



*Proud Home of the 2013, 2016, & 2017
Division 2 Young Marines of the Year
and the
2013-14 National Young Marine of the Year!*

PARENT HANDBOOK

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NKyYoungMarines.com



EST. 2005 (RE-EST. 2011)

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* * It is important to remember that all Staff are volunteers. * *

*The NKYM Parent Guidebook is based on the experiences of this and other units within the Young Marines program. If a discrepancy is found within this guide or conflicts with the National Young Marines Registered Adult Manual, it is to be brought to the attention of the NKYM staff for review.

Welcome to the Northern Kentucky Young Marines unit!

This Guidebook contains information and guidelines outlining what is expected from both you and your Young Marine(s). It is important to read and understand this guidebook plus attend all scheduled parent meetings. This program relies on the active participation of everyone, including parents. The Young Marine program is not a daycare or a fix-it program; it is important to know this in advance to avoid future conflicts due to misconceptions.

• WHO WE ARE •

The Young Marines strengthens the lives of America's youth by teaching the importance of self-confidence, academic achievement, honoring our veterans, good citizenship, community service, and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members with a focus on leadership and character-building.

• INTRODUCTION •

For some, there will be a certain amount of apprehension when getting a child involved in such a tough curriculum. As the program progresses, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will discover that everything may not have been fully explained the first day your child was enrolled, or that there was so much information provided it made it tough to remember, making this handbook a valuable resource. We also advise attending all Parent Meetings - as there is always new info to pass.

The Young Marines is a **Youth Leadership Program** for males and females ages 8 through the completion of high school which is modeled after and endorsed by the United States Marine Corps. At our unit (one of nearly 300 across the U.S.) we focus on Military & American History, physical fitness, public speaking, citizenship, community service, and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. **Young Marines are not pushed into the military, but they are required to appreciate the freedoms granted by those who serve.**

This program is one of the only (if not the only) youth-led, merit-based programs still in existence. The kids are the leaders; they work hard to earn their rank and billets through discipline, teamwork, and hard work. Young Marines work all year long to prepare themselves not only for each drill, but for Leadership billets, Leadership Schools, encampments, competitions, and promotions.

In addition to 6-hour drills every other Saturday, we march in parades to honor veterans, perform Color Guard duties for veteran and community events, go on encampments, improve our physical fitness, earn their rank, teach Drug Resistance in our communities, volunteer time with Young Marines and many other organizations, and set a great example of how youth should respect our flag, our country, and our military members - past and present.

Young Marines is a lifestyle. Once a youth becomes a Young Marine Recruit, they are expected to act according to the Young Marines Obligation, Creed, and Orders at all times - not just at drill. Young Marines will get out of the program whatever they put into it. There are many, many amazing opportunities presented by this program, but they must be earned. Work is required outside of drill time if a YM wants to progress.

The Young Marine program is not a daycare, nor do we act as the child's parents; it is important to know this in advance to avoid future conflicts with staff members because of misconception. The volunteer staff of the Northern KY Young Marines developed this guide in order to facilitate what will be expected from the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child(ren) enrolled in the program.

It must also be understood that the Northern Kentucky unit has a reputation - a very good one. It is expected that all Young Marines within the unit uphold that reputation or exceed it. Yes, we have high standards and we see that as a positive thing.

**This handbook is set up alphabetically (well, as alphabetically as possible) with the understanding that you can search by keyword, electronically. It is also a work in progress (again, please remember, adult staff are volunteers).*

ADULT VOLUNTEERS (AVs formerly RAs/RALs)

We are staffed entirely by volunteers. Each Staff member has passed an FBI background check. These individuals, giving their time and expertise, are the heart and soul of the unit's success. Furthermore, to make this program an even more successful investment to our children's potential, it is imperative that all parent(s)/guardian(s) support the volunteers when needs arise. No staff member or associate of NKYM receives monetary compensation for any services performed for the program.

Some volunteers have children involved in the program, some do not; all individuals deserve a great deal of credit for unselfish devotion of their time to aid and educate the children of our future. This program succeeds when all parties work in unison to help instill discipline and personal accomplishments.

