

## Recognition Day and Corps Day Weekend – March 22-24, 2024

The end of the 4th Class System for the Freshmen is near! When they return from Spring Break, they will be in the final days of being a knob. Here is what parents and families can expect:

- The week prior the freshmen will have PT in the mornings and classroom sessions with their leadership where they will reflect on what they have accomplished/learned since reporting in August. If the opportunity arises over Spring Break, you may want to ask that question as well.
- Recognition Day is Friday, March 22nd. At 3:40PM the Freshmen will march to their assigned fields to begin the physical aspect of their recognition process affectionately called “The Gauntlet”. Around 4:45PM they will form up for a “Victory Lap” around campus then head into the barracks for the last phase of the process.
- Once the recognition portion of the day is complete (*around 1730*) they will get cleaned up and be given General Leave until midnight. As you have learned over the past eight months, they will want to go get something to eat. Be aware they will be tired and sore, but full of energy and pride knowing what they have accomplished.
- This is also Corps Day weekend which is the birthday of the Corps of Cadets. Saturday morning will be very similar to what you saw on Parents’ Day. Here are the events:
  - 0830-1000: Open Barracks
  - 0900-0910: Rifle Legion Performance – Parade Field
  - 0915-0945: 2023 Summerall Guards Rifle Exchange and presentation of the 2024 Summerall Guards on the Parade Field
  - 1030-1130: Corps Day Parade – Parade Field
- Saturday also includes two Recognition Events:
  - The Recognition Lunch 1200-1300 – this is a special lunch where the freshmen will eat with someone who has meant a great deal to them over the past 8 months.
  - The March to Marion Square for the oath renewal ceremony– formation is at 1400 and the march begins at 1415.
- ❖ Note, there will not be a lot of time to spend with your cadet after the parade and when they will be required to form up for the March downtown. When you make your plan for that day, you may want to tell them you will see them when you pick them up after they return from Marion Square.
- General Leave: Freshmen may depart on General Leave on Saturday as soon as they return from Marion Square and remain out until 0100 Sunday Morning. On Sunday, they may leave as early as 0530 and remain out until 1950.
- On Friday, The Citadel Family Association (CFA) will hold their Spring Membership Meeting in Buyer Auditorium in Mark Clark Hall at 1130AM. All parents are welcome to

attend this business meeting. The Board will also be handing out free waters outside Chick-fil-A and selling the remaining Recognition Day and Graduation coins on Friday outside Buyer Auditorium from 1030-1130 then outside under the CFA tent from 1300-1600. Just look for the CFA Tent in front of Chick-fil-A.

## **Recommendations and FAQs**

### *1. Are Parents and Families allowed to watch the Gauntlet activities?*

Yes! We recommend being at the field where your cadet will be assigned by 1530. You will find some parents come extra early to get good seats. We do ask that you respect the spectator boundaries (*ropes and fences*) that will be in place.

### **2. Where will my cadet be for the Gauntlet? (Updated 3/21/2024)**

**1st and 2nd Battalions will be on Wilson Field (the football practice field behind Jenkins Hall) and 3rd, 4th, and 5th Battalions will be on Summerall Field**

### *3. What should I expect at the Gauntlet?*

The Gauntlet is a set of stations with different physical tasks the freshmen must do as a company unit. They will rotate from one station to another. Many families walk around the field staying outside the lines as they shift from station to station. Others like to stay at one location and enjoy the day. The freshmen's arms and legs will be very sore at the end of the day.

### *4. What happens if it rains?*

Weather is an issue that may impact the day's events. At some point the Commandant will make a "go-no-go" decision based on the weather conditions. Like the freshmen, he wants them to be recognized. The preference for everyone is to have it go as scheduled above.

- If it just *rains*, then the exercise will go as scheduled – the cadets will probably enjoy that!
- If there is *thunder and lightning*, they will head back to the barracks and wait for an "all-clear" before resuming the activities. This might eat into their General Leave time, but I think they will happily give that up to get through recognition.
- If the weather report calls for a high percentage chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon, he does have the option of pulling it forward to the morning timeframe before classes.
- If the weather report calls for high heat and humidity that may create a "danger to training" heat condition in the afternoon, and he may elect to shift the Gauntlet to the morning hours.

