

# Joining the Air Cadets

## with 155 Maidenhead Squadron ATC

### Introduction

The Air Cadets is a national uniformed youth organisation sponsored by the Royal Air Force. As an Air Cadet you will get the chance of taking part in activities that others can only dream about. Learn to fly or glide, rock climb or hill walk, experience trips overseas, gain the Duke of Edinburgh's award & BTEC qualifications, or simply make new friends and gain qualifications. The Air Cadets can literally help shape your future.

This leaflet will explain to you the process of joining the Air Cadets with 155 Maidenhead Squadron as a cadet. For other Units please refer to the website [www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets](http://www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets).

### Eligibility

To join the Air Cadets you must have started Year 8 at school (or higher) and be under 17 years old. Other than that there are no restrictions. The organisation is open to boys and girls of any background, ability, religion or nationality. You don't have to join the armed forces, or even have a desire to become a pilot, just to like taking on a challenge and to have a passion for fun and adventure.

### How to Join 155 Squadron

155 Squadron operates a recruiting intake system. This means that we only accept new members at set times during the year. Our intakes start in early January and early September each year. The exact dates will be advertised on our Facebook page and Squadron website (see links below).

The intake system allows us to concentrate on providing you with quality basic training, to give you a good start to your cadet career. We have also found it is the best way for new cadets to bond and make friends with their fellow new cadets.

The exception is if you are 16. If you are 16 we will consider letting you join us and engage in a fast track training route. This is dependent on you taking responsibility for learning a lot of the material in your own time, to allow us to fast track you through your basic training. If you are 16 contact us straight away to arrange a meeting to discuss your potential options.

### How the Intake works

Each intake starts with an induction evening where you and your parents will attend a presentation about the Air Cadets Organisation and how you can join us. You will be given all the paperwork required to join and get a chance to ask any questions you have before making the final decision to join us.

If you do decide to come back and join us the first three months will contain your basic ATC training. This provides you with the key knowledge you will need for your cadet career. Learning how to march and wear your uniform. Learning about the Air Training Corps and the Royal Air Force, how an airfield operates and the history of flight. We will also teach you how to map read, use a compass, set up a tent and survive outdoors in preparation for camping expeditions.

But it is not all learning, you will have fun too with trips away, together with sporting and social activities at the Squadron. At the end of the recruit training you will become a first class cadet and then you will be able to take part in many of the amazing activities the air cadets has to offer you. With the basic knowledge you have learnt, you will be able to enjoy activities like flying, fieldcraft and expeditions to a greater degree.

### Contacting us

155 squadron meets every Monday and Thursday evenings at our Headquarters in Holmanleaze Road in Maidenhead. Please contact us before visiting so that we can ensure that there will be someone to talk with you.

Our contact details are:

Telephone: 01628 639235

Email: [adj.155@aircadets.org](mailto:adj.155@aircadets.org)

Web: [www.155atc.org.uk](http://www.155atc.org.uk)

Or follow us on Facebook and Twitter



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