

USAF Academy and Colorado Springs Travel information and SO MUCH MORE!

This document offers a recompilation of parents' recommendations and suggestions about just anything you or your cadets could need. ENJOY and keep them coming!

Textbook Websites

In the past the cadet's have been very ingenious in their ways of buying and selling textbooks for school.

www.Half.com

www.Amazon.com

www.Cheapesttextbooks.com

www.Abebooks.com

www.Campusbooks.com

www.Bestbuybooks.com

Web Links

(Links you may want to bookmark for future use)

United States Air Force Academy	http://www.usafa.af.mil/index.cfm?catname=AFA%20Homepage
USAFA Cadet Services	http://www.usafaservices.com/
AOG Association of Graduates & WebGuy	http://www.usafa.org/
Colorado Springs Gazette:	http://www.gazette.com/
Cadet Radio Station KAFA on the Web "awesome"	http://www.usafa.org/KAFA.aspx
USAFA weekly newspaper click on Academy Spirit:	http://www.csmng.com/
Live Interstate 25 traffic cams:	http://www.koaa.com/wxfn/cams/cs_traffic.asp
Amber Cam:	http://www.americawest.com/ambercam.html
KVOR Radio for live webcasts of football and basketball:	http://www.kvor.com/
Colorado Springs Travel Guide	www.ExperienceColoradoSprings.com
Accu Weather forecast for USAFA:	http://www.accuweather.com/forecast-5day.asp?partner=accuweather&traveler=0&zipChg=1&zipcode=80841&metric=0

Rocky Mountain USO-Denver International Airport (<http://rmuso.org/>)

Many Colorado cadet parents volunteer at the USO, as do a host of retired Air Force folks. Everyone at the USO appreciates your support and generosity.

P.O. Box 492093, Denver International Airport, Denver, CO 80249

Phone: 303-342-6876 - Hedy Margolis, Director - E-mail: hmargolis@uso.org (mailto:hmargolis@uso.org)

Email suggestions to:
usafarichter@cfl.rr.com

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STADIUM - FOOTBALL GAME – CHAIRS

I highly suggest renting a \$5 seat as soon as you get there. It gives you a back rest, your "designated space" and are more comfortable than the hard bleachers. Keep in mind this is the same stadium where you will see your beautiful cadet graduate in a few years!!

Remember to be prepared for all 4 seasons in the same day! A disposable raincoat, a wide-brim hat, Factor 50 sunscreen, chopstick, binoculars to search for your cadet and remember to keep drinking water!!!! Just layer so you can add or remove articles of clothes as needed. Labor Day can be exhaustingly HOT, so a long-sleeve white collared button-up shirt can protect you. Look for a nice straw hat for your handsome husband as well and keep re-applying sunscreen on the tops of his ears!! So many folks received bad sunburns on game day and you don't want to be miserable for the rest of your stay in COS!

Ground Transportation

(To and from Colorado Springs-Denver and more)

USAFA Cadet Services - Reservations can be made by calling the **Vandenberg Hall office (719) 333-4602** or by the cadets in person. Parents can pay for the buses by phone using a credit card. www.usafaservices.com

USO Locations Directory <http://www.uso.org/> The USO is a congressionally chartered, non-profit organization established in 1941. USO mission - Promote morale, welfare and recreation-type services to service members and their families.

Colorado Springs Shuttle - www.coloradoshuttle.com – Phone: **1-877-587-3456 - 719-687-3456**.

Travels to/from COS to DEN (Shuttle drops off at Academy Hotel). Office hours 5:30am to 8:30pm / 7 days week. \$50.00 one way and offer a discount for 2 or more people and military

Allendac Limousine (Lawrence) – Phone: **719-393-0013**.

Takes credit card over phone and drives cadets to airport. Can pick up cadets at Arnold Hall and take them to COS or DEN airports. See cost options below.

USAFA to COS = \$45 plus tip (can have multiple riders –3– that split that cost).

USAFA to DEN = \$150 plus tip in the sedan (3 riders split cost plus tip ~ \$50/piece plus tip).

USAFA to DEN = \$240 plus tip in the SUV (5-6 riders split cost plus tip ~ \$48 plus tip if 5 riders).

