

Honor Above All

15 May 2024

Dear Incoming Cadet,

Welcome to the Loudoun County High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (LCHS NJROTC). We are looking forward to meeting and working with you this upcoming school year.

Prior to the start of the 2024-2025 school year, the unit will hold a Basic Leadership Training (BLT) camp for all new NJROTC cadets. I believe BLT sets you up for success not only in NJROTC, but also for high school. At BLT you will participate in physical training, basic drill instruction, lessons on military knowledge and bearing, team building, and you will also get the opportunity to learn about the teams that our unit provides for you to join. You will be pushed outside of your comfort zone mentally and physically, but this experience is what I believe allows you to create close bonds with your peers. Throughout the week you will be a part of your designated squad, which is each led by our senior mentors. These mentors are there to guide, push, and teach you along with your fellow cadets in your squad, encouraging you the whole way. After your week at BLT, I truly believe that you will understand what it means to put Honor Above All and what it is like to be a part of the Captains Battalion.

BLT camp is August 5 – 10, with uniform issue on Saturday, August 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Loudoun County High School Annex building. Families are welcome to attend the graduation ceremony on the morning of Saturday, August 10. A reception and picnic will then follow the ceremony. These first steps are highly influential as they will set you on the path to becoming an outstanding cadet and citizen.

BLT starts at 7:30 a.m. and ends no later than 3:30 p.m from August 5-9, and 6:00 a.m. to noon on August 10. On your first day of BLT, wear your Navy PT shirt and shorts, which will be issued on August 3, and socks and good running shoes. You will be issued a squad shirt, which you will wear for the remainder of the week. Bring a healthy lunch (**no peanuts or peanut products are allowed**) and a refillable water bottle. I would highly encourage you to be well rested and eat a good breakfast, so that you can best succeed at BLT. Fall sports coaches understand BLT participation. If you have a scheduling conflict, please contact myself or Gunnery Sergeant Gaitens as soon as possible. Our contact information is as follows:

Gunnery Sergeant Dennis Gaitens
Naval Science Instructor
dennis.gaitens@lcps.org
(571) 252-2014

Cadet Commander Andrew Wilson
Battalion Commanding Officer
lchs.njrotc.co@gmail.com

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The schedule for BLT is tightly packed and many events build upon previous events. Missing any part of the week may prevent you from successfully completing the training and take away from the overall experience. Commitment and personal accountability are traits that we strive to instill in each cadet. Both traits start with BLT. It is important that you identify and resolve any potential scheduling conflicts as soon as possible. Once you commit to the week of Basic Leadership Training, we make our commitment to you and expect you to be there. Any absences, especially unexcused absences, may result in you being dropped from BLT.

The cost for BLT is \$50. Please make checks payable to LCHS NJROTC and write "NJROTC BLT Camp" in the notes section. Those wishing to pay in cash or who need financial assistance should contact Gunnery Sergeant Dennis Gaitens. The fee covers a one-time uniform cleaning charge upon entering the program, a polo shirt for use on cadet activities and events, a nametag, and a squad shirt. To register for BLT you must:

1. Email Gunny Gaitens at dennis.gaitens@lcps.org (please write "BLT Registration" in the subject line) with your name and contact number.
2. Complete the attached forms and mail or email them by Friday, July 26 to:

dennis.gaitens@lcps.org

or

Loudoun County High School
(Attn: NJROTC)
415 Dry Mill Road, SW
Leesburg, VA 20175.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me as I would be happy to help. Again, welcome to the Captains Battalion. I am looking forward to meeting and working with all of you this upcoming school year.

Respectfully,

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C/CDR ANDREW WILSON
LCHS NJROTC
Battalion Commanding Officer
lchs.njrotc.co@gmail.com