



SOCIETY NEWS

*Serving Graduates throughout
Southwest Florida*

Welcome!

Dear Members and Friends!

It is with great excitement and a sense of deep pride, we extend a warm welcome to the debut edition of our newsletter. Whether you are an old grad, a new grad, a seasoned veteran, or a cherished friend of West Point, we're thrilled to have you here!

Upcoming Events

Fall Luncheon

When: Wednesday, 8 November
Time: 11:30 AM
Place: The Landings Yacht, Golf, and Tennis Club, Fort Myers

Annual Meeting & Luncheon

When: Friday, 1 December
Time: 11:30 AM
Place: Grey Oaks Country Club, Naples

Army/Air Force Watch Party

When: Saturday, 4 November 2023
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: Coastal Dayz Brewery in Fort Myers (2161 McGregor Blvd)

Army/Navy Watch Party



When: Saturday, 9 December
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: The Hangout By Two Guys - 2360 Pine Ridge Rd, Naples, FL 34109

A History of the West Point Society of Naples (WPSN)

In 1999 John Eberhard of the West Point Class of 1959 joined with his classmates, Bill O'Meara, Gen (Retired) Fred Franks, Bob Ranalli and Roger Ware to establish a West Point Society in Naples, Florida. Previously, a West Point Society of Southwest Florida had been formed in Fort Myers. However, as the center of gravity of active alumni shifted south over the years, these founding members recognized that the greater Naples area had a significant concentration of West Point alumni who were interested in forming a new society.

Thus, in the year 2000, the West Point Society of Naples ("WPSN") was incorporated in Florida as a 501(c) nonprofit organization to provide opportunities for its members to associate and foster the aims, ideals, standards, and achievements of the United States Military Academy.

In 2005, the West Point Society of SWFL (WPSSWFL) based in Ft. Myers decided to dissolve its charter. Its members were encouraged to join the WPSN. As the society for Southwest Florida, the WPSN has enthusiastically expanded its geographical reach from Collier County north to Lee, Charlotte, Glades, Hendry, Manatee, and Sarasota counties. In 2017, the Society began hosting bi-annual luncheon events in Ft. Myers for the convenience of its membership living in Lee County and north.

In addition to hosting formal events, the WPSN supports Field Force efforts in identifying qualified local high-school candidates seeking an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. The WPSN helps fund the SWFL Parents Club whose leadership team attends its Board meetings and coordinates activities to support the SWFL USMA cadets. The WPSN also provides cash awards to the JROTC programs in Collier and Lee counties.

The WPSN has been designated by the Association of Graduates as a Distinguished Society for the past twenty years. With a large contingent of snow-birds in the area during its event season, the WPSN welcomes everyone calling SWFL home.

Today our Board members, Field Force representatives, and Parents Club are excited to serve this community. Service to graduates throughout SWFL has always been the goal of the WPSN.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Fall Luncheon



We are delighted to extend a warm invitation to our upcoming Fall Luncheon, a gathering that promises to be a memorable and delightful afternoon. Mark your calendars!

- **Wednesday, November 8th, at 11:30 AM**
- **The Landings Yacht, Golf, and Tennis Club in Fort Myers**
- **\$27 per person**
- **Menu: Italian Chicken Cutlets with creamy risotto, and chef vegetable and chef dessert.**

This event provides an excellent opportunity to reconnect, share stories, and forge new friendships within our West Point community.

R.s.v.p. - <https://westpointsocietyofnaples.com/rsvp/>

Guest Speaker: **Thomas “Tom” W. Oakley**



Tom Oakley is a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel, an attorney, and currently serves as the Director of Academy Advancement on the West Point Staff. Graduating from West Point in 2000 and commissioned an Armor Officer, Tom served in Army leadership roles through Company Command before attending law school through the Army's Funded Legal Program (FLEP). Since law school, Tom has practiced law across the legal domains, including criminal, administrative, and operational law. In his final two jobs, Tom served as an instructor of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo, Italy, and as a professor in West Point's law department. Tom is a published author and experienced panelist and lecturer, and recently served as co-editor for *The Future Law of War*, Oxford Press in 2022.