FREX Front Range Express - <http://www.rtd-denver.com/>

Front Range Express is a commuter shuttle back & forth between Colorado Springs and Denver. **NOTE MON –FRI ONLY!!!** Catch it at the Woodman Station, about 1.5 mi. from the South Gate. It goes from Colorado Springs to Denver and back again, with stops in between. FREX costs \$6.00 to ride from Denver to COS. There is an extra bus that can get you from DIA to the FREX stop in Denver to get to COS. There are two stops in COS and from the Tejon stop; you can get a free shuttle into the downtown area.

<http://www.frontrangeexpress.com/> - <http://www.rtd-denver.com/skyRide/index.html>

Colorado Mountain Express - Phone: **800-925-6363** - <http://www.ridecme.com/>

A Ride in Luxury – Phone: **719-243-3365**

Getting to or Parking at Denver Int'l Airport

For Cadets Driving to Denver, Needing Parking:

SkyRide - passengers can park free at 18 park-n-Rides throughout the metro area, then bus into the airport for a small fee.

For long trips, park free at the Airport Blvd. & 40th Ave. park-n-Ride or the Stapleton Transfer Center. (there is a closer transfer station, but it is not covered) <http://www.rtd-denver.com/skyRide/index.html>

Hotels w/shuttles & parking - If your cadet has an early morning flight, there are hotels that offer free airport shuttles and free parking of their vehicle while they are gone. <http://www.parksleepfly.com/reservation/search.php>

Airport Parking – The options of the ol' standby. Great article in Denver Post detailing each option...refer back to email containing this newsletter. <http://www.flydenver.com/park/index.asp>

Area Accommodations

(Colorado Springs and surrounding areas)

Search all hotels in Colorado: <http://www.state-of-colorado-hotels.com/>

Colorado R & R located at the Air Force Academy:

The rates they get are generally less than the commercial rates you would pay if you contacted the same hotel directly. <http://www.coloradorandr.com/> - http://www.coloradorandr.com/promo_detail.asp?id=2022

Rampant Lodge at USAFA:

You can reserve reservation in two ways. One is to go to the USAFA site and click on Lodging and it will give you different possibilities. The other is to tell your cadet.

SERTOMA Club B & B Program:

Gleneagle SERTOMA Bed and Breakfast Committee members offer spare rooms with private baths and serve continental breakfasts to relatives and friends of cadets seeking convenient lodging at a reasonable price. In return for their hospitality our members request a \$60.00 donation be made to the Gleneagle SERTOMA Club for each room and night of occupancy. Occupancy is limited from two to five nights with a maximum of two persons to a room. B & B Program has raised over \$100,000.00 since 1992 and has funded many projects and also provide scholarships for hearing impaired students at our local Community College. All the money we raise stays in the community. Here is a list to contact individual members for reservations and information. Club members are volunteers and request patience when requesting information. Feel free to contact anyone.

RAE BERG: Phone:(719) 488-9879 E-mail address: Rayberg7@earthlink.net
Address: 190 Huntington Beach Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80921

CHUCK RUSSELL: (719) 481-0036, E-mail address: WALKSENEE@aol.com
Address: 138 Luxury Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80919

BEVERLY CARLSON: Phone: (719) 481-5702, E-mail address: BaCARLSN@aol.com
Address: 73 Seagull Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80921

TODD SHERMAN: Phone: (719)488-0106, Address: 615 Wuthering Heights, Colo. Springs, CO 80921
E-mail addresses: toddsher@concentric.net or TandGSherman@msn.com

Other Accommodations in the Area:

Crestwood Suites of Colorado Springs – Phone: **719-593-8188** Fax: 719-534-9440.
Address: 6210 Corporate Dr, Colorado Springs CO 80919 - <http://www.crestwoodsuites.com/>

The Hilton Homewood Suites – Phone: **719-265-6600** Fax: 719-278-9250
Address: 9130 Explorer Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80920. Very clean, breakfast buffet every day and light dinner M-Th. Since it was a suite, they also stocked the room with coffee, tea, popcorn, etc. There was a fitness room & a pool,

neither of which we used, but they looked good. It was also close to the academy, and there were restaurants and shops across the street. - www.HomewoodSuites.com

Colorado Springs Marriott: Phone: **(719) 260-1800**

Address: 5580 Tech Center Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80919. Ask for military rate. Great service.
www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/cosmc-colorado-springs-marriott/

Marriott Fairfield Inn North: Phone: **1-719-533-1903**

Address: 7085 Commerce Center Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80919. Only five minutes from the South gate.
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/cosfi-fairfield-inn-colorado-springs-north/>

Staybridge Suites: Phone: **(800) 465-4329**

Address: 7130 Commerce Center Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80919
Right off Woodmen Rd, one exit south of Academy Drive on I-25, and it was absolutely wonderful. The rooms were clean and modern, and the breakfast buffet.
http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/sb/1/en/hotel/cosaf?&cm_mmc=mdpr- -GoogleMaps- -sb- -cosaf.

