

THE BLACK KNIGHTS' SWORD AUGUST 2025

CLASS OF 2025

IN THE U.S. MILITARY



CONGRATULATIONS BLACK KNIGHTS ALUMNI

12 members of the Black Knights alumni have enlisted in either U.S. Army or the U.S. Marine Corps. Left to right: Alan Echeverria (USMC), Christian Hernandez (Army), Jamarion Wilkerson (Army), Elizabeth Rigney (Army), Sarahi Paxtor (USMC), Michael Espinoza (Army), Alessandra Rodriguez (Army), Trinity Rodriguez (USMC), and Jose Juarez (Army). Not pictured: Katerine Alamia (USMC), Luis Castellanos (Army), Angel Bustillo (Army).

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COLLEGE or MILITARY
 Army JROTC supports cadets choosing military, labor, or college. To help cadets make post high school decisions, here is what the U.S. Military offers in benefits:

- Paid job training
- 4 years paid college fund
- Free college while serving
- Paid healthcare
- Paid dental
- 30 days paid leave yearly
- College credits for training
- Travel
- 20 year retirement
- Competitive salary

HOW TO ENLIST

Here is how to qualify to serve in the military:

- Pass the ASVAB (written test) with at least a 31 score
 -The ASVAB is given at Sam Houston in the fall and spring semesters
- Pass height and weight standards
- No criminal record
- Pass a drug test
- Pass a physical
- Eligible to graduate high school on time



BENEFITS OF 3 YEARS OF JROTC WHEN ENLISTING

Enlisting in the U.S. Army with at least 3 years of JROTC will result in an automatic promotion E3 pay grade which starts at **\$2,733 per month** which is over **\$32,000 for the first year**. Housing, food, healthcare, dental, and life insurance are covered as part of your benefits. Speak to the JROTC instructors for more information.

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BLACK KNIGHTS SUMMER CAMP AT SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY



JROTC Leadership Cadet Challenge 2025
Cadet Jarrell Lennon was among the six students from Sam Houston MSTC to attend summer camp at Sam Houston State University to challenge himself and earn ribbons and arcs for his uniform. Jarrell's father was proud to see his son step up to the challenge, and Jarrell had a great time on the campus training with students from all over the city.



Developing Leadership Skills
Cadet Lennon elevated himself to earn the team leader role in the drone competition at camp. His team earned 1st place among all cadet teams at the camp. His peers and instructors from around the district praised how Jarrell motivated his team in the competition, and Jarrell demonstrated a high skill level in flying a drone through difficult obstacles. Based on his performance at summer camp, Jarrell has earned a position on the battalion staff as the logistics officer. He is also a drill team member.

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TAKE ON THE CHALLENGES



Pictured Left: Cadet Kimberly Luna flashes a medal her company earned for being the best company at summer camp. Kimberly is now a 10th grader and has already earned the position of primary color guard commander for her program. Pictured Right: Cadet Major Dayana Contreras is fresh out of water survival training with her company. She is the battalion commander this year and her short term plan is to enlist in the U.S. Army upon completion of her high school career.



Top Right: Cadet Jesus Aviles is a rising 10th grader with a bright future. He was one of the first students to volunteer to accept the challenge of summer camp. He enjoyed the food, and he really enjoyed meeting new people from across the city of Houston.



Lower Right: Rising 10th grader Cadet Staff Sergeant Kayla Moody is a rising star for Sam Houston MSTC. She has earned the position of the #2 ranking member in the program serving as executive officer for this school year. She is also the academic team leader.



Rising senior Stephanie Barrera enjoyed every minute of summer camp as her company was the best company at camp. Stephanie is a leader on the archery team, and her plans after high school include possible military service.