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

Annual Meeting & Luncheon



Guest Speaker: **WPAOG President & CEO COL (R) Mark D. Bieger '91**

Mark your Calendar!

Mark your calendars and save the date for our highly anticipated Annual Meeting & Luncheon! This year's event promises to be an extraordinary gathering, filled with camaraderie and updates on our Society's accomplishments and future endeavors. Please join us on **Friday, December 1st**, at **11:30 AM** at the elegant Grey Oaks Country Club in Naples. Check our website for more details.



FOOTBALL WATCH PARTIES

Army/Air Force Watch Party

When: Saturday, 4 November 2023

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Coastal Dayz Brewery in Fort Myers (2161 McGregor Blvd)



Calling all football enthusiasts and proud supporters of Army Black Knights!

The Parents Club invites you to an exhilarating watch party as we rally behind our team for a classic matchup against Air Force. Join us on Saturday, November 4, 2023, starting at 2:00 PM at Coastal Dayz Brewery in Fort Myers (2161 McGregor Blvd). It's the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow West Point parents, alumni, and fans while cheering on our cadets on the gridiron. Wear your black and gold and bring your spirited enthusiasm to make this event a memorable one.

R.s.v.p. - secretary@westpointsocietyofnaples.com

We will be collecting canned goods/non-perishable items for Community Cooperative. Please consider helping to replenish their shelves in time for Thanksgiving!

GO ARMY! BEAT NAVY!

Please join the West Point Society of Naples on **Saturday, December 9th, 2023**, at "**The Hangout By Two Guys**" Restaurant and cheer the Army football team on to victory over Navy. Food and Beverages will be pay as you go. We hope you can make it and look forward to seeing everyone there.

R.s.v.p.-
secretary@westpointsocietyofnaples.com

Who: West Point Alumni, Parents Club and Guests

What: Army vs Navy Football Game

Where: The Hangout By Two Guys –
2360 Pine Ridge Road
Naples, FL 34109

When: Saturday, December 9th, 2023

Cost: Pay as you go

R.s.v.p.: NLT December 3rd

Event opens @ 1430 (2:30 PM)

Kick-off @ 1500 (3:00 PM)

Please bring the Kids!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I am thrilled to welcome you all to a new year, filled with opportunities, camaraderie, and a renewed commitment to our shared ideals. It is an honor to serve as the President of this remarkable organization, and I want to express my deep gratitude for your continued support and dedication to our mission. Together, we have achieved remarkable feats and fostered a spirit of unity and service that embodies the very essence of West Point.



As we step into this new year, let us not only reflect on our past successes but also embrace the potential of the future. The West Point Society of Naples has always been about more than just our own experiences at the Academy – it's about giving back to our local community. I encourage each and every one of you to consider how we can further serve and make a positive impact on the community we call home. I welcome your ideas, your enthusiasm, and your involvement in shaping our future endeavors. Let us explore innovative ways to serve our local community, support those in need, and uphold the values instilled in us during our time at West Point. Together, we can make a lasting difference, strengthening the bonds that tie us and leaving a positive legacy in southwest Florida. I look forward to a year filled with purpose, unity, and service.

2023-2024 RAFFLE!

We received a West Point framed print, “*Duty-Honor-Country*” by Paul Steucke, from the family of one of our Society’s founding members. This is the fifth print in a series of 14 published by Vladimir Arts USA, Inc. and includes a Certificate of Authenticity.

This print includes General MacArthur Foundation seal and countersigning by Bob Hope, Colin Powell, H. Norman Schwarzkopf, William Westmoreland, and James Ellis.

**We are conducting a raffle for this print.
Tickets are \$25 and 5 for \$100.**



“Duty-Honor-Country” by Paul Steucke
Year Printed: 1993

How can you purchase tickets?

Look for information on the WPSN website. Tickets will also be sold at all WPSN events this year.

The winning ticket will be drawn at our Spring Luncheon on 30 April 2024.



SUPPORTING CADETS

West Point Parents Club of Southwest Florida



13 parents gathered on September 30th to pack 21 boodle boxes to ship to our SWFL cadets. All the snacks and treats were provided by current and old grad parents and postage was donated by the West Point Society of Naples. Local cadets look forward to receiving their boodle boxes every fall!