Quality Inn & Suites: Phone: **719-593-9119.**

The owner/manager (Steve Rauch) gave us great lodging prices, helped us fix our breakfast waffles, and gave us an "elite" parking pass for the football game. www.qualityinnandsuitescs.com

The Inn at Palmer Divide: Phone number **719-481-1800**

Only 15 minutes from the Base---on Highway 105 off I-25 (Exit 161). Rooms were \$119 w/ military discount (we called it in with our Cadet having the military ID). The room included a full breakfast each morning, Sunday brunch was 1/2 off with your room. The owner is an AF as an AOC Squadron 36 in years past. There is a resident black bear, elk, deer & all kinds of wildlife spotted frequently ---no pool. - www.InnAtPalmerDivide.com

The BRO^ADMOOR: Hotel Reservations: **(719) 577-5775 or (866) 837-9520**

Address: 1 Lake Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80906 - <http://www.broadmoor.com/>

Cascade Escapes Cabins – www.cascadeescapes.com – Phone: **800-915-3633** -- Bob and Sandy

Blue Spruce Inn: Phone: **719-684-7795.** Hosts: Bill & Lynda Martinez.

Address: 4505 Fountain Ave, Cascade, CO 80809. Directions: Take U.S. Hwy 25 to Cimarron Ave (Exit #141). Follow the signs to Manitou Springs/ Woodland Park - this will put you on Hwy 24 West. Follow Hwy 24 West up the canyon - approximately 7-8 miles. At the intersection indicating "North Pole/Pikes Peak Hwy" turn left and then make the first right which is Fountain Ave. There will be a rock shop on the left and our property is across from it. There is a roadside Sign "Blue Spruce Inn" but you also can't miss the big white teepee which is on the south side of the property.
<http://www.bluespruceinncascade.com>

Pikes Peak Resort: Phone: **719-687-9777 – 1-888-687-9777**

Address: 943 County Rd 78 . PO Box 7023, Woodland Park, CO 80863. They are really nice cabins about 50 minutes from the Academy. They have a kitchen, hot tub, privacy, and an amazing view. Not far from Manitou Springs and a great get away. - www.pikespeakresort.com.

Eagle Fire Lodge in Woodland Park - Phone: **(719)687-5700** – Fax: (719) 687-7068

Address: 777E. Highway 24 Mail: P.O. Box 4346 Woodland Park, Colorado 80866. Email: gwen@eaglefirelodge.com
www.eaglefirelodge.com

El Colorado Lodge: Phone: **719-685-5485 - 1-800-782-2246.**

Address: 23 Manitou Ave. Manitou Springs, CO 80829. Adobe cabins at the foot of Pikes Peak. Rustic Southwestern flavor. Seasonal heated pool, centralized hot tub, fireplaces, beamed ceilings. Basketball & Volleyball Court, BBQ grills shuffleboard, playground, and picnic area. Meeting and Party room available for rental. German translator on staff.
<http://www.pikes-peak.com/elcolorado/>

Cheyenne Mountain Resort – Main Resort Phone: (719) 538-4000 | (800) 428-8886

Address: 3225 Broadmoor Valley Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80906 They have a nice golf course, gym, Tennis courts, pools, lounges and restaurants. It's on the southern end of COS with a beautiful view of Cheyenne Mountain.

The Hideaway in Monument: Phone: 719.481.2083

There is a breakfast every morning of the bagels, yogurt, fruit, & pastries variety, which is included. The setting is spectacular, in the pines, about 6 miles east of I-25 off of CO-105. They have a volleyball court, horseshoes, and a little hiking trail on the grounds. Jason Douglas, 3805 Walker Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80908, Fax: 719.488.2353 Email: jason@hideawayreservations.com - <http://www.hideawayreservations.com/>

Bed and Breakfast:

The Lennox House B & B : Phone: (719) 471-9265 - (800) 471-9282 Email: info@lennoxhouse.com

Address: 1339 N. Nevada Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903 - The Lennox House is a quiet and historic Victorian hideaway just steps from downtown Colorado Springs. - www.lennoxhouse.com

Bed & Breakfast at Historic Onalede – Phone: 877-685-1272

Foxtail Bed and Breakfast – Phone: 866-285-3300

Sunny-Mede Bed and Breakfast – Phone: 719-685-4840

Black Forest Bed and Breakfast Lodge – Phone: 800-809-9901

Woodland Inn Bed and Breakfast – Phone: 800-226-9565

Condo and homes for rent - www.homeaway.com

Vacation Rental by Owner - www.vrbo.com

Family Campgrounds:

Contact Outdoor Recreation - Peterson AFB at: 719-556-4867 & 719-556-7751 for supplies-rentals.