If he has to change the schedule to Friday morning, we probably won't know that until much closer to the 24th, possibly not until late Thursday evening. If so, we will try and get the information out the best we can on the Portal and Facebook pages.

5. *What happens after the “Victory Run”?*

The Victory Run ends inside the battalions. **This time is for cadets only – only cadets and staff are allowed in the barracks.** There will be more pushups, but everyone will be waiting to hear the Regimental Commander’s announcement that the “*4th Class System is no longer in effect!*” You will know when that happens because you will hear a lot of cheering! At that point the upper-class will shake hands with and congratulate the “former” knobs.

6. *When should we arrive on Friday?*

Assuming the events go as scheduled, you will want to be situated in the area you plan to watch the Gauntlet by 1530. Remember traffic in Charleston can be heavy on Friday afternoons, so make sure you plan accordingly (*see the parking question below*). When the day’s events are over and they are released for the evening, you may want to contact them by text or in person to see how they feel about going out. There is a possibility they will tell you they are too tired. The night before make sure they know you will be waiting to hear from them when the recognition ceremony is complete.

7. *What should I wear?*

Wear something comfortable on both days. There will be a lot of walking. Don’t forget a hat and sunscreen if it is sunny. Come hydrated and stay hydrated! On Friday, the CFA will be in front of Chick-fil-A handing out free waters and selling the remaining Recognition and Graduation Coins from 1300-1600, so stop by and say hello!

8. *What will parking be like on Friday and Saturday?*

As you know from previous visits on big weekends, traffic can be tough. On both days, Public Safety will be out directing traffic to designated parking areas. They will also add additional handicap spaces down the Avenue of Remembrance and the parking areas across from Jenkins Hall.

Best advice is to beat the stress by coming early, following Public Safety’s directions and enjoy being on campus. You do not want to arrive just before the events start – you may find yourself sitting in traffic while your cadet is at the Gauntlet. Same on Saturday, if you want to watch the Rifle Legion, Summerall Guards or visit your cadet’s room, come early.

9. *Is there a parade on Friday?*

No, there is only the Corps Day parade that weekend at 1030 Saturday morning.

10. *What path will the cadets take when they march to Marion Square?*

They will exit campus via Lesesne Gate, proceed up Moultrie Street then take a right on to King Street which will take them down to Marion Square.

11. *When should we go down to Marion Square?*

This is something to speak to your cadet about the night before. On Saturday after the parade, your cadet will eat in Coward Hall as part of the Recognition events, then have an hour before

forming up for the march. You may want to head downtown after the parade for lunch then be on hand to watch them arrive around 1500. If you are daring and mobile enough, you may want to catch a view of them coming down King Street then head to Marion Square for the ceremony. It is an impressive sight.

#### *What happens at Marion Square?*

Once the freshmen and next year's leadership take their places on Marion Square, two events will take place:

- a. *The Key Exchange* – this ceremony reenacts the time when the cadets took over the armory buildings on Marion Square (*now the Embassy Suites*) by exchanging the keys with the [Washington Light Infantry \(WLI\)](#).
- b. *Oath Renewal Ceremony* – the freshmen cadets will renew the oath they took on the Monday after Matriculation Day.

After a pass-in-review, they will march back to The Citadel and be released to go on General Leave.

#### *12. Where can we eat on campus during the weekend?*

- On Friday Chick-fil-A (0700-1900), Starbucks (0700-2100) and Brewed Awakenings (*located in the Library – 0730-1700*) will operate under their normal hours.
- On Saturday, Chick-fil-A and Starbucks will open at 7AM and remain open until 1900 and 2100, respectively. Brewed Awakenings will open with the Library at 9AM and closes at 1700.
- Stop by the CFA tent outside the Chick-fil-A and get a free bottle of water Friday from 1300- 1600.