Three very proud SWFL families attended USMAPS Family Weekend on October 6-8, 2023. They enjoyed a parade, an open house, and quality time with their Cadet Candidates.



Pictured:
Fedrick Harris & family
Tyler Washburn & parents
Cael Newton & parents

West Point Parents Club of Southwest Florida Recognized as Distinguished Parents Club

We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Parents Club on receiving the prestigious "Distinguished Parents Club for 2022" recognition. This well-deserved award is a testament to the exceptional efforts and invaluable contributions the Parents Club has made in supporting our Cadets! At this year's annual WPAOG Leaders Conference, AOG recognized a total of 19 clubs.

Tunnel to Towers

Over 1,100 USMA cadets, including several from SWFL, ran the 2023 Tunnel to Towers 5K on September 24th to honor the fire fighters, first responders, and civilians who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. The Corps has proudly participated in this event for 20 years.

Pictured:
Christian Kreegel '26
Punta Gorda, FL



Ryan Logan '24
Cape Coral, FL



Kelli Ahlquist '25
Cape Coral, FL



MEET A SWFL CADET

CADET DARBY HORNE

Class of 2024

Company A-4

Academic Major: Engineering Psychology



Darby Horne is a 2019 graduate of Naples High School who initially declined an appointment to the Air Force Academy to pursue the USMA's Civilian Prep Program at Marion Military Institute. She received an appointment to West Point the following year, and is currently a Firstie looking forward to graduating this May.

From the outset, Darby wanted to fly; following her Plebe year at West Point, she received a grant, giving her the opportunity to complete the requirements for her private pilot's license, and she has since accumulated over 125 flight hours. Throughout her four years at West Point, she has been actively involved in various activities and organizations, including the Equestrian Team, Manager for the Women's Basketball Team, Officers Christian Fellowship, and the Flight Team.

Darby's educational journey has included an AIAD (Academic Individual Advanced Development) at the University of Southern California's Institute of Creative Technology, where she conducted research/work on the Bravemind project, a clinical, interactive, virtual reality (VR) based exposure therapy tool being used to assess and treat post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), as well as a DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) project.

During a CTLT (Cadet Troop Leader Training) assignment, she gained experience in Military Intelligence at Fort Cavazos. Presently, she is conducting research for her CAPSTONE project, focusing on cyber visualizations and cyber/electronic warfare (EW) threats, and holds the position of Company Spirit Officer. Branch Assignments are to be announced near the end of November, and Darby's preference is to branch into Aviation.



Image Source:
WestPoint Class
Throws from
<https://www.dusa-giftshopwestpoint.org/>



**West Point Parents Club of
Southwest Florida**

<https://www.facebook.com/wppcswfl>

For more information about the Parents Club,
follow us on Facebook or contact Patty Holston
pattymholston@gmail.com



FIELD FORCE UPDATE

Supporting Cadet Candidates



WHAT IS THE SWFL FIELD FORCE?

A team of volunteers whose goal is to help identify SWFL's most promising students and assist and mentor them in achieving the exceptional honor of being accepted for admission to West Point.

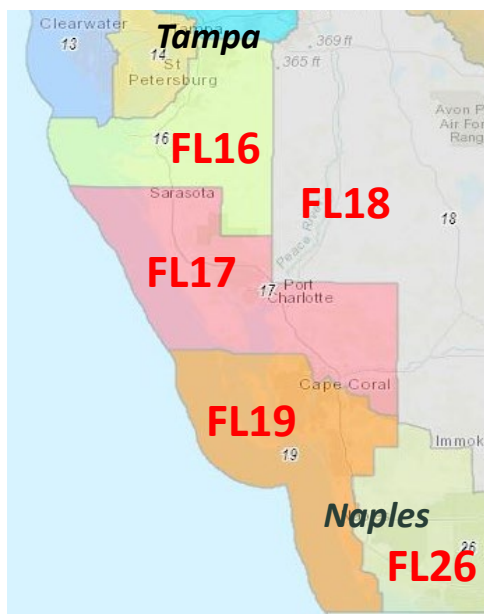
- The SWFL footprint runs from south of Tampa to Marco Island and includes Congressional Districts FL16, FL17, FL19, and the western parts of FL18 and FL26.
- LTC(R) Russ Schott coordinates FL19 and serves the Naples side of FL26.
- Mr. Marty Bowling not only coordinates FL17, but he also coordinates FL03, FL06, and FL07, and serves FL11, FL16, FL18 and NY03.
- Interested in volunteering or helping?
Email russ.schott@gmail.com

WHAT IS THE WHOLE CANDIDATE SCORE?