Turkey Creek Rec, Fort Carson 719-526-3905 camper \$10, tent spaces \$5

Farish Recreation Area – Phone: 719-687-9098 719-0830-1630.

USAFA Reservations accepted up to 90 days M-F Duplexes,\$70, Cottages \$115, Lodge \$40-\$60, Camper Cabins \$25 with electricity, \$20 w/o electricity, Camper spaces \$ 15, Tent spaces \$10

Peregrine Pines FAM CAMP – Phone: 719-333-4356. USAFA Reservations accepted up to 60 days in peak season (1May-1Nov) First come, first served. During off peak (1 nov-1 may) Phone: 719-333-4980 (1May-1Nov) Yurt \$20. Camper spaces \$17. Tent spaces \$10

Parks, RV information, and Camping information:

<http://parks.state.co.us/> <http://www.coloradorvparks.net/> <http://www.coloradodirectory.com/RV/RVSearch.html>

Mueller State Park - RV campground. It can accommodate a 40 ft. motor home. There is a variety of wild animal sightings and the facilities are great. The hiking trails are very good too.

Denver Accommodations by the airport:

Red Roof Inn Denver Airport ★★★★★ Phone: (303) 371-5300. Address: 6890 Tower Rd, Denver, CO

Marriott at Gateway Park Denver Airport - Phone: (303) 371-4333. Address: 16455 E 40th Cir, Aurora, CO

La Quinta Inn-Airport/Denver - Phone: (303) 371-0888. Address: 6801 Tower Rd, Denver, CO

Country Inn and Suites at Denver International – Phone: (303) 375-1105
Address: 4343 Airport Way, Denver CO 80239 - <http://www.countryinns.com/denverco>

Beckenridge Accommodations:

You can check with the Colorado R & R on their prices for lodging or visit the site below Great Western Lodging.

Great Western Lodging – www.gwlodging.com, all properties book online. Phone: **888.333.4535**

Great Western Lodging offers the best lodging in Breckenridge. Whether you are looking for condo rentals, a private home, a or ski condo, use this search to help you find the rental you need. Plan your vacation to Breckenridge now! Address: 22B N. Main Street, Breckenridge, CO 80424.

Gateway Mountain Lodge – Keystone, Colorado <http://keystone.snow.com/info/mtnhouse.gateway.asp>

Rocky Mountain Blue – www.rockymountainblue.com/

Make reservations thru website to take advantage of the Rocky Mountain Blue Program. Phone 866-768-2583 or 800-258-0437. Family members are able to receive the military discount that is offered to our cadets! You can get your ski rentals, lift tickets and lodging at a discount.

Search all hotels in Colorado <http://www.state-of-colorado-hotels.com/>

Car Rentals

Enterprise Rent A Car is great! They are located at the Academy Hotel, right outside the south Gate. The cadets do need a credit or debit card and proof of insurance. Parents can fax a copy of their insurance card that has your cadet name on it to decline the expensive insurance at the counter. Once faxed to them, they kept it on file. They picked him up and dropped him off and it was very reasonably priced.

Car Repairs

On Academy Grounds:

USAFA Auto Shop: 719-333-4752 Do-it-yourself or professional auto service. Fully equipped garage with work stations, including engine rebuild stalls, lube & oil racks w/power lifts, wheel alignment machine, changing & spin balancing tires, battery charger and large tool crib. Professional staff on hand to offer advice & help. Emissions testing and a four stall car wash is available too.

In Colorado Springs:

Bill Crider's Auto Repair - Good honest Mechanic - (TOP CHOICE). 2875 Gunnison (Near Citadel Mall), Colorado Springs, CO 80909, (719) 473-6686

Phil Long Collision Center - off I-25 near Garden of the Gods. They were fantastic and did a great job. Their phone number is 719-667-2900. <http://www.phillongbodyshop.com>.

