

TIPS OF THE DAY:

TIP ONE:

First word of advice! Let your son/daughter start figuring it out on their own. What stress and confusion they feel now will only magnify once they drive onto the academy grounds on I-day. They need the conditioning. You will serve them best by only helping when they absolutely need it. Pretty much only when they beg. This is THEIR adventure to experience. You/we are here "as necessary." Don't sweat the underwear/sock colors in the manual or the boots, etc. - let them ask their way through resources they find on their own.

Your child is NOT a "cadet" yet. They will be referred to as an "appointee" only until they are sworn in on I-day (they are officially and legally sworn in soon after being dropped off). They then become a "basic cadet" (among other names they will learn). If they successfully navigate to basic cadet training graduation and are accepted into the cadet wing they will become "doolies" or "cadet 4th class" "4 degree" (C4C).

Your cadet will be communicating in a new language. Below is a list of how the grades are classified so you can translate when the time comes. Here is how the classes are described - notice it goes in what I consider reverse order -

C1C: Cadet First Class (a senior). Also known as Firstie or First Degree.

C2C: Cadet Second Class (a junior). Also known as Second Degree.

C3C: Cadet Third Class (a sophomore). Also known as Third Degree.

C4C: Cadet Fourth Class (a freshman). Also known as Fourth Degree and Doolie.

TIP TWO:

Looking at photos of I-Day every year - despite the hours of planning and coordinating as to how to "show up" on that day - every appointee arrives looking different. Not to be facetious, if your kid doesn't show up the right way, he or she will be efficiently corrected by cadre. Also - even if they do everything right - they somehow don't... It is part of the formation that will continue for the next 4 years.

TIP - sign up for the AOG Webguy plan. Webguy is a group of photographers that have access to USAFA when you don't and take photos and post them every day. You can follow your own kid (assuming you can find them as they all look alike in uniform, shaved head, etc.) You also provide your cadet membership for life in the AOG after graduation.

For more - take a look -

<https://www.usafawebguy.com/>

