



2026 Recruit Training Information

The Young Marine Mission

The Mission of the Young Marines is to positively impact America's future by providing quality youth development programs for boys and girls that nurtures and develops its members into responsible citizens who enjoy and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Our core values are Teamwork | Leadership | Discipline

Who Are the Young Marines For

The Young Marines is for boys and girls, ages 8-18 or the completion of high school. Great for kids that have a passion to learn, serve, develop skills and become leaders.

Who the Young Marines Are Not For

We are not a program for youth with serious disciplinary problems, substance abuse issues or lengthy histories in juvenile court. We are not a recruitment tool for the military nor are we a youth bootcamp.

Recruit Training

Our Recruit Training runs for 10 weeks (every other Saturday) and is divided into 3 Phases: Foundation, Application and Polish. The Foundation Phase teaches the core knowledge from

Close Order Drill fundamentals, Rank Structure, Young Marine History, Leadership Basics and Public Speaking. The Application Phase allows for Recruits to apply the skills they have learned in the Foundation Phase and apply them to more difficult skills such as Field Skills, Land Navigation, First Aid and Team-Based tasks. The Polish Phase helps to refine, reinforce and prepare Recruits for Graduation. This allows Recruits to polish the skills learned in the Foundation and Application Phases, take their written test, run the final Physical Fitness Test and provides for Graduation practice.

Attendance at scheduled Recruit Drills is a required component of the South Plains Young Marines unit. Recruits must attend all drills; however, up to two absences will be permitted while remaining eligible for graduation. Recruits who miss drill must check BAND for posted training materials, assignments, and updates to ensure they do not fall behind. It is the Recruit's responsibility to review all missed content. Any recruit who accumulates three or more absences will be removed from the current training cycle and placed into inactive status. The Recruit may rejoin during the next Recruit Training Series, and re-enrollment fees may apply.

Cost to Register

Total cost for one year is \$365.00 per recruit. We offer two payment options with an initial payment of \$120.00 on or before March 28th. The yearly re-registration cost is \$60 (subject to change).

What it Includes

Received when a Recruit: National fee paid (1st year), Cover, Recruit Guidebook, zipper binder, watch cap/gloves (or upon cold weather months), hydration pack.

Received when a Young Marine (at graduation): Basic Guidebook, Young Marine Uniform (blouse, trousers, boots, boot bands, belt), ribbons/ribbon rack (as earned), chevrons (as earned),

garment bag, National shirt and Unit shirts (2).

What They Need

Recruits will need to purchase the PT Uniform (plain white t-shirt with their last name and first name initial on the front-this can be done in Sharpie, black athletic shorts and athletic shoes). They will also need to purchase the Recruit Uniform (plain red t-shirt, blue jeans-no holes, rips, stains, bleaching, sagging or embellishments, belt and athletic shoes). *During cold weather, Recruits & Young Marines wear a heather grey crewneck sweatshirt and heather grey sweatpants.*

Please note that we do have a master gear list that includes other items that Recruits and Young Marines will need for hiking, camping trips and travel.

Recruits will need to start their mornings off, before drill, by eating a healthy breakfast and making sure to pack their own lunch. Lunch should be healthy and not contain pogey bait (junk food, candies, sugar filled foods). They should always be staying hydrated in between drills by drinking plenty of water.

Calendar

Recruit Training Schedule

April 11th | Drill #1 @ 8AM-3PM at the American Legion (AL)

April 25th | Drill #2 @ 8AM-3PM at the AL

May 2nd | Car Wash & Lemonade Stand

May 16th | Drill #3 @ 8AM-3PM at the AL

May 23rd | Flay Laying (tentative)

May 25th | Memorial Day Ceremony

May 30th | Drill #4 @ 8AM-3PM at the AL

June 13th | Drill #5 @ 8AM-3PM at the AL

June 27th | Drill #6 @ 8AM-3PM at the AL

July 4th | 4th on Broadway Parade (tentative)

July 11th | Drill 7 @ 8AM-3PM at the AL (make up drill or graduation practice)

July 25th | Drill 8 @ 8AM-3PM at the AL (make up drill or graduation)

Aug. 8th | Drill 9 @ 8AM-3PM at the AL (graduation practice if not completed)

Aug. 22nd | Drill 10 @ 8AM-3PM at the AL (graduation if not completed)

For More Information

Please view our [2026 Poolee & Recruit Timeline](#) document. This document features a timeline of events from our Open Houses to the end of Recruit Training. To learn more about our Poolee Program, [click here](#).

You may also contact us by email at **southplains@youngmarines.org** or by text at **806-375-3580**.

BAND

We use BAND as our main communication hub for all Young Marine information. This includes drill schedules, updates, training resources, documents, photos and important alerts. Every Recruit must sign up for BAND using their own email or phone number. BAND can be used on any device- phone, tablet or computer. Parents must also join BAND with their own separate account so they receive messages, announcements and program updates.

**All payments are non-refundable. If a Poolee or Recruit does not complete training, does not begin training or becomes ineligible to participate, any payments already made will be considered a donation to the South Plains Young Marines.*