Perkins Auto Shop - 2025 Sheldon Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 8090. Phone: 719-635-3213.
Parent Testimonial "I felt that the shop was very professional and excellent customer service".

Burt Chevrolet: 5200 S Broadway, Englewood, CO [Map & Directions]. New - 866-829-9073. Used - 877-371-3790

AMS Auto Body: (talk to Al) - (719) 550-4767. Parent testimonial: "My son used to work there. Al taught him the auto body business. Al will do right by your cadet. I have sent many a cadet here and so far have never heard a complaint and lots of glowing reports. Also Academy Nissan (owned by Phil Long Ford) uses AMS as their primary Autobody shop."

Volvo Repair -- Very GOOD Volvo repair shop in Denver. Had Harrison's 850 serviced there.
<http://www.volvospecialists.com/index.shtml>

Other Services

Orthodontics: JAMES C. CHOI, LtCol, USAF, DC, Chief, Orthodontics Element (SGDD)
Address: 10th Dental Squadron (USAF Academy), Ph: 719-333-5192 (DSN: 333-5192), Office: 719-333-5535
Fax: 719-333-5633, james.choi@usafa.af.mil

Laundromat: Link to ordering coupons for the Laundromat. <http://www.usafaservices.com/cadets/laundromat.htm>

Kennels: (All of them require your entire pet's information and shot records)

www.topdogdaycare.com

www.nwanimalhospital.com

Central Bark Day Care Phone: (719) 592-9300 Located off the Woodmen Exit (to the west), which is one exit south of the south gate. It's clean and the people are nice.

Woodmen Kennels: it's just a kennel, not a day care.

Top Dog Day Care: - is now called **Canine Campus**. We use them, and love them.

Pet Smart: on Academy, south of the South Gate. Love them (especially for smaller dogs).

Wheelchair: (Most will not be open on the Weekend or on Memorial day, some will deliver to the hotel (for an extra fee).

Rocky Mountain Mobility - 719-473-4088

Max Med AAA Rental - 719-593-7008

Pentethe Medical Supply EZ Way rental 719-473-2186

Brady's Rental 719-596-6406 - Get an RX for oxygen from home and fill at Apria Healthcare (Closed on weekends)

Affordable Medical Supply - They list wheelchair rentals on their webpage. 719-632-4036 | 800-837-4036

Graduation and Cadets Gifts - Promotional Materials

Graduation:

Saber Cases: Excellent wood craftsman, his sole business is making these cases. His name is Bob Wells, 719-495-2093.
<http://www.wellcopleague.com/index.html>
http://www.west-point.org/parent/wppc-st_louis/ClassPistol/SaberCases.htm

Wellco Manufacturing: 12725 Herring Road, Black Forest, CO, 80908. Telephone: 719-495-2093. The case is made of wood and does not have any glass on it and has a blue velvet background. The manufacturer will put on a name plate with class crest with anything you want to write on it. It was under \$100, but you need to call for the exact price.

R & R Woodcrafts: 214 E. Broadway, Enid, Ok 73701 Their phone # is 580-233-0929 and a toll free # 877-888-0929. They have cases in Oak with black, Mahogany with blue, & Cherry with black. Rob MacKeen is the Plaque and Sabre Specialist and the lady that I dealt with was LaDonna. Again, cost was \$50.83 for saber case, an engraved plaque with two lines of type was \$15 and shipping by priority mail was \$15 for a total of \$80.53. Call for actual prices.

Button Store: <http://buttonstore.com/index.htm>. Many families like to outfit their whole entourage with photo buttons of their graduating cadet. As of August 07, they are 85 cents per button for 35 of them and then about \$8 for S&H. They arrive priority mail in about a week

Promotional Materials:

Lenaj Marketing & Promotions: Great coins! Address: 11285 Sunrise Gold Circle, STE B, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742. www.lenaj.com. 916 638 6844-Phone, 916 638 6846-Fax.

Medals: www.usmedals.com 1-800-308-0849, Customer Service: 1-864-862-6425, E- Medals@usmedals.com
A major company that sells everything (all services) like ribbons, medals, display cases for ribbons & medals, flags, etc. They also sell special wooden (Walnut) display racks for coins.

Cakes and other Baking Goodies:

Cookies – birthday Items: order birthday cookies from a favorite website that I often use, www.CherylandCo.com. They have several birthday items, often have free shipping, and their cookies are delicious.