Every member of the staff is just like a parent/guardian who has enrolled their child(ren) in the program. These volunteers have the same type of responsibilities as the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child/ren enrolled including the same type of stress. Not all volunteers have children involved in the program, in some cases their child/ren have grown up and became responsible citizens for our communities. These individuals deserve a great deal of credit for unselfish devotion of their time to aid and educate the children of our future. Whatever hardships the parent(s)/guardian(s) may be experiencing; chances are there is a staff member that is going through or has gone through the same thing. This includes having children who have trouble with the law to children who are doing great at home and school. As much as the staff might wish, children are not perfect and neither are we, however, this is where much of our experience is learned and shared. Because the staff is just like you, they too like to see that they are not alone in working with the Young Marines. This program succeeds when the parent(s)/guardian(s) and Young Marines work in unison to help instill discipline and personal accomplishment.

“There are no parents at Young Marines” - meaning, if you are a Registered Adult Volunteer, while at any YM event you are not the parent of your child, but a mentor for ALL Young Marines. Your child must address you as they would any RA, and you must address them as you would every other Young Marine. We are here for the good of the group, and will look out for the best interests of all, not just our own child(ren).

Social media rules apply to Staff members, just as they do the Young Marines. You now represent this program, too. There is no smoking or drinking at YM functions where you are in charge of or representing Young Marines. You are required to read and adhere to the Young Marine Registered Adult Manual (RAM). You should read the YM Guidebooks or us Young Marines University (YMU) for training and knowledge.

ARRIVAL AT DRILL

Young Marines must be in formation and inspection-ready by the specified start time. It is **HIGHLY recommended** to have your Young Marine or Recruit on site 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the day's scheduled event so that they may arrange their gear properly and prepare themselves for the day ahead. If you arrive earlier than 15 minutes ahead of schedule, please wait in your car. You may see Adult Staff and YM Leaders in the building but that does not mean that we are ready for you (there is much preparation that goes into every drill and this set-up time is an important last step before we begin our drill day).

ATTENDANCE LOG

Young Marines and Recruits must be signed in by a parent/guardian to participate in the day's events and there must be a working emergency phone number listed. This also allows you a chance to receive any information concerning the event or changes in the training schedule (please read the dry erase board and any signs near the Attendance Book). At the end of drill, you must also sign them out.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Recruits undergo a strict and intensive schedule. One day's absence (or 2 half-day absences) may be acceptable, if arranged ahead of time - more than that will be grounds for recruit "recycling". Once a Young Marine, they must maintain an 80% attendance status to be considered active, per YMNHQ.

Authorized Absence: absence authorized in advance by written notice. **Absence:** given for health reasons or emergencies less than 48 hours prior to drill. **Unexcused Absence*:** No reason given by 0700 of drill day. ***Unexcused Absences will prevent promotions for at least one quarter and can prevent the next full year of trips.**

No more than two (2) unauthorized absences accumulative per fiscal year (October 1 through September 30) will be tolerated for regular drill or mandatory events.

BATTLE BUDDIES

At every YM function, for many reasons - safety being the most important, the Battle Buddy system will be enforced. Battle Buddies are assigned or based on the situation. If a YM is spotted alone, away from the group, they will be counseled and appropriate action taken.

BIRTHDAY BALL

Every October we celebrate the Young Marines' birthday (17 OCT) in ceremonial (and fun) fashion. This is typically a Saturday night event, semi-formal to formal dress for attendees (Young Marines wear full cammies or dress uniforms with ribbons). It begins with the formal cake-cutting (modeled after the United States Marine Corps' Birthday Ball ceremony), then we have dinner, hear from our Guest of Honor, review our past year, announce annual awards, dance and socialize, then give out the "Gunny Awards" (think gag gifts at Christmas).

CELL PHONE USAGE

During YM events, meetings, and activities, cell phone use is not permitted. If a parent wishes for their Typically, we collect phones at morning formation - however, even if we neglect to do so, YMs are expected to follow the rules. If a parent wants their YM to have a phone on encampments, so their child can call when we arrive or are heading home, that is allowed but the phone will be kept by an RA during the trip. This is also the policy of HQ during leadership schools, camps, and most trips.

COLOR GUARD

Color Guard is a honor and must be treated as such. Color Guard members will be asked to present the Colors at an array of events, typically outside of drill. Color Guard members are expected to present themselves as honorably as possible and are also expected to check email regularly for invitations (some of which have tight deadlines).

