



## What does leadership, character, and service mean to you?

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Leadership, character, and service are the guiding fundamentals that have shaped my journey as a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet. I have come to understand the profound impact these values have on my personal development.

Leadership goes beyond holding a position of authority. It is about inspiring and motivating others to achieve their best while fostering unity and collaboration within a team. I have been privileged to hold various leadership roles in my unit. As the Operations Squadron Commander, I interact with everyone in the program. These interactions have given me opportunities to care for and motivate each cadet, no matter their background or circumstances. I have interacted with cadets who have blatant disrespect for those around them and with cadets who are outgoing and friendly. Taking the time to build individual relationships with cadets allows me opportunities to inspire them. The best teacher is my example, attitude, and the way I treat others. At the Cadet Leadership Course over the summer, if I expected others to fulfill their duties, I needed to be the first one up, organized, and ready to help and instruct. Specifically with meal prep and clean up. If I was not willing to put in the work, then others were not going to be. There are also cadets who need a helping hand to find a family in the Corp. One such cadet is a Junior, and it is his first year in the Corp. He did not

have many friends and was looking for a place to belong. I encouraged him to join the Drill Team, offered him rides to service activities and sat with him during events. His growing confidence in being accepted has helped him reach out to other Corp members. Caring for your people is what builds a true leader. When others know you care for them, they are more receptive to motivation.

Character is the ethical compass that guides our actions reflecting our integrity, honesty, and resilience in the face of challenges. As a JROTC cadet, I recognize the importance of upholding high moral standards and demonstrating integrity in all aspects of my life. Color guards have been a notable example of this in my experience with the Corp. Participating in color guards for the community, where precision, discipline, and respect are paramount, has reinforced the significance of character in representing my unit and honoring our nation's flag. To prepare to represent the nation I must maintain integrity even when I am alone. By committing my lifestyle to perform this duty, I strive to embody the values and character of the nation and JROTC.

Service, the act of selflessly giving back to others and the community, lies at the heart of the JROTC program. Through service, we not only strengthen bonds within our unit but also make a positive

impact on the world around us. As Operations Commander, it has been a privilege to help organize over 2,400 hours of community service events for our Corp so far this year. Whether it's boxing food for charities, picking up trash, or performing color guards at football games, every act of service reaffirms our dedication to serving others and making a difference in the lives of those in need or honoring those that sacrificed for us. For me, service is a privilege and a responsibility, a chance to contribute to something greater than myself and leave a legacy of compassion and generosity. Several services that left a strong impact on me were placing wreaths at the graves of fallen soldiers and providing labor for a home being built for a disabled vet. I felt gratitude and it was a great honor to serve those who sacrificed for our country. I made the personal goal of attending as many service events as possible. Through these

service opportunities, I have come to love and respect my community and its people for their support in one another.

Leadership, character, and service are the cornerstones of my identity as a JROTC cadet. Through experiences interacting with cadets and serving the community, I have learned valuable lessons about teamwork, integrity, and the power of selfless service. These principles will continue to guide me not only during my time in JROTC but also in all my future endeavors as a responsible citizen and leader in my community.

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*2024 BBB Ethical Cadet Scholarship Recipient*



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