

Welcome to  
102 (Barrie Silver Fox)  
Squadron



**A Guide for Parents of New Cadets – Written by Parents**

Welcome Cadet Parents, to 102 Barrie Silver Fox Air Cadet Squadron!

This “Cadet Parenting for Newcomers” guide has been produced by the 102 Squadron Sponsoring Committee - by parents, for parents. We were once where you are now and had to navigate our way through the year in the life of a cadet on our own. The expectations were clearly defined – however, the information didn't always make it home as we were depending on 12 and 18 year olds.

We thought it might be helpful to describe, in some detail, the structure of the Cadet Program, run by the Commanding Officer and Staff, and the very necessary fundraising activities run by the Squadron Sponsoring Committee. We have also included information on some of the Cadets' yearly activities.

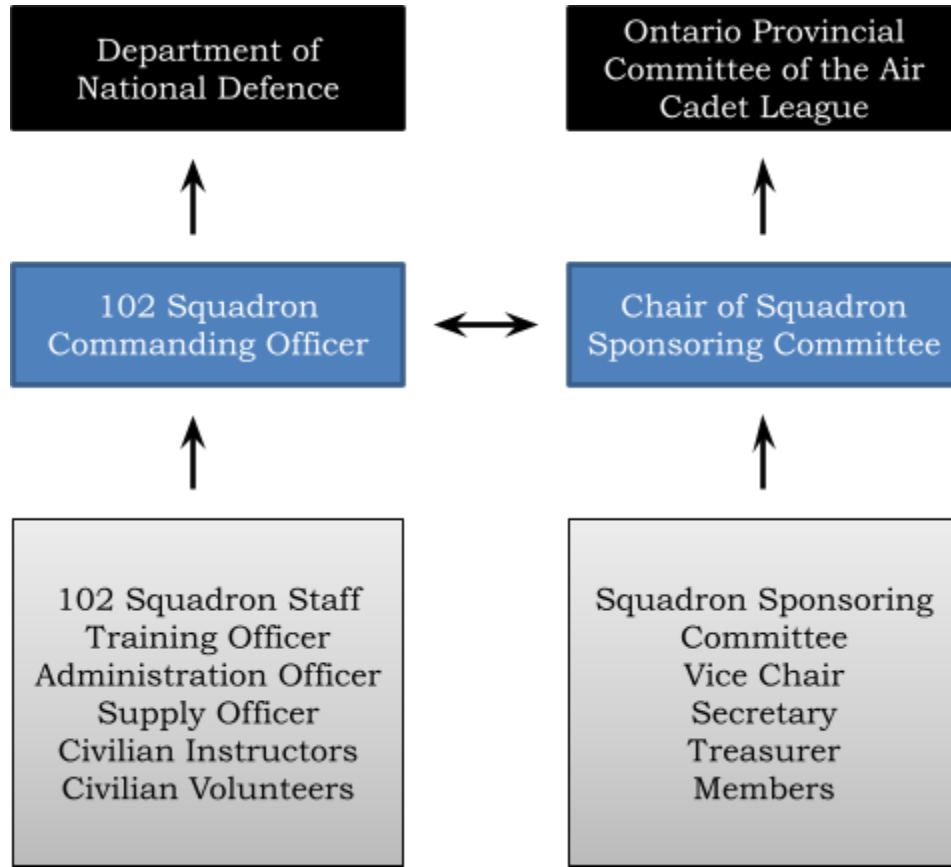
This guide is not meant to be a definitive manual on being a part of 102 Barrie Silver Fox Squadron, but it is a start. We hope it will continue to be a work-in-progress. Please feel free to let us know of any information that you wish had been included and we will share it as the guide evolves. This guide is based on an outstanding document produced by 715 Mohawk Squadron in Hamilton.

We hope you find this information helpful!

If you have any comments or recommendations on the contents of this brochure, please email the 102 Squadron Sponsoring Committee at [ssc@102squadron.ca](mailto:ssc@102squadron.ca).

102 (Barrie Silver Fox) Squadron and Sponsoring Committee

Organizational Chart



<p>For questions, comments or concerns regarding :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training and promotions</li> <li>- Scheduling</li> <li>- The Cadet Program</li> </ul> <p>Please direct them to the Squadron Commanding Officer</p>	<p>For questions, comments or concerns regarding :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tagging and fundraising</li> <li>- Lottery ticket sales</li> <li>- Squadron finances</li> </ul> <p>Please direct them to the Chair of the Squadron Sponsoring Committee</p>
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## **What is 102 (Barrie Silver Fox) Squadron and the Royal Canadian Air Cadets?**

The Royal Canadian Air Cadets is a national youth organization for teens aged 12 to 18 (until their 19th birthday), operated in partnership by the Air Cadet League of Canada (a civilian organization) and the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces. The organization consists of many training centres, gliding centres, and most importantly, individual Air Cadet squadrons. All Air Cadets belong to a local Air Cadet Squadron. 102 (Barrie Silver Fox) Squadron is one of 440 squadrons across Canada.