DISMISSAL

We advise that parents/guardians attend the last ten minutes of drill for afternoon formation to hear any announcements, see promotions and/or awards given, find out what happened during drill, etc.

DRILL

Meetings (called "Drill") are held every other Saturday in our unit. Attendance is very important (see attendance section). Young Marines are encouraged to be well-rounded, as that will help them in most aspects of life including this program. Those who are also involved in outside activities can do very well in Young Marines (as witnessed by the requirements for YMOY and past stars of the program) and can earn awards within the program based on those activities. However, there needs to be understanding that by missing drill they miss training, guest speakers, PT, teamwork activities, and more - and, while some of those things can be made up, others cannot. Staying current on DDR and PFTs is always imperative, as is studying the Guidebook. When a YM misses drill, they should make attempts to see what they missed and try to catch up. Our Drill calendar is on website (NKyYoungMarines.com), in YM binders, and typically on an every-other-Saturday schedule.

DRILL FACILITY

We have been granted permission by VFW Post 6095 in Covington, KY to hold our meetings in their facility. We expect the Post to be treated with the utmost respect by our Young Marines, parents and volunteers. There are rules that must be followed: no one under 18 in the bar area and no standing, leaning, or sitting on the monument. Field Day will be executed prior to every dismissal. We truly appreciate the generosity of, and continued support from, the VFW and will show all members respect and gratitude.

Please note: everyone needs to clean-up the meeting area prior to departure. Make sure your Young Marine has gathered ALL of their belongings before leaving the VFW Post.

DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION (DDR)

3 hours of DDR are required every quarter for every YM in order to maintain status for promotions, billets, and trips. DDR is offered at drill (through classes, presentations, guest speakers, activities, etc.), but can also be gained by attending online DDR courses, completing Project Alert training/certification/activities, or doing homework that is DDR-related (research papers, comic books, posters, PSAs, etc.). If YMs do not complete the required 3 hours per quarter, this can stop them from qualifying for SPACES trips, Leadership Schools, and promotions.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising profits are divided 50/50 between unit and YMs who worked them (based on number of hours worked). For example: if we receive a check for \$1,000 for a fundraiser, the unit gets \$500 and the remaining \$500 is divided by total number of hours worked at function by all YMs & Staff to figure out an 'hourly wage', each worker then receives their due in their personal YM account. YM Personal Accounts are held for each member and can be used for anything YM-related (trips, fees, uniform parts, etc). Personal Accounts are forfeited back to unit when YM leaves the program.

PHYSICAL FITNESS TESTS (PFTs)

PFTs are held at least twice a year, once in each half of the year. PFTs are required to maintain the ability to attend camps and schools above the unit level, as well as maintain good standing for promotions, billets, instructor positions, etc. within the unit. There may be 2 additional PFTs conducted per year to accommodate make-up tests.

PHYSICAL TRAINING (PT)

Physical training is part of nearly every drill schedule, but it cannot be the only exercise that YMs get if they hope to improve. YMs should set their own training regimen to ensure that they are improving themselves. Daily exercise and stretching is recommended; however, YMs do not have to join a gym to get a solid workout.

PHYSICAL TRAINING GEAR (PT Gear)

For physical training period of instruction, Young Marines may wear Unit PT shirt or any SPACES event T black or solid white socks. On cold days, solid black or solid grey sweatpants and sweatshirts are allowed to be worn **under** PT gear. *For PFTs, unit PT T is only shirt choice.

PREPAREDNESS

All Young Marine and Recruits are expected to be prepared for every drill (binders, guidebook(s), inkstick, PT Gear in PT bag, water bottle, and any assignments given) and every trip (gear list followed explicitly).

PROMOTIONS

YMs must be signed off on all Enabling Objectives listed in the Table of Promotions for that rank. YMs must stand and pass an oral promotion board for each promotion (LCpl and above - not knowing the Obligation, General Orders, or Creed will be an automatic fail). YMs must not have had an unexcused absence the quarter of request. Commander must also take into consideration the following when recommending a Young Marine for promotion:

- 1) Does the YM practice good citizenship and leadership?
- 2) Does the YM participate in school, home, and outside activities?
- 3) Does the YM pass required PFT's or show improving effort at each test?
- 4) Does the YM practice good personal habits to include regular attendance of scheduled meetings and unit events?
- 5) Is the YM mature enough to handle the rank for which they are being recommended?
- 6) Has the YM completed and been signed off on all required enabling objectives for the rank they are seeking?

