

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Introduction of Cadet Candidates and Families
- West Point Parents Club Overview
- 50 Year Affiliation Class Speaker – USMA 1975
- West Point Association of Graduates
- Ice Cream Social will be June 12 (Tentative)
- What We Learned and Wished We Knew Beforehand!
- Questions & Answers

# Introductions

1. Introduce yourself
2. Cadet and Class
3. Town you live in



# West Point Parents Club of North Texas (WPPCNTX)

## **Mission:**

- 1. To provide information** to parents, guardians, and families of Cadets of the United States Military Academy.
- 2. To provide a welcoming and supportive venue** for camaraderie among families and friends of West Point cadets.
- 3. To promote a favorable attitude** toward West Point and its goals and purposes in the North Texas community.
- 4. To support the recruiting** of prospective candidates for West Point.

# How We Accomplish Our Mission

## Club Meetings



## Fun Events that support our Mission



## Fundraising & Merchandising



## For Your Information



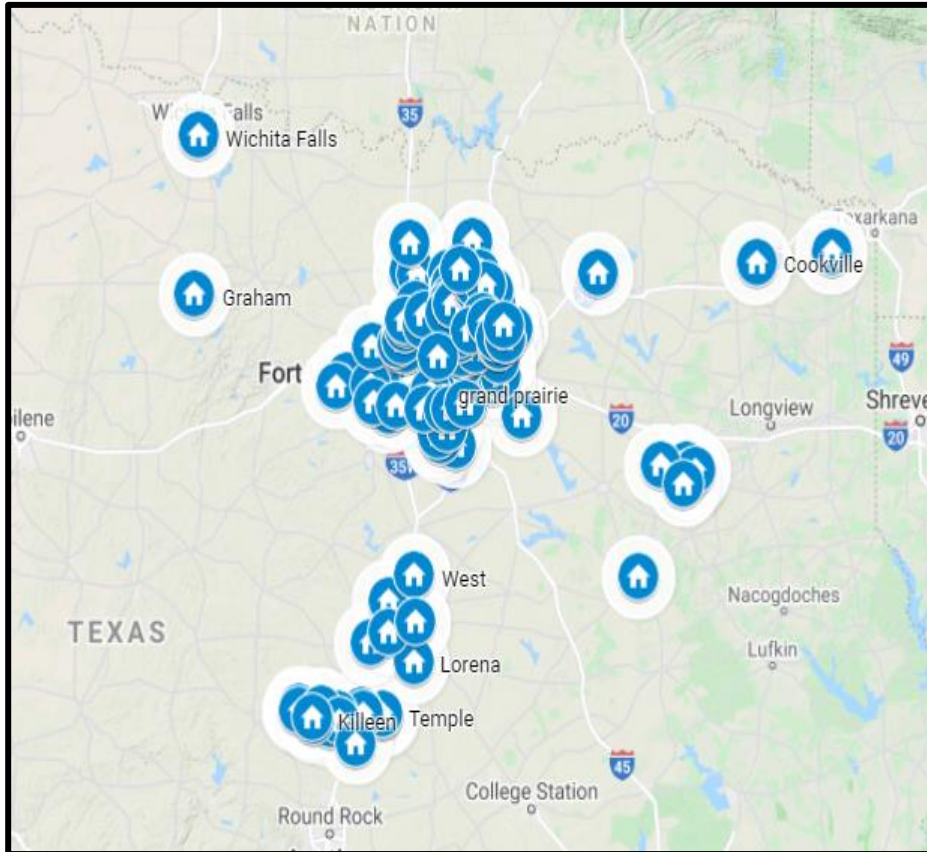
**Liaison**



West Point, WPAOG, West Point Society of North Texas, other Parent Clubs & Military friendly orgs

**WPPCNTX**  
**Nonprofit Corporation**

# About the West Point Parents Club of North Texas



503(c)(3)  
nonprofit  
organization

All donations are  
tax deductible!

We hold a variety  
of events  
throughout the  
year!

Run by a volunteer board  
of directors who also have  
cadets at the Academy  
right now

We received the **Pershing  
Lifetime Giving Society  
Award** for our continuous  
donations to the  
West Point Association of  
Graduates (WPAOG)  
and the West Point Cadets.