### **Who can join Air Cadets?**

Any Canadian citizen or lawful resident of Canada in good health can join as early as 12 years of age and they can remain in Air Cadets until they turn 19. All cadets must “retire” on their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **How much does it cost to join?**

The Department of National Defence, the Air Cadet League of Canada and the local Squadron Sponsoring Committee provide the funding necessary to operate 102 (Barrie Silver Fox) Squadron including a full training year and many additional activities to challenge the Cadets. Although permitted to charge a nominal annual fee, 102 Squadron has decided not to do so. Participation as an Air Cadet at 102 Squadron is at no cost to the Cadet or parents. Cadets are, however, expected to participate in two fundraising activities – selling lottery tickets and “tagging” (which will be explained later).

### **Does my Cadet have to join the military?**

No. Air Cadets are not members of the Canadian Forces and they will not be asked to join the military. If a cadet chooses to join the Canadian Forces later in life, that cadet would have a great advantage over other applicants (many

members of the Canadian Forces were cadets earlier in their lives). However, Air Cadets will never be required to serve with the military.

### **Does my Cadet still wear a uniform?**

Your new Cadet will be measured for a uniform by the Squadron Supply Officer. Until uniforms arrive, your Cadet will be expected to wear black pants and a white dress shirt (no jeans or T-shirts) to parade nights. Your cadet will be issued a uniform once the uniforms arrive at the Squadron (this usually



takes a few weeks). The uniform and boots remain the property of the Squadron but your Cadet will be expected to look after them. The Cadets will be shown how to shine boots and keep uniforms up to standard. And don't worry, as your Cadet grows, their uniform will be replaced with one that fits! Badges must be

placed on certain parts of the uniform – and this can sometimes be confusing for both Cadets and parents alike. Complete details on where badges must be placed are available on the 102 Squadron website ([www.102Squadron.com](http://www.102Squadron.com)) under the “Dress Regulations” tab and at the link below:

<http://102squadron.com/index.php/downloads/category/9-dress-regulations?download=20:cato55-04-annex-d>

### **What do Air Cadets do?**

Air Cadets in 102 (Barrie Silver Fox) Squadron meet once a week on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 PM . Cadets participate in a variety of fun, challenging and rewarding activities and learn valuable life and work skills such as teamwork, leadership and citizenship. They undergo standard classes that are part of the Air Cadet program including aviation studies, citizenship, leadership, effective speaking, outdoor survival, drill, sports and more. Many of these classes are taught by the more senior cadets. Parents are encouraged to come into the Armoury on parade nights around 8:45 PM. You will have the

opportunity to see promotions and merit awards and hear the weekly announcements from the Commanding Officer and the Cadet Warrant Officer. This is when the dates and times of upcoming events are announced and explained.

If you cannot be present, you can always read the announcements on the Squadron website ([www.102Squadron.com](http://www.102Squadron.com)) one or two days after the parade night.

Training on Monday night is only the core of the program – the standard classes that all squadrons teach. Many cadets find the optional activities – usually on weekends and other weeknights – that really make the program interesting.

### **Who teaches Air Cadets?**

In addition to senior cadets, Cadets are taught by civilian volunteers and part time members of the Canadian Armed Forces serving in the Cadet Organizations Administration and Training Service. These individuals are carefully screened for employment with youth and are members of the local community. They hold civilian occupations in areas like small business owners, police officers, medical personnel and school employees.

### **What are some of the extra activities that 102 (Barrie Silver Fox) Squadron does?**

First of all, the Squadron has many year-long teams – including a drill team, a range (shooting) team, and a flag party. We also have sports nights, ground school classes (a prerequisite for earning a glider pilot or private pilot license), and much more. Your cadet is eligible to take part in most teams and activities.

“FTX” stands for “Field Training Exercise”. The Squadron normally has two FTX weekends each year. These weekends are mandatory for your Cadet as they allow Cadets to meet some the requirements of the annual Cadet training program. They are fun weekends that are fully funded by the Department of



of

National Defence so they don't cost you anything. The Cadets meet at the Armoury on a Friday evening, are bussed to a camp location and return to the Armoury on Sunday afternoon or evening.