BakeMeAWishCakes: Visit www.bakemeawish.com/freedom-cake and click on "The Freedom Cake". For every Freedom Cake you order - he will donate a cake in the name of your recipient to a soldier overseas.

Little Cake Shoppe: in Colorado Springs (719-475-2340) "TOP CHOICE"

The Place: Caterer delivers cakes to cadets at the Academy. 13990 Glenagle Dr. COS 80921 Phone:719.481.MEET
www.meetattheplace.com

Goodies and Get Well Items: www.CadetCarePackages.com, (Tom is the owner of this one, you may have heard of him from happy customers). You can order online from them, or you can order through USAFA at <http://www.usafaservices.com/cadets/treats.htm>

Florists:

Briar Rose Florist: <http://www.briarrosecsco.com/> 6904 N Academy Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO, (719) 598-8542.

Ken Carter, Photographer: Phone: 719- 392-4885 E-mail: GermainePhoto@aol.com Web: www.GermainePhoto.com
He will meet with you, your family, and your cadet to take the photos you're looking for.

Other Items:

Scheyden Precision Sun Eyeware: www.Scheyden.com (<http://www.Scheyden.com>) (2007)

Original Flip Up Sonoma Model: SY01 - \$145, Classic Gear Palisades Small Model: SE01 - \$145
Fixed Gear Palisades Small Model: FG06 - \$59, Fixed Gear Avalon Small Model: FG07 - \$59

Drechserei Junghanel Air Force Nutcrackers: http://www.junghaenel-mudau.de/army.html#US_Air_Force

USAFA Travel Mugs: <http://www.usafapaws.org/Fundraising.htm>

Ski Equipment: For Ski needs or Golf needs, Colorado Ski & Golf down on North Academy. Great service reasonable offered complete ski equipment package to new skiers.

More Cadet Discounts & Perks

- Cadets can check the Rec Centers through out the US for local event discounts.
- They can stay on any military installation with billeting at very reasonable rates on a space available basis while traveling.
- Military Travel Guide - USA. www.militaryliving.com
- Space-A flights overseas (and conus). Cadets on leave status can fly on a space available military flight to just about anywhere. A great way to fly on the cheap. One needs to be flexible and have plenty of time due to being bumped for a higher priority passenger.

Most stores in the outlet malls offer an additional discount to members of the military

Restaurants

Sunday Brunch at the Officers Club

New South Wales - It is an Australian restaurant and their fish is outstanding.

Ted's Montana Grill – Located in Briargate, it has excellent beef.

Bucca di Beppo on Academy. Best Italian and tremendous atmosphere.

Manitou Pancake House is a popular breakfast spot located right on Colorado Avenue.

Spice of Life – coffee shop & great food at reasonable price, local hangout, downtown Manitou

Pantry – Green Mountain Falls (west up HW24) by the lake, LOTS of food, get there early.

Mucky Duck – Green Mountain Falls, next to post office.

Craftwood Inn – the most unique dining experience in town, great selection of Colorado wildlife food (elk, bison, game).

Briarhurst – a legendary location, call ahead!

Hunan Springs – very good Chinese restaurant

Chipotle - closest to the Academy is across the street from the Chapel Hills Mal
7818 North Academy Blvd, ph: 719-531-6800.

MoZaic at Inn at Palmer Divide. The Sunday brunch was gourmet delicacies ---the cheesecake w/ any type fruit & carmel to die for. The food at this restaurant is extremely special.

Marigold's Cafe and Bakery - on Centennial Blvd. West on Garden of the God's Road, Right on Centennial and Marigold's is on the right

Para Vinici – fantastic Italian restaurant on Colorado and 26th.

Biaggi's – in Briargate

Carlos Restaurant on 21st – it looks like an old sports bar (it is), but the food and service are first class and the owner is fun to watch!

Solo's – next to the Radisson Inn, They have a KC-97 Tanker that you can eat in. Plan on staying a while after your meal. EVERY wall is covered with plane and space memorabilia.

Texas Roadhouse on Powers – best steak in COS

Egg and I – wonderful place for breakfast

Academy Hotel – Sunday brunch

The Elephant Bar –

La Cantina – has the guys with boots and cowboy hats

Cracker's Catering (719) 594-4549 or <mailto:yadrian@comcast.com> <http://www.crackerscatering.com>

Brasilian Rodizio Grill - in Denver. Just awesome. Best time to go at lunch.