**We support more than 300 parents  
across North & Central Texas!**

# 2021 Board Members

The Club's Fiscal Year starts on March 1 and ends on Feb 28

## **Voting Board Members:**

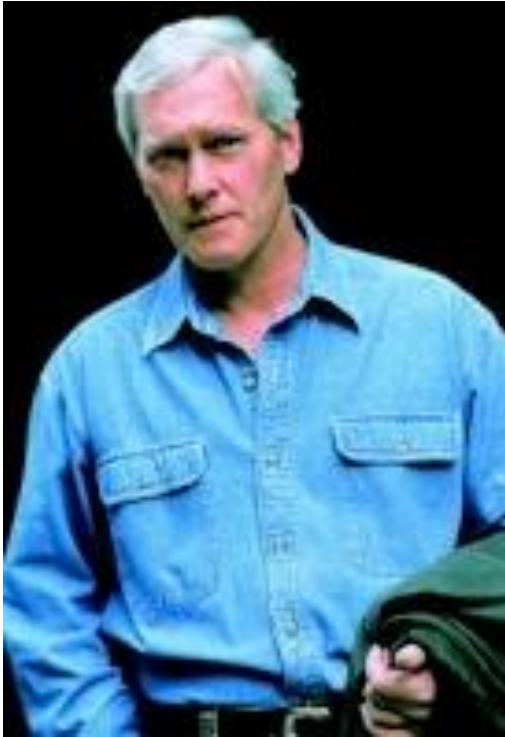
1. President – Rich Russo '93 and 2024
2. Secretary – Alysia Stanton 2022
3. Treasurer – Mark Reynolds 2024
4. VP Membership – Glenda Kass 2023
5. VP Fundraising & Merchandising – Michele Windsor 2023 & 2025
6. VP Events – Erik Emblem 2023
7. VP Communications – Shawn Callaway 2024

## **At Large Board Members (non-voting):**

- We are recruiting for these positions now. If you are Class of 2025, it is a great time to get involved! See Rich Russo.

## **West Point Society of North Texas Connections:**

- WP Society of N. TX Parent Liaison – Charles Mitchell '78 and 2021
- WP Society of N. TX VP Recruiting – George Salerno '88



Brian Haig USMA 1975

# Guest Speaker 50 Year Affiliation Class USMA 1975



# Association of Graduates

- The title “Association of Graduates”, makes it natural for parents to think that money sent to the AOG is just for grads. However, the **largest part of AOG’s mission is to support the Academy and cadets**. Eventually your cadet will graduate and see the other part of AOG’s mission.
- As a federal entity, West Point cannot raise money on its own. It relies on the AOG for approximately 15% of the funding for the cadet experience including:
  - Academics
  - Admissions
  - Athletics
  - The Corps of Cadets
  - The Superintendent Initiatives
  - The West Point Garrison (the post)

Click here to learn more about specific programs that AOG raises money for to specifically impacts cadets.

[Academy Funding Needs](#)

Example AOG supported events:

- [Reception Day](#)
- [March Back](#)
- [Class Crest Unveiling](#)
- [Yearling Flag Ceremony](#)
- [Cow Affirmation](#)
- [Ring Weekend](#)
- [Branch Night](#)
- [Graduation 2LT Bars](#)



# WPAOG Donations to West Point in 2020

Money came from 25,804 donors (19,433 Grads)

**\$44.7 million total cash received in 2020:**

**Where it is going:**

Academics: \$11.3M

Athletics \$10.2M

Superintendents Fund: \$6.3M

Cadet Activities & Commandant's Program: \$4.5M

Facilities: \$5.7M

TBD: \$2.7M

Long Gray Line & WPAOG: \$4M

**Where it came from:**

New Pledges: \$21.3M

New Annual, Class and Giving Pledges: \$15M

New Planned Gifts: \$6.3M

Three class gifts: \$2.5M

Thank-you video from the AOG:

<https://vimeo.com/513123969>

# Ice Cream Social

Will be in June (June 12th) and will include:

- A chance to meet Board Members
- West Point Society – President, Bob Rogers
- 50 Year Affiliation Class of 1975
- Opportunity for Cadet Candidates to meet Current Cadets
- Last minute updates on schedule
- Final questions before R-Day

