

# POOLEE PROGRAM

*Your First Step Toward Becoming a Young Marine*

South Plains Young Marines Unit

## What Is the Poolee Program?

The South Plains Young Marines Poolee Program is designed for youth who are interested in joining the Young Marines but are not yet enrolled in an active recruit training class. As a Poolee, you officially pre-join the program, begin experiencing what the Young Marines is all about, and secure your place in the next available recruit class.

The Poolee Program is open year-round. Because recruit classes only begin in April and September, the time between becoming a Poolee and starting your recruit class will vary depending on when you join. Staff will always communicate your expected timeline clearly.

## Who Is It For?

The Poolee Program is open to youth ages 8–18 who:

- Missed the registration window for the current recruit class
- Are interested in the Young Marines and want to experience it before fully committing
- Are preparing to join the next available recruit class in April or September

## How It Works

Poolees participate alongside active recruits during drills and select unit events. While not yet officially enrolled as a recruit, this time is used to get familiar with the structure, values, and expectations of the Young Marines.

### What Poolees Have Access To:

- Drills — attend when your schedule allows (flexible, not mandatory)
- Select unit events as designated by staff
- Active participation alongside recruits during drills
- Mentorship and preparation for the upcoming recruit class

### What Poolees Do Not Have Access To:

- BAND app or online training platform
- Graded assignments or sign-offs

- Program hours toward rank advancement
- All unit events — some are reserved for recruits and full Young Marines only
- Official recruit or Young Marine status

**Recruit classes begin in April and September only.**

Depending on when you join as a Poolee, you may wait several months for the next class. Staff will keep you informed of all upcoming dates and deadlines throughout your time as a Poolee.

**Poolee Uniform**

All Poolees are required to wear the designated uniform. This helps staff identify Poolees during drills and events and gives youth a sense of belonging as they prepare for recruit training.

| Occasion                     | Required Uniform  |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Drills — Warm Weather</b> | Heather grey t-shirt<br>Black athletic shorts<br>Tennis shoes               |
| <b>Drills — Cold Weather</b> | Heather grey crewneck sweatshirt<br>Heather grey sweatpants<br>Tennis shoes |
| <b>Events (All Seasons)</b>  | Heather grey t-shirt<br>Nice jeans (no rips or distressing)<br>Tennis shoes |

**Every Poolee must bring to every drill and event:**

- A reusable water bottle
- Chow (lunch) — no food will be provided

**Registration & Fees**

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Poolee Registration Fee</b>     | \$60 (non-refundable)   |
| <b>When to Pay</b>                 | After completing Orientation 1, at the time of Poolee registration      |
| <b>If You Join a Recruit Class</b> | \$60 is applied toward the \$120 first-payment minimum at Orientation 2 |

**If You Do Not Continue**

\$60 is considered a donation to the South Plains Young Marines unit

## Orientation Requirements

Both Orientation 1 and Orientation 2 are mandatory for all families. There are no exceptions. Orientation 1 must be completed before becoming a Poolee. Orientation 2 must be completed before joining a recruit class.

### Orientation 1 — Required Before Becoming a Poolee

Orientation 1 covers all program expectations, rules, and requirements for parents and youth. Every family must complete this before registering as a Poolee and paying the \$60 fee. During the spring cycle, Orientation 1 is held in person in February. Outside of the spring cycle, Orientation 1 is conducted virtually and scheduled directly with unit staff at a mutually convenient time. Group sessions are welcome when multiple families are available.

Between Orientation 1 and Orientation 2, families are expected to:

- Read through the parent guidebook thoroughly
- Read through the Young Marines guidebook with their child
- Schedule and complete the required physical for their child

This time is intentional. We want every family to feel fully informed and genuinely committed before taking the next step at Orientation 2.

### Orientation 2 — Required Before Joining a Recruit Class

Orientation 2 finalizes enrollment into the recruit class. Youth must be present. Families will complete all remaining registration paperwork and submit the remaining balance toward the \$120 minimum payment (the \$60 Poolee fee is credited here). Each new recruit will receive their gear package at their first drill, which includes:

- Zipper binder
- 2-liter hydration pack
- Cover
- Recruit guidebook

**Gear must be ordered and shipped in advance.**

The Orientation 2 deadlines are firm. Missing Orientation 2 means waiting for the next available recruit class.

