

California Cadet Corps Proposal for Sierra Sage Academy

The California Cadet Corps (<https://cacadets.org/>) has been in existence since 1911 as a result of the California High School Cadet Act. Since 1911, the program has expanded to include middle schools in addition to high schools. Currently the program is in more than 100 schools across California and serves more than 6500 cadets in 15 identified regions.

The Cadet Corps provides an opportunity for students to experience and learn about leadership as they exhibit authority over fellow cadets. The mission of the program is to provide students with quality educational and leadership development programs that prepare them for success in college and the work force. In addition, the Cadet Corps has been shown to improve student engagement in school:

- 86% of CACC graduates pursue higher education. About 3% join the armed forces
- CACC Cadets attend school at a rate 3.8% higher than their non-cadet counterparts
- Cadets earn an average of .54 grade points higher than non-cadet counterparts
- Cadets score significantly higher on nationally-normed assessments of leadership skills than students in grades 4-12 who are not enrolled in the Cadet program

While participating in the program, Cadets will receive the following certifications:

- First Aide
- CPR
- TEEN CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)
- 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens
- OSHA certifications
- Presidential Physical Fitness

What does this mean for Sierra Sage Academy?

The California Cadet Corps program at Sierra Sage would be operated by Belinda Contreras, Director of Group Living (an ROP employee). The students participating in the CACC would meet daily, for 75 minutes outside of the school day, and receive elective credits toward graduation. Participation would be voluntary. Students have the opportunity to earn awards and promotions as they complete different aspects of the program and the recognition helps to reinforce the skills being promoted. Students have already experienced some of the activities related to CACC and are anxious to experience more of the program.