# *What we have learned and wish we knew before hand!*



# Preparation

- Break in boots ... ruck / run
- Break in low Quarters ... house
- Better socks, insoles and underwear
- Wear black socks and low Qtrs
- The list & the bag – large Ziploc bags
- Baby wipes and gold bond powder
- Cell phone other stuff
- Be in shape ... push ups, pull ups, running



# **Bank Accounts**

- Scholarships
- USMA Treasurers Account
- USAA or bank of choice
- Pentagon Federal Credit Union

# Thoughts on Saying Goodbye

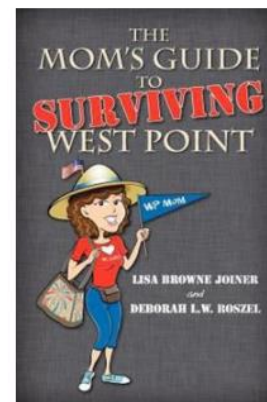
At home

vs.

At West Point

Talk with your cadet and decide which option is best for them. Some kids want to get the emotions over with privately. Others want their family to be with them to the last second.

[10 Things I Wish I Had  
Known My First Year as a  
West Point Parent - R-Day](#)



# Saying Goodbye at West Point



Parents had 60 seconds to say goodbye to their new cadets during a quick briefing Monday at Eisenhower Hall. By the end of the day, the new cadets paraded in front of their loved ones and took the oath of office.



New cadets come through Thayer Hall after receiving clothing and other items like duffel bags Monday during Reception Day, or R-Day, a day most cadets remember for a lifetime.

- Pros:

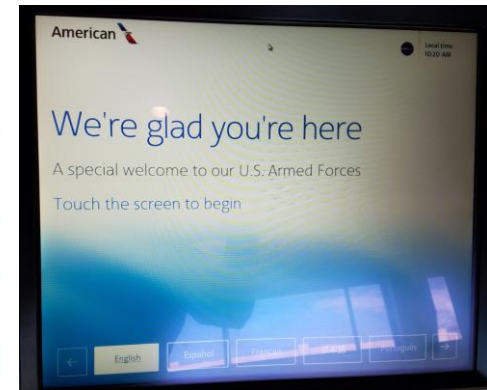
- West Point is a beautiful place, and you can tour the grounds and scout the surrounding towns for future visits
- R-Day has many activities that day including the “goodbye” briefing, and the opportunity to see the R-Day parade in the afternoon. For more info see the R-Day experience described in the West Point Mom’s book
- You’ll get to buy some great swag at the gift shops and pop-up tables
- You *may* get a glimpse of your cadet as they are issued equipment, learn to march and make their way to their new cadet company area

- Cons:

- Can be expensive for large families
- Expect to be up early – cadets report in groups starting as early as 6am
- The 60 (or 90 second) goodbye happens very fast. You will likely not be able to pick out your cadet at the parade.
- West Point is not visitor friendly – limited parking, long walks, can be very hot, the long day can be tough on little kids
- You may get emotional during the good-bye. Can your cadet handle that just before they head out for a very stressful 1<sup>st</sup> day?
- You may have to have the uncomfortable conversation about bringing along, and possibly paying for, a boyfriend / girl-friend to attend



# Saying Goodbye At home



## • Pros:

- More people can be involved - you can make it into a special event with family & friends
- West Point will bus the cadets in from the airport – no stress about missing their report time!
- Cadet can get their emotions under control, so they start R-Day ready
- Cost-effective for larger families, especially since you will see very little of your cadet the first day and may not be able to spot them at the parade
- A lot less hassle when trying to beat the crowds and the lack of parking at West Point
- Listen to what West Point publishes for your R-Day. The class of 2024 parents could only drop the kids off and did not get the “typical” R-Day experience described in the West Point Mom’s book. With COVID we need to be flexible.
- Your cadet will be re-imbursed for a hotel stay and plane ticket

## • Cons:

- You may feel like you are “missing” the West Point experience
- You may wonder how your kid will make it to West Point by themselves