SOCIAL MEDIA

As for Facebook and any other social media sites, AVs, YM leaders, and HQ monitors these places for behavior "unbecoming a YM." There should be no foul language, no inappropriate photos posted and if a friend links the

YM to a post that puts that YM in a bad light, it should be removed from their page. If a member of our unit notices something on another YM's Facebook page that is inappropriate, they will send a notification asking that it be removed in a timely manner. Keep in mind, we are always representing not just ourselves, but the program and other Young Marines - we will not allow that reputation to be tarnished.

SPACES

(Summer Programs of Adventures, Challenges, Encampments, & Schools)

HQ provides exciting adventures each summer for YMs; each trip for under \$500 (which includes transportation, accommodations, activities, and meals - you are responsible for initial fee, any gear needed, plus any unaccompanied minor fees imposed by the airline). Announcements regarding the camps will come out in late fall of each year and will be communicated by the UC. Sign-ups begin the first week of January and are on a first come-first served basis. If you want to sign up your YM for one of these activities, you must fill out the proper paperwork and notify the UC in advance, as well as have any funds allotted for payment needed in February. These are highly selective trips and only 1 YM per trip may be submitted by each unit during initial, restricted period. If there are available slots open after the initial sign-up period, we may be permitted to add additional YMs. Young Marines must work for selection to these trips and must give back to the unit after said trip. HQ creates and subsidizes these trips so that not only the YMs who attend will learn from them, but so they will pass that knowledge to all of our YMs.

Remember, these are highly selective trips (both on Unit and National level). Just because you want to go and can afford to go, does not mean that you get to go. There are many factors involved:

~Young Marines must be current on PFTs (1 every 6 months of last 12 months).

~Young Marines must be current on DDR (3 hours per quarter every quarter for last 12 months).

~Young Marines must have attended 2 overnight unit trips **WITHOUT INCIDENT**.

~Young Marines must meet the specific trip's listed requirements (e.g., age, rank, PFT score, TIP, etc.)

~Young Marines must be **wholeheartedly recommended by Unit Staff** to uphold their Obligation, Creed and Orders while on said trip, as they represent our Unit and risk the possibility of the entire Unit's disqualification from future trips. (Unexcused absences, poor inspection scores, ill-preparedness, incidences on other trips, misbehavior at school, etc are factors that are most definitely taken into consideration.)

In addition:

~Parents/Guardians must be ready to fill out all paperwork accurately and quickly, if their child is selected

~Parents/Guardians and YMs must read all paperwork sent (by the Unit and HQ) in a timely manner

~Parents/Guardians/YMs must be willing to purchase needed gear listed in packet well in advance of said trip

~Parents/Guardians must accept the flight schedules given to them by HQ & agree to **NOT** change it in any manner

~Parent/Guardians/YMs must have full payment listed ready 2 weeks after being notified that you have been selected

**NOTE: Even if your YM is not qualified for SPACES, or are qualified but aren't selected, does not mean that you won't have other trips to possibly attend.*

We will still organize unit-level (and possibly Battalion- or Division-Level trips) next year.

STAFF (see Adult Volunteers)

TRAINING ROTATION

Training Rotations are distributed regularly. Training Rotations assign periods of instruction to Young Marines. If your YM is on the Training Rotation, it is their responsibility to send an outline of their period of instruction to Unit Commander at least one week prior to drill. If your YM will not be in attendance at assigned drill, is their responsibility to seek out another YM to cover that class (they are allowed to switch instructors, but not topics - e.g., if they are assigned guidebook knowledge they may not switch for PT).

UNIFORMS

RECRUIT uniform consists of gym shoes (tied), jeans, belt, white T with last name on front and back (tucked in). If weather requires, a solid grey or solid black sweatshirt may be worn under the white T.

Young Marine Uniform - Unless informed otherwise, standard drill uniform is full cammies (cover, trousers,

blouse, black leather boots, solid white crew-neck T, web belt, red cord bracelet, boot bands, boot socks, chevrons - if applicable). Shirts are always tucked in, and trousers are worn at waist line. All parts must be clean, pressed or polished, and present. Inspections are performed nearly every drill and taken into account for promotions, billets, and other opportunities. ***Ribbons are not worn to drill unless specified prior.**

Whenever a YM wears his/her uniform, it must be worn properly! (this includes ANY location and whether other YMs or Staff are around) If you are out from under cover, you wear your cover (even if it is a short walk from your house to your car). It's called integrity.

