



# U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS

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## Alamo Battalion/TS Alamo

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### Costs & Equipment Overview

Dear New Cadet and Parents,

The most common question that we get from new families is, “What does this cost?” The costs are different for each Cadet, but this document breaks it down for you. To start will cost you a \$195 dues payment for the first year, \$30 or so per month for a drill fee, and you will have to buy some shoes, boots and other things that add up to around \$120 or so. The dues go down to \$135 after the first year, because we don’t have to issue new uniforms (or we get the old ones back after your Cadet grows out of them) A week (or so) of summer/winter training is between \$200-\$300 depending upon your selection. Most cadets do one or two trainings per year.

For what our cadets do, you will not find an activity so reasonably priced. Two weeks at a very popular Texas summer camp costs \$3,500. Sea Cadets is a bargain.

The rest of this document gives you the details on our dues and fees, required clothing and equipment, and training costs.

### **Clothing and Equipment**

The Alamo Battalion issues the major uniform parts (jumpers/shirts, trousers, covers, belts, etc.). We also issue “flashes” (patches), which distinguishes Sea Cadet uniforms from US Navy uniforms. Depending upon how lucky you are, you may get issued uniform parts that already have the required flashes. Otherwise, we expect you to sew them to the uniform in conformance with regulations.

Sea Cadet Regulations are [here](#). The uniform regulations are a great resource, not only for making sure that your cadet has everything, but also for making sure that they wear the uniform properly. Whoever sews patches onto your cadet’s uniform will need to refer to the regulations to do the job properly. If you’re bringing a uniform to a tailor, even one specializing in military uniforms, print out the appropriate pages of the regulations to give them. Never use iron-on adhesives; they look terrible, and the glue can be impossible to clean off. Please note that the Alamo Battalion has retired the NWU Type 1 and replaced them with the NWU Type III. Insignia are worn differently on the Type III, so review [this document](#) for information.

When a cadet is promoted, we provide the rank insignia. When a cadet wins an award, we provide the ribbon, appurtenance, or badge. We also provide ribbon bars as needed.

Parents provide the rest. The total cost depends upon what you already have. The big-ticket items are usually black boots and dress shoes. We happily accept old boots to give to cadets who need boots that your cadet has outgrown. Our supply officer may be able to scrounge something for you. Otherwise, recommendations – with prices for the more expensive items – are below.

### Parental Purchases:

- ◇ Items from Vanguard (sole source)
  - The NSCC has an exclusive arrangement with Vanguard Military to supply regulation PT shirts and shorts.
  - You must order these online. Vanguard can take a while to deliver, so order right away.
  - Required: These have youth and adult sizes, so be careful to select the right size when ordering:
    - Qty. 2: [USNSCC / NLCC PT SHIRT GOLD](#) (Current Price \$10.80/per shirt)
    - Qty. 1: [USNSCC / NLCC - PT SHORTS NAVY BLUE](#) (Current Price \$12.00)
    - Qty: 2 [BOOT BANDS: TROUSER BLOUSERS - BLUE ELASTIC](#) (Current Price \$2.60) Sold two pair to a pack, get at least two packs. They break or get lost easily.
    - Total Cost: **\$38.80** plus tax.
  - Not Required: Some kids like the sweatpants and sweatshirts from Vanguard, but in San Antonio, we rarely need them. Think Christmas present, if your cadet wants one. Vanguard gives free shipping if you spend more than \$35.00.
- ◇ Nametapes:
  - Nametapes are sewn onto NWUs (Naval Working Uniform Type III, green digital camo pattern). One set has your cadet's last name, The other (the branch tape) has either USNSCC (Sea Cadets) or USNLCC (League Cadets) You can order these from Vanguard, but most people prefer ordering from [1800Nametapes](#). Make sure that you order for Type III.
  - You will need at least four nametapes with your last name, and two branch tapes with either USNSCC or USNLCC. If you are lucky, your issued NWUs will already have the correct branch tape. Any questions, please ask.
  - Total Cost with shipping is typically less than \$20.
- ◇ Black Combat Boots – Worn with NWUs. Note: You do not need to buy Navy regulation boots. They are expensive. [These](#) or [these](#) or something like them (8" or 9" black with leather toe cap) will do just fine for RT and our drills (**about \$35-\$50**). If your cadet does shipboard training, there may be additional requirements, but your cadet's feet will grow before that happens. Save the money.
- ◇ Black Dress Shoes – Worn with SDBs & SDWs. Get the most plain, black, leather dress shoes that you can find. [These](#) work fine (\$46 at Walmart), but you may find a better deal.

- ◇ A personal hydration system (Camelbak or similar. [These](#) are a deal) (\$25-\$35). Do not rely on a bottle of water.
- ◇ Black dress socks
- ◇ Black boot socks – We mean it. Foot blisters are the most common reason for cadets to drop out of training. Broken-in boots and quality boot socks help prevent blisters.
- ◇ Coyote Brown<sup>1</sup> crew neck T-shirts (for NWUs, at least two). When in doubt about T-shirt size, go with the smaller. Shirts that are too big will tend to have a sloppy looking collar poking out from the uniform and look wrinkled.
- ◇ White crew neck T-Shirts (for Service Dress Blues & Whites, at least two for drill, but buy in bulk; they yellow with wear, and your cadet will need more of these for summer training)
- ◇ White skivvies – Colors show through the Dress White trousers.
- ◇ Athletic socks
- ◇ Athletic shoes (there will be running)
- ◇ Bath towel
- ◇ Shower shoes or shower sandals
- ◇ Toiletry Kit (comb/brush, toothpaste, toothbrush, razor, shaving cream, small bar soap, shampoo)
- ◇ Shoe shine kit for black leather.
- ◇ Sleeping bag, pillow (optional) and cot (optional)
- ◇ Swim trunks (male), or one-piece swimsuit (female), plain navy blue or black
- ◇ Mesh laundry bag – for those dirty, wet clothes that your cadet will bring home
- ◇ Pen
- ◇ Pocket-sized notepad
- ◇ Wristwatch
- ◇ Flashlight

## Training Costs

The last category, and the most variable, is the cost of summer/winter-break training. Transportation to training (recruit and advanced) is the responsibility of the parent. Each training also has associated fees payable to the training contingent. Finally, the training that your cadet attends can require additional items.

- ◇ Each training contingent has different seabags (the list of things that they need to bring). For example, some require a [black plastic name plate](#) to wear on dress uniforms. Some require an extra set of NWUs (Great Lakes wants three total sets). We can supply the extra uniform parts that a cadet may need for training, but you may need to order extra nametapes for those parts.
- ◇ You can find out what is required for each training on [Homeport](#). It shows the fee payable to the training contingent and will have a link to a course description containing a seabag list.

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<sup>1</sup> “Coyote Brown” can be tricky, because many companies sell “coyote brown” with different colors. If you can get shirts from NEX, get the Type III Brown undershirt. Avoid “Tan 499”, “AR 670-1” which are Army “coyote brown” and too light. Soffee and Differ “Woodland Brown”, and Fruit of the Loom “Safari” are good. If you can’t find those, look for shirts matching Pantone color 7531-C.

- ◇ Typical Fees for RT in 2019 are **\$220-\$300** plus transportation expenses. Sometimes cadets travel together to trainings, which can save money. Advanced Trainings cost various amounts, usually in the same range as RT.
- ◇ The “Three-for-free” program allows cadets to earn one free training by recruiting three new members. Join, then bring friends.