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2023 ALUMNAE ENLISTS

U.S. ARMY

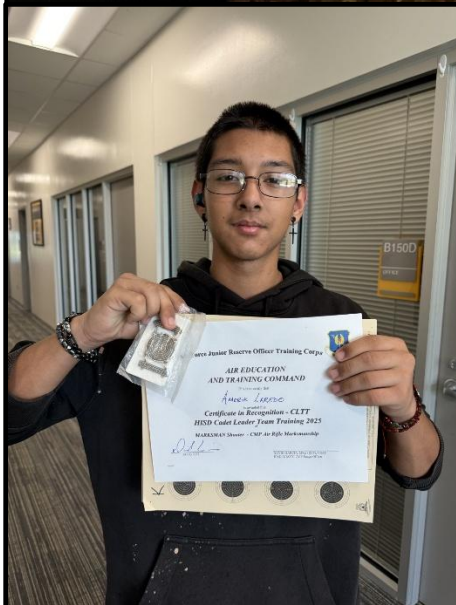
Former cadet battalion command sergeant major Dakota Chavez enlisted over the summer. She is a former drill team commander, honor guard members, and leader in battalion. Her former commander, C/Colonel Erik Jimenez (now a junior at the Military Academy at West Point) was on hand to witness and celebrate with her in this moment. The Black Knights encourage alumni to always reach back keep the battalion informed as to inspire the next generation.



CADET LEADERSHIP AND TEAM TRAINING

In July of 2025, the District JROTC department hosted the annual CLTT seminar. The seminar is designed to kick off the new school year by preparing cadet staff and teams to get back on track. The training is for all staff leaders, drill team members, color guard members, archery and marksmanship members, as well as company level leaders.

Cadet Ameryk Loredo is a rising 10th grader, and he earned his marksmanship badge by hitting a high number of targets with his assigned air rifle. He is a member of the air rifle team, drill team, physical fitness team, color guard, and he serves on the battalion staff as the security manager. He is also in the plumbing department where he has competed in the Skills Bridge competition. For JROTC, he has competed in Daytona Beach, Florida at the National Drill Meet.



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SHOULD I JOIN JROTC?

MISCONCEPTIONS CLEARED UP!

- 1. Do I have to pay for the uniform?**
 - No! The uniform is issued by cadets on behalf of U.S. Army Cadet Command
- 2. Do I have to join the military?**
 - No! Most cadets never join the military. However, those who choose the military have solid training and are prepared for the career path.
- 3. Can I participate in sports and be in the JROTC program?**
 - Absolutely! We have several varsity players in our program. Some are leaders.
- 4. JROTC can't help me with college...**
 - Not true! JROTC is over 100 years old, and we are the largest character-building program in the world. Students with JROTC on their college resumes separate themselves from their peers.



MISCONCEPTIONS CLEARED UP!

- 5. Can I join other clubs on campus like the National Honor Society?**
 - Absolutely! The 2025 valedictorian (#1 ranked student) was in JROTC on this campus and a member of the NHS.
- 6. JROTC is boring...**
 - Not true! No other program on this campus offers the more traveling opportunities, competitions, physical fitness, and year round training like JROTC. Check our social media for proof.



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CLEARING UP MISCONCEPTIONS

7. My friends might laugh at me for wearing a uniform...

- Over 250 students on this campus are in JROTC. If you need new friends who are motivated and who are on a mission to succeed, find friends here.

8. The instructors look mean and intimidating...

- The instructors demand more out of their cadets than many cadets demand from themselves. You should want rigorous standards which better prepares you to thrive in a modern work environment that also has rigorous demands upon you.

If you have questions, speak with a teacher, counselor, or a cadet. They all know the deal!

NO RULE CHANGES IN JROTC FOR 2025-2026

NEW TEXAS LAW: NO CELL PHONES DURING SCHOOL DAY



Effective Fall 2025 | House Bill 1481

EXPECT NO CHANGES IN JROTC

Upperclassmen cadets know cell phones have ALWAYS been unauthorized in JROTC. Ear buds, headphones, head gear, gum, candy, food, crocs, or anything not related to JROTC or high school curriculum are unauthorized to have in **Legacy Hall**. The standards remain. Leadership begins with adhering to high standards and influencing subordinate cadets to adhere to them as well.

Let's have fun this year! Let's also remember we are here to learn and prepare ourselves for life after high school.

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