VOLUNTEERING/WORKING AT EVENTS

Every event is different. Some are open to all YMs, some are not. Sometimes this is deemed by outside organizations, sometimes it is restricted by us. Sometimes we cannot invite all YMs to certain events whether due to lack of physical space, only needing a certain number of volunteers, or if that particular event has requirements - like age, training, maturity, etc. When there are limitations, we first make a list of which YMs are event-qualified on paper (age, strength, ability, etc.), then we have to decide whom to invite.

*For example, if an event requires 7-10 YMs per day; age 10 or up; ability to listen carefully and comprehend quickly (weapons and ranges require ultimate respect of safety and rules); ability to stand fairly still for long periods of time (without reminders to stand up properly and/or pay attention); willingness to work for long periods of time (without someone constantly reminding them to do so); ability to speak loudly and clearly (very noisy environment); ability to describe our program properly; and the maturity to be near very cool (some may call them dangerous) items without touching them.

Qualified YMs are then sorted by considerations (as proven at drill, fundraisers, and other events) such as attendance, moto, bearing, listening skills, being up-to-date on all things YM (DDR, PFTs, assignments, registration, fees), and responsiveness to emails (we are volunteers - if we have to send email(s), it is already time from our lives... if we have to send follow-up email(s) to gather responses to questions asked or items sent, that is more time, more frustration, and less time to plan). Requests are then sent and, if first ones on list aren't available, we invite more (in order and as necessary) until slots are filled.

*** * FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS * ***

• As a parent, if I have a question, where do I find answers?

Always ask your YM first. You can also consult our website, the national website, our group facebook page, the YM Guidebook, this Handbook, your child's binder, the emails that Staff has taken the time to prepare and send, and, after exhausting those resources, ask a YM leader or YM Staff member.

• Where does my Young Marine turn if they have a question?

They can look in their binders, their Basic guidebook, in the emails sent by Squad Leaders/Staff members, on our website, or on our facebook page, and on the national website (YoungMarines.com). Unit Chain of Command: **Young Marines** should first approach their Squad Leader. If that YM is not available, go to the Platoon Sergeant, then Platoon Leader, before reaching out to adult staff (unless it is an issue with YM command).

• Why is Drill mandatory?

Our meetings (aka Drill) are held every other Saturday for 6 hours each. In that time, we need to fit in required DDR, guidebook training, close order drill, PT/PFTs, and other essential subjects. Unless there is an exception, meetings will begin promptly at 0900 and end at 1500.

Outside activities are optional; however, certain awards and events do require a minimum level of activity in the unit to be able to participate in or receive credit for a ribbon.

• Do I need to tell you if my child can (or can't) attend drill or other events?

Please do not commit your YM to an activity and then back out just before. Often, we have to make plans and provide numbers to organizations we may be assisting and often times these events are competitive selection. Circumstances may come up unexpectedly and we understand that; however, if this becomes a pattern rather than an oddity, your YM will be excluded from signing up for such opportunities. If something does come up, please let the

UC or RAC (Registered Adult in Charge) know as quickly as possible, so they are no longer expecting your YM and can fill that open spot if necessary (and do not waste time waiting on your YM to arrive).

• **How can my Young Marine get selected to try out for Color Guard?**

There are many factors that go into Color Guard selection. As stated earlier in this handbook, Color Guard is an honor and it is reserved for those Young Marines who have proven that they have the respect for their uniform (inspections at morning formation show us who has cared for and worked on their uniform parts and who has simply gotten dressed), our country's flag, and all authority. We watch Young Marines at every drill - especially during Close Order Drill practice. It is very easy to judge who stands up proudly, no matter the temperature or how long they've been on the grinder, and who has worked on their facing and drill movements outside of drill. When we need to train new Color Guard members, we will ask those who have impressed us (repeatedly) to attend practice(s) and then see if they are ready for the advanced moves and stress of Color Guard.

• **How can we find out what's going on and what we need for outings?**

Check our website's calendar (www.nkyyoungmarines.com/calendar)

Communications are primarily done via email and Facebook - for any YM that provides an email address, we will include them on LOIs and news appropriate for them.

