



July 6, 2009

Dear Rook of the Norwich Class of 2013 and Family,

Congratulations on your decision to pursue a Norwich University education and to maximize your Norwich experience through membership in the Corps of Cadets! Expect your freshman year to be a rewarding experience. We promise to challenge you intellectually, physically and spiritually. We will demand that you try your best. It is okay to make a mistake trying; it is unacceptable not to try. Adopt the Norwich motto: I Will Try.

I trust you chose Norwich because you consider yourself a young man or woman of honor and integrity. Norwich students must always strive to do the “right thing” no matter how difficult or unpopular that course of action might be. Expect to embrace the Honor Code and the Norwich Guiding Values as your own.

Academic excellence is the number one priority of all Norwich students. Expect to focus on academics, and to take responsibility for your academic progress. Expect to attend all classes, to be proactive and to engage your professors. Expect to meet with your academic advisor frequently and to take full advantage of all available support resources. The Academic Achievement Center has professional staff ready to assist you and can assign peer tutors if needed. The library is a great place to study!

Leadership is service to others, not acquisition of power and privilege. Expect your cadet leaders to be tough, fair role models who will set high standards and teach you the skills of a successful cadet. Expect to learn how to follow, how to be a member of a team, and how to lead by example. Expect to be treated with dignity and respect at all times.

Membership in the Corps requires commitment to wellness: mental, physical and spiritual. Expect to participate in a vigorous physical training program and to meet or exceed NU fitness standards. Expect to be encouraged to participate in intercollegiate or intramural athletics. Expect to be encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities Vermont provides for outdoor recreation and activities that challenge and develop strong bodies. For now, put down your computer games and get outside and work your body. Likewise, do not neglect your spiritual development. Expect to have time to attend services on campus or at a local place of worship, if you wish.* Transportation can be arranged through the Chaplain’s office by emailing chaplain@norwich.edu.

Summer will soon be over. If I close my eyes, I can almost hear the rhythmic beat of boots striking the pavement as a young Platoon Sergeant calls out commands to his or her new platoon of Rooks. Opening my eyes, I see young men and women practicing leadership skills learned through participation in ROTC and Corps training. I see professors, coaches, administrators and support staff alike, challenging and mentoring students to achieve their maximum potential. Looking to the distant horizon, I can see and feel a tremendous sense of pride and accomplishment as we reach milestones: completion of Rook Basic Training, Rook Recognition, academic honors, promotions, leadership, class rings, graduation, and for some, a commissioning ceremony.

You are about to embark on a journey that will provide an opportunity to transform yourself and others, to develop leadership, to accept responsibility and accountability, and to realize your potential. Welcome to Norwich University.

Norwich Forever!

Russell J. Holden, NU '73
Colonel, VSM
Deputy Commandant of Cadets

Enclosure: Rook Arrival and Orientation

***Religious services are offered as follows:**

Friday: Jewish

Saturday: Islamic, 7th Day Adventists

Sunday: Catholic, non-denominational

Rook Arrival and Orientation

Aug. 23, 2009

7:30-11:30 a.m.

The following information is provided in anticipation of your arrival:

- Be sure to complete and return all the required forms in the New Student Information Packet – available on-line
- Exercise daily. Push-ups, sit-ups, chin-ups, and aerobics (run, walk, or jog). When you think you have done enough, do more!
- Read and comply with the information published for new students on the web site – **do not bring unauthorized items.**
- Plan your trip to arrive on Sunday, Aug. 23 between 7:30-11 a.m.
- Report wearing khaki pants, white short-sleeve shirt with black tie, white socks and running shoes.
- Arrive with a “Rook Haircut,” which for men means high and tight. Women should style their hair so that it does not fall below the shirt collar.
- Arm yourself with a positive mental attitude. Believe in yourself!

Directions upon your arrival:

- Enter campus using the ID White Gate. Follow the designated route. A cadet will meet you at the gate, check your name/identification, and provide instructions to proceed to your assigned company barracks. *The cadet leaders are organized to assist your rapid and efficient off-loading of vehicles and occupation of assigned barracks. Please, follow their instructions. They are here to help. If you need assistance, please ask.*
- Once off-loaded and personal effects are stored in assigned rooms, Rooks move to Shapiro Field House to complete a series of initial in-processing stations.
- Lunch will be served between 1030 (10:30 a.m.) and 1300 (1 p.m.) in the Wise Campus Center.
- At 1330 (1:30 p.m.) all Rooks and families will proceed to Kreitzberg Arena for an official welcoming ceremony. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Rooks will depart with cadet leaders to begin their orientation program. *Parents and family members: This is your chance to say farewell!* A question and answer period for parents with University officials will take place immediately following the departure of the Rooks.

Sunday, August 30, 2009 at 1330 (1:30 p.m.):

- All new students of the Class of 2013 assemble to participate in the Freshman Oath Ceremony. Families are welcome to observe, however there will be no opportunity for parents to meet with their Rook before or after the ceremony.

Family survival tips:

- Wear comfortable clothing and shoes. The NU campus is relatively small but hilly.
- Check the NU web site for calendar updates and frequently asked questions.
- Mark September 25-27 on your calendar (Family Weekend 2009) and make reservations early.
- Support your Rook! “Old fashioned” letters or cards from home in their campus mailbox are great morale boosters.

We will continue to build upon your son's/daughter's foundation as a partner in their future success and will look forward to seeing you on Family Weekend 2009.