

## What is Acceptance Day?

Acceptance Day is the day your Basic Cadet is “accepted” into the Cadet Wing and receives his or her shoulderboards as a Cadet Fourth Class (C4C). This is also the **first day your Cadet may receive a package from home after Basic Cadet Training (BCT)**! Some parents choose to travel to Colorado Springs for this event, but most cannot. It’s more important that you send an **Acceptance Box** to arrive at USAFA by that date. Mark the box “HOLD FOR ACCEPTANCE DAY,” and send at least one week ahead of time.

### Acceptance Box Content Suggestions:

Pack or include within the box a clear plastic shoebox-type container with a lid.

**For sons:** Six boxers/briefs (if briefs, put in two pair of boxer-briefs for parades and ceremonies), six V-neck tee shirts. The cadets will want to burn all their assigned underwear after Jack’s Valley.

**For daughters:** Six bras, two sports bras, six comfortable panties and 2 “grandma” panties. Ditto on burning whatever they wore at Jack’s Valley.

You can take your son or daughter shopping for underwear/clothing items before they leave for USAFA, but keep in mind that they’ll probably lose weight and tone up during the rigorous six weeks of BCT.

**For all:** Stationery supplies (note cards and stamps), phone cards, a small photo album with some of their favorite pictures, and their favorite homemade or store-bought treats.

Other suggestions (pick and choose what **your** child might like, as cadets have **very limited** storage space):

**Medical kit** (in a zippered pouch or small container): bandages, sore throat and cough lozenges, medicated ointment, pain reliever and fever reducing meds, icy hot, hand sanitizers, thermometer, and related items.

**Toiletries:** Their favorite deodorant, aftershave, or perfume, plus Chapstick (even if they've never used it, because it's so dry in COS), individual packages of travel Kleenex, and sunscreen. An electric shaver allows them to multi-task with the shaver-free hand. Intercollegiate athletes may need an additional set of toiletries for their gym lockers.

**School supplies:** Stapler, scissors, tape, favorite types of pens and pencils, college-ruled paper, ruler, metallic pushpins for bulletin board. Some cadets may need a scientific calculator.

**Baked goods and/or healthy snacks:** Tuna pouches, bulk nut and dried fruit mixes, gum (lots!), beef jerky, protein and breakfast bars, home-baked chocolate chip cookies, brownies, Pringles chips, individual packages of peanut-butter and crackers, individual packages of Oreo cookies, fruit roll-ups or gushers, goldfish, M&Ms. Don’t be surprised if your child is less interested in “sweets” than before.

**Utensils:** A set of silverware, small rectangular Rubbermaid or Tupperware containers, small sturdy plastic bowls with lids, Ziploc bags.

**Alarm clock:** No radios – against the rules. Cheap watch if they didn't take one to BCT.

**Clothing care items:** Lint roller, Shout wipes (disposable towelettes with stain remover), Tide pen. Cadets use these to keep their uniforms clean between washes. Iron and ironing board are not issued items, but roommates usually purchase these during BCT and share the expense.

**Sewing supplies:** Set of needles; blue, white and black thread.

**Small tool set:** Screwdriver, duct tape.

**Disposable camera:** If you're interested in pics, enclose a return mailing envelope with adequate postage and **maybe** they'll take photos of their roommates/friends/room, etc., and mail the camera back to you to develop. Some parents send digital cameras, but taking a digital camera to Parent's Weekend is more practical.

**Fun/personal items:** Small novelty toys, such as squirt guns, Nerf balls, toy soldiers, or something that will remind them of home during their "alone" time.

According to one parent of a basic cadet, "Planning, shopping, and organizing items to put in our basic's Acceptance Box gave me a focus and a goal during 'our' BCT summer. Working on it and the daily card/letters kept me busy and out of trouble! You've got plenty of time to work on the Acceptance Box so there's no hurry, but it did help me feel closer to my cadet."

Those who choose to join the Family Network ("Famnet") will see many additional postings on Acceptance Boxes. As with all suggestions for USAFA cadets, what works for one family might not work for another. You know what works for you and your cadet. Your new C4C will be thrilled with anything he or she finds in the Acceptance Box!

**Note: If you want to send an extra package for Acceptance Day to a cadet who doesn't receive one, mail to: Any C4C; Post Office Box XXXX; USAF Academy, CO 80841. The mail service will make sure it goes to a cadet who did not receive a package.** According to parents who have attended Acceptance Day, it's heartbreaking to see the face of a new C4C who doesn't receive a package.