What to do in Colorado Springs

Recreation Center at Vanderberg: They have equipment to rent and I'm sure they could suggest some good things to do. Not sure if they rent to visitors though.

Cinemark Tinseltown: Movie theaters in the Springs http://www.cinemark.com/theater_list.asp

Water Rafting: <http://www.canoncitycolorado.com/activitiesraftandrail.aspx> - Raft & rail trip, class III's mostly, with a few IV's. We had a great time. We left in the morning for rafting, they fed us a great lunch, and then we rode the train thru the gorge. We could see the rafts that were the full day rafting. We have reservations with <http://www.canyonmarine.com/> for the day after graduation. I chose this company for its proximity to <http://www.royalgorgebridge.com/>, no additional charge for the wetsuits that are recommended for our trip and the 20% discount they offered for reserving before the end of March. They still have discounts for reserving by the end of April and May, check WEB discounts.

Royal Gorge: the world's highest suspension bridge which is about 1 1/2 hour drive from the Springs. I wanted to let everyone know that during the month of May all Military and their families are 1/2 price.
<http://www.royalgorgebridge.com/Skycoaster.aspx>

Royal Gorge – Arkansas River Tours: out of Cotopaxi, 1 1/2 hr. drive from COS.. Guide/instructor was a man named Doug was knowledgeable and experienced. Phone: 1800-321-4352 or 719-942-4362.

Canyon Marine: out of Canyon City.

Pikes Peak Cog railroad: <http://www.cograilway.com/> the ride isn't cheap (and it's slow for those with a "need for speed") but I think the experience/the view is on a "life list" of things to see and do.

Garden of the Gods: <http://www.gardenofgods.com/parkinfo/index.cfm> interesting to drive thru or hike thru, etc.

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo: <http://www.cmzoo.org/>

Spiderman 3 and Delta Farce: (new movies being released). The Delta Farce one looks really dumb <g> but may appeal to some cadets.

Manitou Springs: has some quaint shops/jewelry stores/t-shirt places-might be a place to walk around one morning when your cadet is busy if he's not a shopper.

"Cave of the winds": is cool (literally and figuratively) Costs some money, but there are various levels of tours through the caves costing different prices.

Cripple Creek: looks like a day full of fun! <http://visitcripplecreek.com/page.asp?id=6&name=Activities>

Horseback riding and Bike Trails:

Horse Back Riding - Academy Riding Stables: The views are wonderful and the horses are pretty good 800-700-0410

Bike Trails: There is a bike trail that goes along the stream the length of Colorado Springs and up to USAFA. There is a place to rent bikes on Commerce Drive right next to the trail <http://www.criterium-bicycles.com/index.html>

Shopping and Other Activities:

There are two malls - one is close to USAFA and the Citadel off of N. Academy.

Doolittle Hall/AOG - Go to and look at their small store. Great Christmas ornaments every year our daughter was at the Academy. You could buy his new squadron pin to wear at PW. It will probably be the smallest and the least expensive thing you'll buy the entire trip! <http://shop.usafa.org/c-16-squadron-pins.aspx>

Mr. Biggs: They give military discounts. I think for the all day pass, it was \$18 a person. We took other cadets with us, and they had a blast in laser tag, putt putt and bowling. There website is <http://www.mrbiggssffc.com>

Brunswick bowling: <http://www.bonuszone.com/> submit their email address and fill out a short form with their name and address, then they can immediately print out a coupon to go bowling for 1 hour for free!! (shoe rental not included). Directions: Academy Blvd via Exit 150 toward CO-83. Turn Right onto N Union Blvd 2.5 miles. Turn left onto N Circle Drive 2.5 miles. End at 999 N Circle Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5037.

Olympic Training village: Great place to visit!

The Broadmoor Hotel: Soda at the Broadmoor's outside patio bar, it is fun to sit at the outside bar in front of the lake and slowly drink a soda and people watch. They have rocking chairs and an outdoor fireplace-we've sat there for hours before....walk around the little lake. It's a gorgeous hotel; you don't need to stay there to spend some time there. Some folks rent the little paddleboats. I have many photos of our cadet and friends taken on the bridge over the little lake-great background.

The Spa Center: at the Broadmoor is a delightful treat. The treatments are so great. Also the Brunch on Sunday is great.