Most unit-related information will be emailed by the UC so as to alleviate any miscommunication and avoid doubling up or something slipping through the cracks. The exceptions will be the following:

- You may receive community service opportunities, LOIs and notifications from other Adult Staff or YMs.
- The DDR Officer may send reminders of low hours, missing work, or make-up DDR from YMs.
- The Paymaster may send out invoices for events, gear, and re-registration.
- Prior to most events, an email will be sent to the unit with a summary of the activity and a date to respond by if your YM wishes to attend. The LOI (Letters of Instruction) will be sent to those who indicate a willingness to commit to an activity. This will reduce the emails for those who want to avoid a full inbox.
- LOIs contain important information about upcoming events and are typically distributed no later than one week out from an event. Read them thoroughly as they contain addresses, possibly directions, uniform of the day, gear lists, the purpose of the outing, unit contacts, and times.
- A Hold Harmless Agreement will be attached to the LOI and is necessary for all YMs to submit prior to events. This allows us authority to treat your YM in case of emergency and indicates best contact information.

If your contact information changes, please be sure to let UC know so that the database can be updated.

• **What can kids earn and how often do they get awards?**

All awards have different requirements - some outside of YMs and some within. All descriptions are detailed in the Awards manual found in the library on the national website.

If a YM is eligible for an award that is not earned as part of the unit, a ribbon submission form will need to be turned in along with the appropriate documentation. The requirements are listed in the Awards manual. Suggestion: print off the page from the awards manual and staple to the ribbon form, along with any other necessary paperwork. Once the submission is complete, please turn into the UC or Awards Officer for review and entry into the database. If you feel a YM is deserving of one of the advanced awards, please bring it to the attention of the UC. There are higher achievements beyond the unit that the kids can be eligible for, and we want to recognize their efforts.

• **How do we pay for activities?**

Fundraising is extremely important to the unit, as it allows us to continue activities. There will be opportunities throughout the year for the YMs to participate in activities; we try to avoid sales, but will take an opportunity if it is a great one. If YMs do not participate in these activities, they will not be eligible for the discounts afforded those that do for certain events. In other words, if the unit is paying for half or all of an activity, the YM must participate in the fundraising efforts to realize the benefit. AVs and support staff are always pursuing donation efforts and would appreciate any help that YMs or family members can give.

• **What should I know about leadership schools?**

For all leadership schools, certain requirements must be met to apply - time in program (TIP), PFT scores, updated DDR training, rank and age, etc.

YMs can attend JLS (Junior Leadership School) once they have completed one year in the program prior to the school, if they have earned the rank of LCpl or Cpl (and based on age), and have no disciplinary, respect, or inspection issues. The YM can attend any JLS that has openings, anywhere in the country, provided parents are able to provide the transportation necessary to get them to the location. For example, if Division 1 is hosting a JLS, an YM from our unit can apply for admission and go if the parent can provide the necessary transport to wherever the school is being held. The payment responsibility lies fully with the parent for JLS.

SLS (Senior Leadership School) and ALS (Advanced Leadership School) are held at the National level and transportation is included in the fee.

• **Why is Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) important?**

Per the specifications of our non-profit regulations, we must conduct DDR training at the minimum rate of three hours per quarter. Typically, this is done through one half-hour of instruction at each drill, but can also be a longer presentation by a YM, a guest speaker, or may include such things as working at DDR booths or trips to appropriate venues. A YM that does not have the required 3 hours per quarter will have to submit make-up work (or attend online DDR sessions), within that same quarter to count. If the YM does not maintain the minimum DDR training, he/she will not be able to participate in activities above the unit level.

• **What is expected of the Young Marines and adults on outings?**

HQ has an array of information in the form of manuals and memorandums available to all on the National website. They are accessible through the Library tab after you click on “member” on the home page. They are very clear about behavior, both YM and adult. The number one priority is the safety of the YMs. To that end, adults will not be permitted to smoke or drink around YMs during any YM activity, outing, or event, public or otherwise. The general consensus is that AVs should not be smokers unless they can abstain for the length of time necessary for drill, outings, activities, or events.