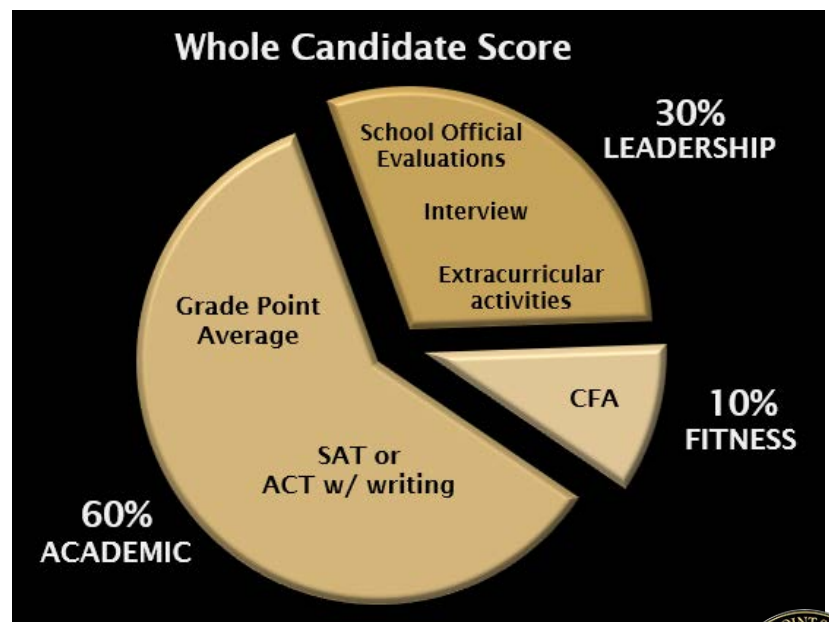
West Point utilizes the Whole Candidate Score (WCS) to evaluate a candidate's scholastic, leadership, athletic, and physical qualifications to return a score that can be compared to all other applicants. Higher is better!

- Academic is weighted 60% of the WCS and consists primarily of the GPA and SAT/ACT w/ writing scores.
- Leadership is weighted 30% of the WCS and consists of four required school evaluations (math, English, PE, lab science), extracurricular activities (to include sports), and an interview conducted by the Field Force.
- Fitness is weighted 10% of the WCS and consists solely of the Candidate Fitness Assessment.

WPSN FF FOOTPRINT



WCS BREAKDOWN





DID YOU KNOW?

Highlights of West Point's Academic Pillar



West Point Ranks Near The Top For Public Colleges

By West Point Public Affairs - September 18, 2023

WEST POINT, N.Y. – The U.S. Military Academy moved up one place in “Best National Liberal Arts Colleges” category and is again rated as one of the nation’s best undergraduate educational institutions according to this year’s U.S. News & World Report:

- No. 3 in Top Public Liberal Arts Colleges
- No. 8 in Best National Liberal Arts Colleges and No. 8 in mechanical engineering
- No. 4 in the Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs category at schools where a doctorate is not offered
- No. 5 in the Best in the Specialties category for its civil engineering program
- No. 12 in electrical engineering.