What to do in Other Destinations

FLORIDA:

Make your cadets summer break more fun in they are coming to Florida!!! Another benefit of a Military ID...free admission to Sea World, Busch Gardens and Adventure Island water park! In addition they can get 10% off the tickets of others in their party. Discovery Cove and Aquatica are not free, but they can get a 10% discount on admission.

Most of the stores located in the outlet malls also offer an extra discount to active duty military personnel, the average discount was 10%.

Travel Sites

www.airfarewatchdog.com

www.sidestep.com

www.studentuniverse.com/fly/

www.kayak.com

www.statravel.com

www.studentuniverse.com

www.cheapoair.com

www.travelation.com

www.travelocity.com

www.expedia.com

www.bookingbuddy.com

www.priceline.com

www.cheaptickets.com

<http://www.asaptickets.com/>

***Hold fast to dreams, For if dreams die, That cannot fly
Hold fast to dreams, For when dreams go, Life is a barren field, Frozen with snow*** - By Langston Hughes

General Information:

Cadets can fly out of Colorado Springs or Denver and usually has a couple of travel days to choose from. Airline prices change daily so they may go up and/or down between and prior to the holidays. Thanksgiving is the trickiest time to travel because so many people are trying to travel on the same few days. Last year 2006b, the Academy decided to let the cadets come back on Monday instead of Sunday when everyone is trying to fly. That has alleviated some travel issues. It would be difficult for you to book any flights too early for the following reasons:

1. Thanksgiving Break - You don't know yet when their last class will be. If they have early classes, they may be able to make it to the airport on time to leave on Tuesday but if they don't, they just don't have enough time to get to the airport. Leaving on Wednesday is much safer for time reasons.
2. Last year 2006 - cadets returned on the Monday after Thanksgiving. The general rule is that they must sign in by 7 p.m. (later for firsties).
3. Cadets who participate on a sports teams or participating with another group/club at the academy, they may have practices or meetings in the afternoon after class and will not be able to leave until after those are over. So don't assume they can leave immediately after their last class until your cadet knows sure when they can leave.
4. Allow substantial travel time to both airports (Colorado Springs and Denver) due to bus schedules and weather. The Academy does provide bus transportation to both COS and DEN airports at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Schedules will be posted and usually are available mid Sept for Thanksgiving. They do have to pay for this transportation.
5. Also buses (and cars!) sometimes have mechanical problems or weather-related travel problems. Be sure your cadet has a cell phone and a credit card in his or her name in case they miss a flight and have to rebook their tickets or spend the night at a hotel or in the airport. Now is a good time to get them a credit card of their own to be used for emergencies and to have a discussion about who will make and pay for flight arrangements and how. If finances are an issue for your family, then maybe some of that high school graduation, birthday, and/or Christmas gift money could be set aside in a savings account for future airline tickets.
6. Discuss what your cadet will do in case of travel delays at the airport if they are not familiar with traveling by plane. It helps if they have an overall idea about rebooking tickets, using the USO at major airports, asking for food/hotel vouchers from airline, and how to rebook.
7. Some cadets who don't go home for holidays had to make other arrangements. Plan on more travel costs than you expect such as bus tickets to/from airport and/or chip in for their fair share of the gas, tolls, and parking if someone else is driving a car and plane tickets. Thus, discuss what your cadet will do for the holidays if you cannot fly them home at each break.
8. Airlines will change their flight times and routes also. Thus, it is important to reconfirm reservations and work with the airlines program to be advised of any changes on reservation. Catching schedule changes on time could mean resolving the issue or not traveling. For example: An hour flight delay could be a big issue because of

connecting flights. An earlier departure by an hour could mean not getting to the airport in time to make the new earlier flight. Working it skillfully with airlines is important, since unfortunately sometimes they are overwhelm with a tremendous amount of passenger or several issues. Insist for a rebook flight at “no charge” by explaining to them the situation.

9. Christmas Travel. They do not know yet what their finals schedules will be. They will want to leave as soon as possible after their finals end, so you'll need to wait until they have that schedule. Fortunately, Christmas travel seemed to be less expensive than Thanksgiving since the travel dates aren't so tightly clustered for most people as they are at Thanksgiving.
10. If you are choosing to make your cadets travel arrangements, the best thing you can do now is to let them know how important it is to communicate things to you immediately they know about them like their last military duty prior to any holiday or leave. TRUST your cadets to learn what they need to learn when the Academy is ready for them to learn it. Their guides are their upper class cadets, staff, advisors and their own wits and common sense.