## Your Path to Becoming a Recruit

No matter when your family discovers the South Plains Young Marines, there is a clear path to get your child enrolled. All paths lead to one of two Orientation 2 dates — March (for the April class) or late July (for the September class).

### Path 1 — Spring Cycle (April Recruit Class)

This is the standard in-person onboarding path with a set schedule.

| Timeframe         | Step                                  | Notes  |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| January           | Open House                            | <i>In person — no commitment required</i>              |
| February          | Orientation 1                         | <i>In person — parents and youth</i>                   |
| February – March  | Review guidebooks & complete physical | <i>Required before Orientation 2</i>                   |
| March             | Orientation 2                         | <i>In person — youth must be present; gear ordered</i> |
| <b>April</b>      | <b>Recruit Class Begins!</b>          |  |
| <b>~August 22</b> | <b>Spring Graduation</b>              |  |

### Path 2 — Fall Cycle (September Recruit Class)

For families who missed the spring cycle. Orientation 1 is virtual and self-scheduled but must be completed by the end of June to allow time to prepare for the late July Orientation 2.

| Timeframe                 | Step                                  | Notes  |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| April – end of June       | Virtual Orientation 1                 | <i>Self-scheduled with staff; must be completed by end of June</i> |
| After Orientation 1       | Become a Poolee                       | <i>Pay \$60, begin attending drills and select events</i>          |
| Between Orientations      | Review guidebooks & complete physical | <i>Required before Orientation 2</i>                               |
| Late July                 | Orientation 2                         | <i>In person — youth must be present; date TBD; gear ordered</i>   |
| <b>September</b>          | <b>Recruit Class Begins!</b>          |  |
| December                  | Holiday Break                         | <i>No drills during this period</i>                                |
| <b>January / February</b> | <b>Fall Graduation</b>                | <i>Estimated, based on class progress</i>                          |

---

### Path 3 — Late Entry (Next April Recruit Class)

For families who connect with us after the fall cycle window has closed (August through December). Orientation 1 is virtual and self-scheduled. These Poolees will attend the March Orientation 2 and join the following April recruit class.

| Timeframe            | Step                                  | Notes   |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| August – December    | Virtual Orientation 1                 | <i>Self-scheduled with staff at any time</i>              |
| After Orientation 1  | Become a Poolee                       | <i>Pay \$60, begin attending drills and select events</i> |
| Between Orientations | Review guidebooks & complete physical | <i>Required before Orientation 2</i>                      |
| March                | Orientation 2                         | <i>In person — youth must be present; gear ordered</i>    |
| <b>April</b>         | <b>Recruit Class Begins!</b>          |   |

**No matter when you join, the next step is always Orientation 1.**

Contact unit staff to schedule your virtual Orientation 1 session at a time that works for your family. Group sessions are welcome.

## Frequently Asked Questions

---

### Why do I have to pay \$60 just to be a Poolee?

The \$60 fee covers your official registration with Young Marines National and a partial payment towards their gear order. It also demonstrates your family's genuine commitment to the program. If you move forward into a recruit class, this amount is applied directly toward your first \$120 payment — so nothing is wasted.

### What if my child decides not to join a recruit class?

If a Poolee chooses not to continue, the \$60 fee is non-refundable and is considered a tax-deductible donation to the South Plains Young Marines unit. No additional fees are owed.

### Does my child have to attend every drill as a Poolee?

No. Poolee attendance is flexible. Your child is welcome to come when your schedule allows. However, when they do attend, active participation is expected.

---

### **Can Poolees attend all unit events?**

Not all events are open to Poolees. Staff will communicate which events Poolees are welcome to attend. Some events are reserved for recruits and full Young Marines only.

### **How long will my child be a Poolee before starting the recruit class?**

It depends on when you complete Orientation 1. Families who complete it in April through June will join the September class. Families who complete it in August through December will join the following April class. Staff will always give you a clear timeline when you register.

### **Is Orientation 1 required before we pay or commit to anything?**

Yes. All families must complete Orientation 1 before registering as a Poolee or paying any fees. This ensures every family fully understands the program before making any commitment.

### **What do we need to do between Orientation 1 and Orientation 2?**

Families are expected to read through the parent guidebook and the Young Marines guidebook with their child, and schedule and complete the required physical for their child. This time is intentional — we want every family to feel fully ready before Orientation 2.

## **Ready to Get Started?**

Contact unit staff to schedule your Orientation 1 — your first step toward becoming a Young Marine.

Recruit classes begin in April and September. Your journey starts now.