Academic Program								
PLEBE		YEARLING		COW		FIRSTIE		
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	
Mathematical Modeling	Calculus I	Calculus II	Probability & Statistics	Engineering Sequence I	Engineering Sequence II	Engineering Sequence III	Military Leadership IV	
Chemistry I	Chemistry II	Physics I	Physics II	Information Technology II	Advanced Composition	History of Military Art I	History of Military Art II	
Psychology	Information Technology I	Philosophy	Physical Geography	International Relations	Elective	Law	Elective	
History I	History II	American Politics	Economics	Military Leadership III	Elective	Elective	Elective	
Composition	Literature	Foreign Language I	Foreign Language II	Major Course	Major Course	Major Course	Major Course	
Military Leadership I	Boxing	Military Leadership II	Major Course	Major Course	Major Course	Major Course	Major Course	
Core		Leadership		Major		Elective		IT Course

Academic Enrichment

- Over 45 Academic Clubs
- Overseas Immersion Programs
- Academic Individual Advanced Development (AIAD) opportunities
- Academic Research opportunities

Research Centers

Research is organized and executed through centers and institutes. There are over thirty centers and institutes tackling the Army and nation’s most challenging problems.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT RESOURCES

- Writing and Tutoring Centers
- Study Skills Course
- Performance and Counseling Services

A sample academic plan



West Point currently has 13 Academic Departments with 36 majors and 19 minor options affording Cadets the opportunity to explore, discover, and develop their academic interests.

<https://www.westpoint.edu/academics>



MONEY MATTERS



Funding Our Mission: Financial Updates

Your donations make a difference!

The West Point Society of Naples would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated supporters for their unwavering commitment to our mission in the past year. It is with your generous contributions and steadfast encouragement that we have been able to make a significant impact on the lives of cadets, cadet candidates, and local JROTC students. Throughout the previous year, your support allowed us to provide crucial support for both Cadets and Cadet candidates, enabling them to access quality education and training at the United States Military Academy.

Moreover, our local JROTC programs were greatly bolstered by the scholarships we awarded, empowering aspiring young leaders to pursue their dreams and achieve their goals.

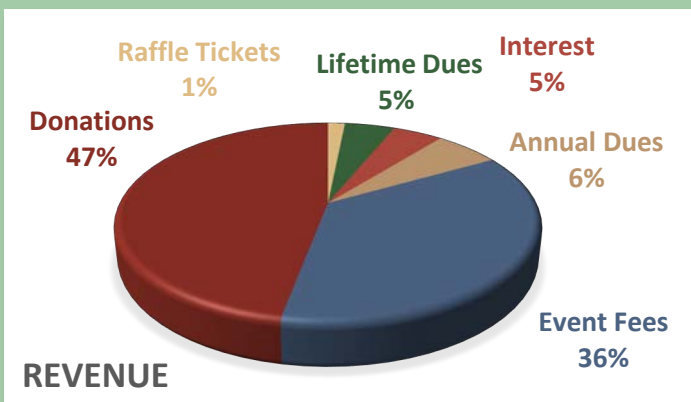
We are profoundly grateful for your dedication to our society, as it is the driving force behind our success in furthering the ideals of duty, honor, and country. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to the incredible impact we will make together in the year ahead.

Thank You!

Our Long-term Financial Goal

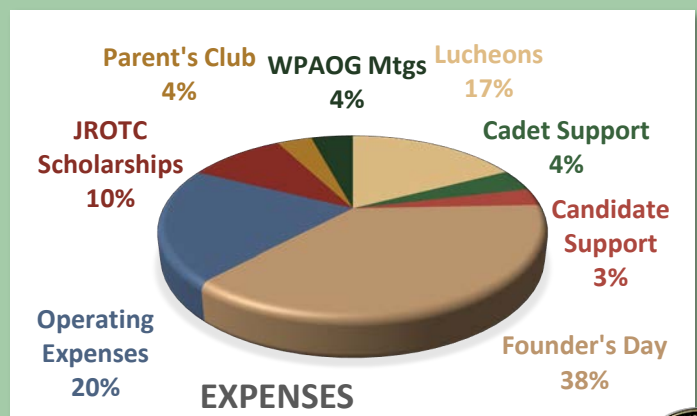
The long-term goal of the West Point Society of Naples is to become self-endowed. By achieving self-endowment, we aim to establish a sustainable financial foundation that will enable us to continually support our mission of providing scholarships, fostering leadership, and commemorating the values of West Point. This self-sufficiency will ensure the perpetuity of our contributions to cadets, cadet candidates, and local JROTC programs, as well as the seamless organization of events that bring our community together.