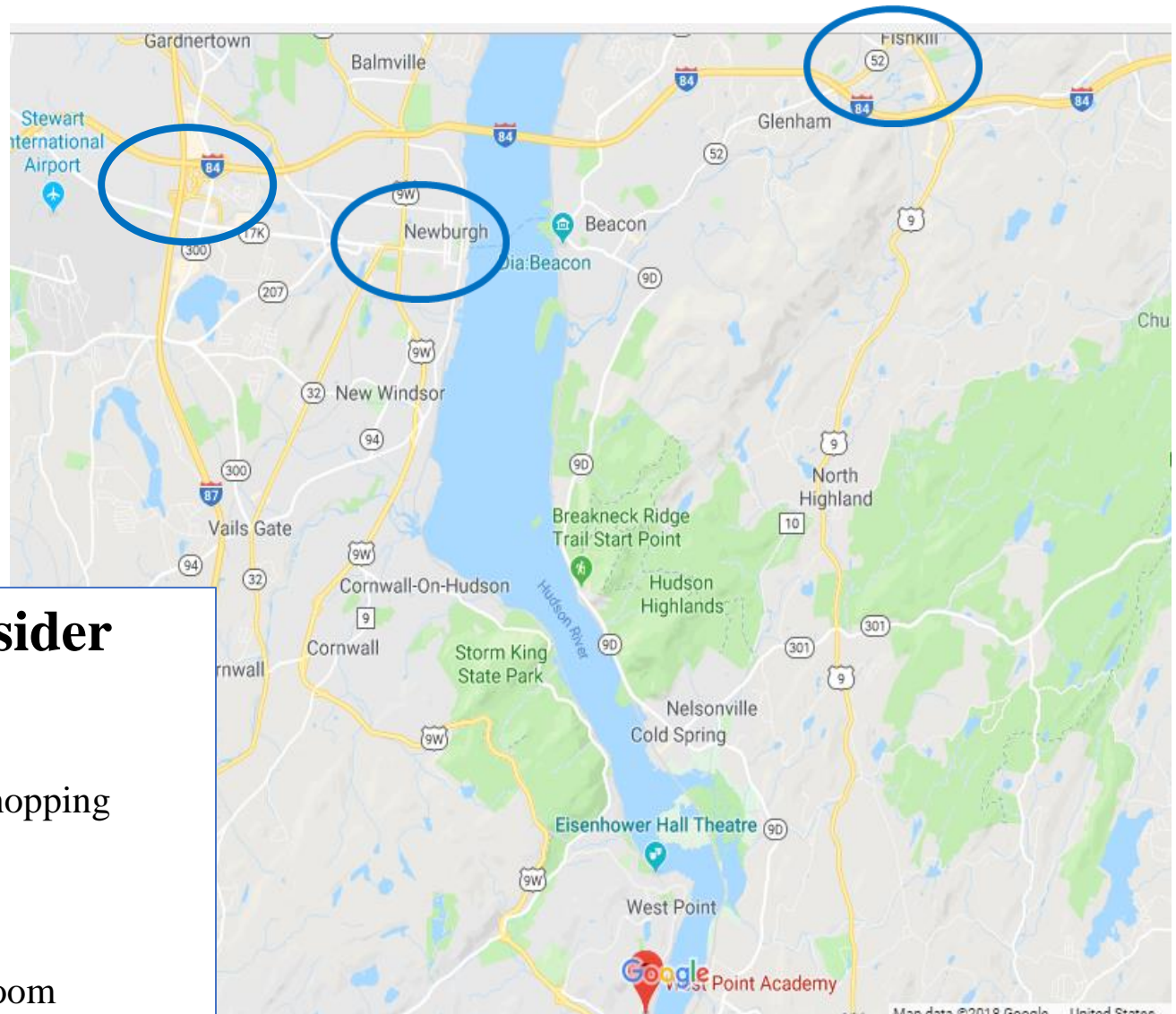


# Getting there

- Newark (Easy Drive)
- Laguardia (less expensive - under construction – bus transfers)
- JFK (have to go thru NYC)
- Stewart (Hudson Valley)
- Bus Service
- Uber



# Where to Stay



## Things to consider

- Close to USMA
- Close to restaurants / shopping
- Single room
- Suite with private bedroom

# Where to Stay

- Book hotel first
- Thayer is awesome (and awesomely expensive)
- West Point – Highland Falls – Ft Montgomery – Stoney point
- Trip Advisor!
- Nanuet (40 minutes south)
- Peekskill (over the river)
- North? Newburgh, Fishkill, etc.

