

Citizenship in Action

Unit 1

Chapter 1

Foundations of Army JROTC and Getting Involved

Lesson 1

Army JROTC– The Making of a Better Citizen



Key Terms

cadet
challenges
JROTC
mission
motivate
opportunities
unique

What You Will Learn to Do

- Identify how Army JROTC can impact your future

Linked Core Abilities

- Take responsibility for your actions and choices

Skills and Knowledge You Will Gain Along the Way

- Explain the mission of Army JROTC
- Identify the challenges in the Army JROTC program
- Identify the opportunities of the Army JROTC program
- Define the key words contained in this lesson

Chapter 1

Key Note Terms

JROTC (Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps) – a program that teaches high school students the values of good citizenship while giving them an introduction to the U.S. Army.

mission – a specific job given to a person or group of persons to accomplish.

cadet – a high school student enrolled in the leadership and citizenship activities through JROTC.

unique – the only one of its kind.

motivate – provide a need or a purpose that causes a person to want to do something.

challenges – to arouse the interest of one's actions or efforts; to stimulate; the quality of requiring full use of one's abilities, energy, and resources; to demand identification from someone before they are allowed to enter or pass.

opportunities – favorable or advantageous circumstances or a combination of circumstances.

Introduction

This lesson introduces you to the U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) Program, its **mission**, and the Leadership Education and Training (LET) curriculum for this first level of your instruction. Completing the material in this course requires discipline and hard work, but the reward is well worth your effort. Through Army JROTC, you are building a foundation that will last a lifetime.

If this is your first adventure into the Army JROTC Program—*welcome to the team!* You are among a special group of high school students headed for success.

Your participation as a student or **cadet** in this program shows your willingness to make the most of your high school education. Whatever your reason for taking this course, every member of Army JROTC is special and brings a different cultural dimension to the program. We are proud that you elected to be a part of a **unique** team—a team of winners!

Mission of Army JROTC

The mission of JROTC is “to **motivate** young people to be better citizens.” *You* are the focus of Army JROTC's mission. In fact, you are the whole point of Army JROTC; it is devoted to your growth, both as a student and as a person. JROTC is designed to teach the value of citizenship, leadership, service to the community, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment while instilling a sense of self-esteem, teamwork, and self-discipline. This course prepares you for responsible leadership roles while making you aware of your rights, responsibilities, and privileges as an American citizen. JROTC stimulates your career potential and provides you with rewarding opportunities as a student that will benefit you, your community, and the nation. This program is a cooperative effort on the part of the Army and the host institution to give you an opportunity for total development and improve yourself in many ways. JROTC teaches self-discipline, confidence, and pride in a job well done, and it offers you the following **challenges** and **opportunities**:

- **Sharpen your communication skills**
- **Promote and encourage citizenship through participation in community service projects**
- **Develop your leadership potential**
- **Strengthen your self-esteem**
- **Improve your physical fitness**
- **Provide incentives to live drug-free**
- **Promote your graduation from high school and develop a solid foundation for career development**

Some employers spend millions of dollars training their employees to excel in many of these same skills and attitudes. By taking the JROTC course, you have an advantage over thousands of other young people who are seeking their place in the world.

Course Descriptions

The JROTC course is divided into seven sections or units. Each unit offers you new opportunities, challenges, and different perspectives from which you can see yourself and the world around you. Unit 7 is the only optional unit in the JROTC course. Take a quick look at what courses JROTC has to offer.

Unit 1: Citizenship in Action

This unit engages students in the practice of basic citizenship customs and traditions and in the exploration of opportunities for national service. Students learn the purpose of Army JROTC and their roles as cadets. Unit 1 provides opportunities to become familiar with the Department of Defense by examining how all branches of the U.S. armed forces work together to serve the nation by defending democracy and maintaining peace. It also provides opportunities to learn about other service organizations.

Unit 2: Leadership Theory and Application

Unit 2 helps you develop cadet leadership potential through the application of principles, values, and strategies. It prepares you to work effectively as a team member and leader and act as a mentor to other cadets. You are taught the roles of leaders in promoting equal opportunity, addressing prejudice, and preventing sexual harassment and assault. You also compare how those with varied leadership styles approach planning, decision making, problem solving, negotiation, and supervision. In Leadership Lab, you apply leadership skills to drill movements, techniques, and commands as you move from novice to expert.

Unit 3: Foundations for Success

Unit 3 builds essential skills needed to maximize learning potential and future success. This unit lays the groundwork for service learning. You learn to recognize the value of varied learning styles and multiple levels of intelligence. You apply different learning strategies to improve critical thinking, study habits, and communication skills. As you progress through the program, you acquire new learning strategies by taking on responsibilities for teaching younger cadets. You also develop and expand your abilities to resolve conflict and prevent violence. In addition, this unit helps you prepare for life after high school by focusing on career planning and engaging in personal financial planning.

Unit 4: Wellness, Fitness, and First Aid

Unit 4 provides information and tools you need to take responsibility for physical and mental wellness. As a cadet, you learn to assess your personal status and develop plans for improving nutrition and exercise habits and controlling stress. This unit also helps you make responsible choices about substance use and prevent abuse. In addition, you develop proficiency in basic first aid techniques.

Unit 5: Geography, Map Skills, and Environmental Awareness

This unit helps you build map reading and land navigation skills and apply them in learning the art of orienteering and air navigation. This unit develops global awareness as you compare physical, political, economic, and cultural elements of continents, regions, and countries. Finally, this unit examines the global nature of environmental issues.

Unit 6: Citizenship in History and Government

Unit 6 builds the basic skills and interest for participation in civic and political life. You actively engage in the *We the People* curriculum to explore the origins, structure, rights, and responsibilities accorded by the American constitutional form of government. This unit actively engages you in applying problem-solving strategies to current political and social issues.

Unit 7: Air Rifle Safety and Marksmanship

This final and optional unit teaches elements of air rifle safety and marksmanship. The focus is on history, safety, and operation of air rifles, including taking aim, firing techniques, positions, scoring, and firing for record.

Conclusion

Your success as a cadet is the main goal of all Army JROTC learning experiences. This course focuses on the development of better citizens by building skills in leadership, citizenship, life success, geography, and wellness in a structured interactive environment. The JROTC program is one of the Army's contributions to assisting America's youth to become better citizens. It can prepare you for life by providing a framework for the qualities (skills, knowledge, and positive attitudes) that will help you to succeed—qualities such as courage, **candor**, competence, commitment, confidence, and character. JROTC offers many opportunities for teamwork, advancement, and self-enrichment that are not available in other high school courses. The effort you put into mastering this program and developing your personal skills will help you become a successful student and productive adult. Several components of this course have been evaluated and identified for college credits after successful completion of the specified requirements.

By enrolling in Army JROTC and joining the ranks of millions of other cadets who know the meaning of success, you have taken the first step toward a promising future.

Key Note Term

candor – impartiality, fairness, frankness, openness

Lesson Review

1. What is the mission of Army JROTC?
2. What JROTC skills do you look forward to learning?
3. Give an overview of one unit in the JROTC course.
4. Define the term *candor*.