Our target of \$500,000 is a testament to our commitment to ensure the financial sustainability of our organization. We're excited to announce that we've already made significant progress, having reached 20% of our goal with just over \$100,000 in funds. This remarkable milestone underscores the dedication and generosity of our supporters. As we work towards this ambitious objective, we are dedicated to securing the Society's future and enhancing our ability to make a lasting and meaningful impact.



All society's operating funds come directly from donations! We could not have accomplished so much last year without your support!

Snapshot of FY 2022-2023 Budget Report



Serving Graduates throughout Southwest Florida

How to Get Involved

- Sponsor JROTC Awards
- Sponsor a Cadet Candidate to attend the Summer Leadership Experience (SLE)
- Sponsor a Cadet Boogie Run
- Sponsor a Cadet and/or Cadet Candidates/parents attending Founders Day
- Represent WPSN at an award ceremony or an event
- Visit a local High School
- Attend our events
- Bring a guest to an event
- Sponsor a guest speaker
- Donate money, stocks or bonds
- **Become a member! Join WPSN**

To join/renew Membership:

<https://westpointsocietyofnaples.com/joinrenew>

To make a tax-deductible Donation:

<https://westpointsocietyofnaples.com/make-a-donation/>

Meet your WPSN Board of Directors

President – Chris Williams '87
Vice President/Events – Evan Blanco '80
Secretary – Cathy Speer '72 Spouse
Treasurer – Matt Shanahan '99
Arnie Haake '69
Jodie Glore '69
Pete Lilly '70
Mike Zolidis '70

Gary Speer '72
Garrett Dietz '73
Mike Kostoff '79
Doug Whitehead '85
Russ Schott '91
Libby Schott '91
Bob Jahn '08 Parent
Derek DeVecchis '13

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITORS

We are excited to launch our new newsletter and would like to invite you to be an integral part of it. Your ideas, experiences, and insights matter to us, and we want to hear from you. Whether it's a topic you're passionate about, a

story you think deserves attention, or even your personal experiences related to our newsletter's themes, we are eager to include your input.

Please share your suggestions, thoughts, and content ideas with us so that we can create a newsletter that truly resonates with our readers.



Serving Graduates throughout Southwest Florida

Save the Date! Founders Day

When: Thursday, 14 March 2024
Time: 6:00 PM
Place: Grey Oaks Country Club

Highlights from Founders Day 2023 – check out our website for more photos!



Membership Info

Your dues and donations help support the many activities sponsored by the WPSN. The rates for active membership:

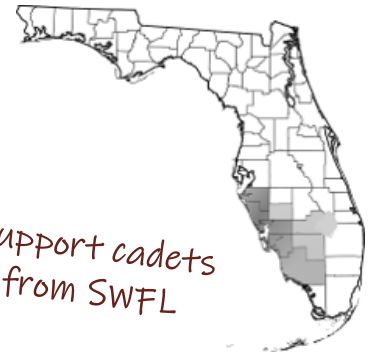
- Annual \$35
- Three-year \$100
- Lifetime \$400

The membership year runs from July 1st to June 30th.

Celebrate lifelong friendships

Engage the next generation of officers in the US Army

Support cadets from SWFL



OUR MISSION

The mission of the West Point Society of Naples, an exclusively non-profit organization, is to:

- (1) further the principles and welfare of the United States Military Academy;
- (2) provide an organization with activities for its members to associate in order to foster the aims, ideals, standards and achievements of the United States Military Academy;
- (3) promote a better understanding of the Military Academy by the public throughout Southwest Florida; and
- (4) inform, encourage and assist talented young men and women of the admissions process of the Military Academy.



We are based in Naples, but our membership area covers all of Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Glades, Hendry, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties.

West Point Society of Naples is a 501 (c)(3) / tax exempt organization

[West Point Society of Naples](http://www.westpointsocietyofnaples.com)



LINKS

[United States Military Academy](#)

[West Point AOG](#)

[SallyPort](#)

[USMA Alumni Info](#)

[GoArmy Sports](#)

