



## What are 3 things you have learned as a cadet in your JROTC program and why are they important?

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“Wow,” was my thought watching my brother-in-law in such a neat and coordinated formation. He is now a marine and someone who has aspired to pursue a career in the military, but how will I do this when I am just in 4th grade? As time went on, I developed a passion for serving in the military. I walked into high school open-minded but so unsure of where to start. I added JROTC to my schedule two months into school with worries if I made the correct decision that would lead me to the path, I hoped to be in. I was soon a LET 1 with no knowledge of JROTC. As time went on, I discovered it was the best decision of my life, this choice has given me the skills to put me on a path to success.

Of the many things I have learned while in JROTC, the three that stand out for me are leadership, teamwork, and the importance of personal values. I feel that being proficient and dedicated to these will lead to a higher probability of success toward my goals resulting in a more fulfilling life.

Throughout my life, I have witnessed many examples of what I would consider both good and bad leadership. Most young people are not given many formal leadership opportunities. Army JROTC is rare in that it exposes the students to not only the fundamentals of leadership but also allows them to put them into action. I feel that having this experience is crucial to ensure that I am prepared

for the leadership positions that I am striving for later in life. Without leadership, where will the direction come from? Effective leaders facilitate, motivate, communicate, inspire, and build a strong, efficient environment. JROTC has taught me that without effective leadership, collaborative goals become exceedingly difficult to reach.

Over the past few years, I have come to realize and appreciate the importance and value of effective teamwork. On the first day of JROTC the students, including me, were put into squads. This is, essentially, the team. We were immediately introduced to the importance of teamwork and this theory has been reinforced with us continually. After my introduction to the importance of teamwork, I made a conscious effort to watch the team and learn through experience. Some of the events I participated in were St Mary Food Bank, Flag for Veterans, Laveen Tree Planting, etc. One of the most impactful events was St Mary Food Bank which was during my freshman year for a service-learning project. Through effective teamwork, 12 of us were able to pack more than 1500 boxes of food for families in need. It was immediately obvious that this would not have been possible without efficient and effective teamwork. As they say, “Teamwork makes the dream work.”

Values have become a major facet of my life. Everyone has values within but, it was not until

I was given an assignment in JROTC to write my personal values out that I was able to recognize how important they are. After writing them down, I reviewed them. It seemed as though a spotlight lit them up to become paramount in my life. I now recognize situations and consciously ask myself if my actions align with my values. While this is important, I have also learned to try and identify the values of others. This is especially true while in a leadership position. The ability to understand who I am working with and what motivates them will help lead to greater harmony and more success for the team.

Last summer, through JROTC, I was selected to attend the American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy. There, I was able to see and put into practice Leadership, teamwork, and personal values at the same time. I was elected as the guide of the Class of 2022 because of my conscience efforts in these areas. I was honest with my class, and

I respected them from the beginning. JROTC has also allowed me to attend the Arizona Youth Leadership Conference where I learned more about my country, the importance of duty, and speaking up. Through the academy and the various leadership positions I have held in JROTC, I have been able to put it all together leading to my selection to attend Girls State this summer. JROTC has given me these opportunities and has made me a better citizen primed for future success.

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*2024 BBB Ethical Cadet Scholarship Recipient*



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