways in which your parents can be integral to the success of your program.

Fundraising & Trip Organization

The best drill teams in the country and are also the most successful at fundraising and organizing their trips to multiple drill meets. The vast array of financial options will be discussed along with the inside track on managing the physical organization necessary to attend Nationals.

Setting the Standard for Safety

Taught by one of the greatest exhibition drill masters in the world, this course will guide instructors through the steps of preparing their team for competition while protecting their cadets from attempting maneuvers that are too dangerous for their skill level. All the while protecting yourself from potential litigation.

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Practical Sessions

All Cadets Will Take These Hands-On Practice Sessions

Inspection: Basics & Bearing

A hands-on opportunity to practice the basics of Unit Inspection. Covering basic items involved with all aspects of Unit Inspections as they relate to drill competitions. Bearing, swagger and other essentials will be stressed. This block will provide an overview of general inspection procedures, both from a platoon/element aspect as well as from a personal cadet aspect. Covering all of the basics to ensure you and your unit will be well prepared in any inspection situation.

Inspection: Pressure Makes Diamonds

Going beyond the basics of Unit Inspection, this class will cover the finer points of a well done inspection. Cadets will prep for and stand Inspection at least once. This is one of the most popular sessions at camp!

Regulation Drill: Foundations

A hands-on chance to practice the basics of Regulation Drill. Covering basic items that cross over service affiliation, cadets will learn and display the correct procedures in all aspects of Regulation Drill as they relate to drill competitions. General regulation procedures, from a platoon/flight aspect will be displayed and critiqued. All of the basics will be covered to ensure you and your unit will be well prepared in any regulation situation.

Regulation Drill: Honing the Edge

Going beyond the basics of Regulation Drill display, this class will cover the finer points of any well executed Regulation Drill performance. Nationally recognized, knowledgeable instructors will provide many of their experiences and knowledge points to yield a vast practical knowledge of all regulation matters. Basic marching sequences in standard drill area sizes will be displayed in this practical learning block.

Regulation Drill: Sharpening the Point

All cadets will have a final required course in marching to display the subtle differences between skill and mastery of marching, as well as discuss some of the more controversial approaches championship teams choose to use when fine-tuning their style.

Unarmed Regulation Drill: Marching Techniques

Cadets in Unarmed Platoons will have this additional session of marching practice with more one-on-one help in correcting the small mistakes that can cost you in competition.

Color Guard: Station Work

A hands-on opportunity to work on the basic maneuvers involved in Color Guard Drill. All cadets will be broken into different groupings of four cadets each and move through four stations to focus on different aspects of Color Guard. Marching/Wheel Movements, Case/Uncase (basic), Rifle Movements, Flag Handling. Stressing an adherence to regulation, by-the-book maneuvers as called for within all service manuals, cadets will display a working knowledge of these regulations as they relate to drill competitions.

Armed Exhibition: Hawaiian Power Drill

Cadets will experience the unique background and hands-on training that comes from the Hawaiian drill style. Taught by Paul Naki, this class is one of the most popular classes at Camp!

Armed Exhibition: Precision in Motion

Cadets will learn some of the classic approaches to Armed Team Exhibition and better understand exhibition marching & rifle handling and what wins in competition.

Armed Exhibition: Solo Artistry

This class will walk cadets through the different approaches to drill that are most popular in Hawaii and how to stand out as a solo artist.

Armed Exhibition: Solo Like a Champion

Cadets will experience what it's like to compete and be a judge, with a drill down comparison that will show off cadet abilities and also learn what to look for from the outside.

Unarmed Exhibition: Exploring Style & Substance

This course will involve the free-style world of exhibition drill. No limits to the creativity that will be unleashed in this area, this unit of instruction will be geared toward cadets that are looking to expand an already dynamic knowledge and proficiency in exhibition drill.

Unarmed Exhibition: Outside the Box

Exploring the various concepts of unarmed exhibition and how many different ways there are to drill in this creative event. Cadets will try out many of these styles to find what appeals to them the most.

Unarmed Exhibition: Mastering the Moves

A final course to take a style and make it shine through training and perfection. Whatever style you choose, getting it perfect is the key!