We are not a military organization; however, we do subscribe to the values of respect for others, self-discipline, chain of command, and following orders. There is a time to have fun, but we still must act according to the YM Creed and Obligation. Whether in uniform or in regular clothes, we expect youth to act like Young Marines; they will be courteous, respectful, and not bring shame upon themselves or the program.

Appearance is important. Refer to the guidebooks for specifics, but generally speaking, the uniform should be neat, patches sewn on correctly, proper hair style, jewelry limited to permitted items, clean nails (neutral tone or no polish), and clean footwear. Under normal circumstances, a blank white t-shirt is worn under the camouflage blouse. In rare cases, we may wear the National t-shirt but you will always be notified of that decision.

• **Being a (Northern KY) Young Marine:**

Once you become a Young Marine (or Registered Adult Volunteer), you represent our unit, the years of volunteer work it took to make this unit what it is, all of the YMs who came before you, the Northern KY reputation, over 6,000 YMs and countless YM Alumni across the country, and the United States Marine Corps who has endorsed us. **Every person you come in contact with will judge the Young Marines program by you - you must represent us well (in uniform or not).** When in uniform, you are held to the following rules:

- No sunglasses in uniform.
- No chewing gum in uniform.
- No wearing your cover any way but properly.
- We do not rest our hands in pockets in uniform.
- We leave places better than we find them.
- We use full sentences when asked a question.
- We use common courtesy (saying please and thank you, pushing in chairs, cleaning up after yourself, answering properly, looking people in the eye, saying ma'am and sir, etc.).
- We shake hands properly - firm grip, maintain eye contact, shoulders square to other person, speak clearly.
- We adhere to the rules of Chivalry (holding doors, helping people, etc.).
- No tattoos that show in (any YM) uniform are allowed (this includes PT gear).
- We respond to emails (LCpls & up, this is your responsibility not Mom's or Dad's job).
- If you earn a title or a trip, you owe it back to the program, the unit, and your YMs in the form of service and

sharing knowledge gained.

- We have integrity - we do the right thing even when we think no one is watching (but someone is always watching).
- We respect our flag, our country, our Anthem, and our Pledge of Allegiance. We follow proper etiquette for all.
- We have prayer before meals and events, given by our Chaplain. You are not required to participate, but you are must allow others their reverence.

• **Behavior & Consequences**

This is a detailed, subjective, lengthy topic that cannot be completely covered here. From the simplest of behavior vs consequence examples - a YM who slouches through close order drill - to the most serious - a YM caught with drugs - severity of punishment is based on severity of offense, whether it is a first-time or repeat offender, and what we as a group (Unit HQ) decide. (A YM who slouches through close order drill will likely never be asked to try out for Color Guard.)

ACRONYMS

AAR	After-Action Report
ALC	Adult Leaders Conference
ALS	Advanced Leadership School
BDU	Battle Dress Uniform
CO	Commanding Officer
DDR	Drug Demand Reduction
DIV	Division
DYMOY	Division Young Marine of the Year
EGA	Eagle, Globe & Anchor
F'NYMOY	Former National Young Marine of the Year
GAHA	Great American History Adventure
JLS	Junior Leadership School
LEF	Leadership Evaluation Form
NLA	National Leadership Academies
NYMOY	National Young Marine of the Year
PFT	Physical Fitness Test
POA	Position of Attention
PT	Physical Training
RA/RAL	Registered Adult Leader
RAC	Registered Adult in Charge
RAM	Registered Adult Manual
RRW	Red Ribbon Week
SLS	Senior Leadership School
SO	Supply Officer
SPACES	Summer Programs of Adventures, Challenges, Encampments & Schools
TIP	Time in Program
TO	Training Officer
UC	Unit Commander
UOD	Uniform of the Day
XO	Executive Officer
YM	Young Marine
YM/Cpl	Young Marine Corporal
YM/GySgt	Young Marine Gunnery Sergeant
YM/LCpl	Young Marine Lance Corporal
YM/MGySgt	Young Marine Master Gunnery Sergeant
YM/MSgt	Young Marine Master Sergeant
YM/Pvt	Young Marine Private
YM/PFC	Young Marine Private First Class
YM/Rct	Young Marine Recruit
YM/Sgt	Young Marine Sergeant
YM/SgtMaj	Young Marine Sergeant Major
YM/SSgt	Young Marine Staff Sergeant
YMOY	Young Marine of the Year
YMU	Young Marines University