# Where to Stay - OK

- Holiday Inn Express (Ft Montgomery 845-446-4277)
- Bear Mountain Inn – in beautiful state park
- Hampton inn Nanuet
- Bear Mountain Bridge motel
- IHG Army Hotel 5 Star Inn – just outside Thayer gate
- Hyatt House Fishkill – bedroom suite / kitchenette, across street from Walmart
- B&B?

# Where to Stay - NOT SO MUCH

- FAIR bridge inn (Highland Falls)
- Cadet Motel (Cornwall)
- West Point Motel (Highland Falls)
- Budget Motor Inn (Stoney Point)
- Ramada Inn (Fishkill)



# 2025 Reception Day June 26-28

Note: USMAPS R-Day is currently scheduled for July 12

- Reception Day (R- Day)
- DOD pass
- Time is staggered (Notified)
- Arrive early
- Swag & tickets
- Parade & Oath
- Post office box #



Eisenhower Hall



# Beast

- New candidate XXX reports ...
- 1st day is Worst/Best
- Where's Waldo?
- Facebook pages
- Deb Dalton
- Phone calls – answer unrecognized numbers
- Buckner ... March Back



# Tips for Staying in Touch

- West Point will communicate information on your cadet's assigned mailbox number. New Cadets will be issued keys in the first 2 weeks. No packages, email or personal phones are allowed during Beast.
- Notes from friends – give out post cards
- Website / Blog to keep family informed
- Toy soldier Army men
- Send your new cadet with a list of phone numbers, email addresses, and addresses of family members.
- Sandboxx.us can make letter writing easier

## HOW SANDBOXX WORKS

### Send Support With Sandboxx

Write your message on any device up to 6,000 characters, add a photo, and hit send - we'll take care of the rest.

### We Print & Ship Your Letter

Your letter is then printed, sealed, and sorted by our team of military experts at Sandboxx Headquarters in Arlington, Va.

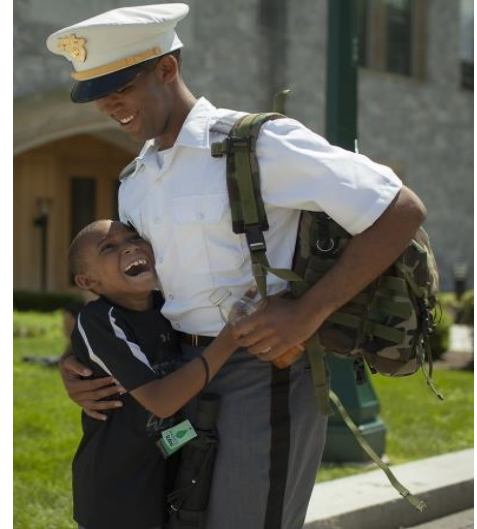
### Track Your Letter To Base

Letters are shipped overnight to every basic training base in the U.S. with tracking, so you know exactly when your letter arrives.



# Acceptance Day

- Acceptance Day
- Arrive Friday morning
- Parade on Saturday morning
- Gabe's A day lunch (Aug14) at Ike Hall for Texas Families ... announced
- Take Cadets from Gabe's reception (Cadets must sleep in barracks)
- Expect Cadet to want to sleep and eat – it's normal



# Parent's Weekend

- October 23-24
- Scheduled Events
- Army v Wake Forest
- Take your Cadet out (can use a pass)



# Where to Eat



- Highland Falls ... same ol same ol (can get crowded)
- South of West Point: Nanuet/Nyack
  - The '76 house Tappan
- North of West Point: Cornwall/Newburgh/Fishkill
  - Schlesinger's steakhouse
  - Redline Diner in Fishkill (fast / good / wide selection)

# Important Dates

Your best source of information is on our club Events page; however, please be flexible – West Point has not released any official schedules for the 2021-2022 academic year

- Army / Air Force Game Nov 6 at Globe Life Field in Arlington
- Army/Navy Game Dec 11 at MetLife Stadium in NJ
- Lone Star Military Ball 12/26 in DFW area
- Plebe Parent Weekend – March 2022

# Plebe Parent Weekend March TBD

- Friday-Sunday before Spring Break
- Reserve hotel as soon as dates are released
- Scheduled events
- Parade
- “Formal” Dinner/Dance in Mess Hall
- Class Crest revealed
- Leave Sunday morning



# Questions???