Familiarization flights in gliders are also offered to Cadets 3-4 times a year



(depending on weather). Your Cadet will be required to sign up for gliding, as only a certain number of Cadets are able to go. Recruits and new cadets get preference to go first. Cadets generally meet at the Armoury and travel as a group to the airfield at Canadian Forces Base Borden. The glider pilots are senior cadets who have

received their glider pilot license and are trained to take your cadet on a glider flight as a passenger. Maybe one day it will be YOUR child flying the other cadets!

In addition to an Air Cadet Squadron, Barrie is also home to an Army Cadet Corps and a Sea Cadet Squadron. To increase esprit-de-corps, these three Cadet organizations participate in a series of Tri-Service events including "The Great Race" (a race around Barrie landmarks by public transportation), Tri-Service Sports Days and Tri-Service dances. In addition to fostering pride in their home units, these activities have allowed Cadets to make friends with like-minded youth in other Cadet organizations.

102 Squadron also organizes an annual Mess Dinner for the Cadets, and an Annual Ceremonial Review in June each year to celebrate the cadets achievements and mark the end of the training year. .

Canadian Forces Base Borden organizes an annual Air Cadet Activity Day in the Spring and invites a dozen Air Cadet Squadrons to compete in drill, sports, and marksmanship competitions as well as obstacle courses, tours of DND facilities and helicopter flights. 102 Squadron has a strong tradition of winning many of these competitions!



### **Can my cadet get his or her pilot's license?**

Yes! Air Cadets offers summer training courses that allow Cadets to earn one of two Transport Canada Pilot licenses: the Glider Pilot License and the Private Pilot License. Scholarships are offered to Air Cadets to allow them to earn their pilot licenses at various airfields and flying clubs across the province.

Although these scholarships are very competitive, successful Cadets will earn their licenses at no cost to the Cadet – other than dedication and hard work at the Squadron! The average cost to earn a glider pilot license is normally between \$2000 to \$4000 and a private pilot license ranges from \$8000 to \$10000.

### **What if my child does not want to fly – can they still join Air Cadets?**

Absolutely! Flying is only a small part of Air Cadets. An interest in aviation is usually what draws youth to the Air Cadet program, however, there are many other opportunities that Air Cadets offer such as band, survival skills, sports and fitness, drill, marksmanship and leadership. Cadets can also pursue interests in air traffic control, aircraft maintenance, airport management, and aerospace technologies.

### **Does the program run in the Summer?**

102 Squadron stands down from regular parade nights for the summer, however summer training courses are a very big part of the Air Cadet program. These training courses range from 2 to 7 weeks long and are run annually in July and August. About one third of the Cadets in the Squadron will be offered the opportunity to attend summer training – cadets are not required to attend summer training but it is highly recommended (and fun)! Cadets can apply for anything from basic cadet courses to advanced technical training to leadership courses and aerospace studies. This training also allows Cadets to meet other Cadets from across the province and country. Summer courses are provided at no cost to the Cadets and cadets are actually paid a training allowance of \$60 per week. Eventually, an experienced Cadet can apply for staff positions for summer courses, developing advanced leadership skills, and get paid equivalent to a full-time summer job.

Attending summer training is not a right; it is a privilege. Each Cadet is evaluated throughout the training year and the most deserving Cadets are nominated for summer training. Regular attendance at parade nights,



participation in fundraising and community volunteer hours are all taken into consideration.

### **What part does 102 (Barrie Silver Fox) Squadron play in the community?**

#### Battle of Britain Parade

The Battle of Britain parade takes place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in September and honours and commemorates the members of the Air Force who fought and died during this World War Two battle and recognizes the men and women who continue to serve in the Air Force today. Cadets march alongside veterans and serving members of Canada's Air Force.



More than one hundred Canadians flew in the Battle of Britain between July and October 1940 and twenty-three lost their lives. Historians have described the Battle, which involved almost 3,000 allied aircrew, as the turning point of the Second World War. The victory, described by Sir Winston Churchill as Britain's "finest hour" gave hope to a demoralized Britain and northern Europe. It was the first battle to be won purely by air power.

#### Poppy Drive

Every November, our Cadets assist Veterans and the Royal Canadian Legion in offering poppies to the Canadian public. Cadets sign up for shifts (usually Thursday and Friday evenings and Saturday mornings) and meet at the Barrie Legion. Parents are needed to drop off and pick up Cadets at their assigned locations. Cadets are brought back to the Legion to drop off their poppies and funds, and meet up with their parents for a drive home. Cadets in high school will be able to accumulate volunteer hours for their time spent collecting for poppies.



## November 10 – 11 Cenotaph Vigil and Remembrance Day Parade

Every year, to honour and remember the men and women who have served, and continue to serve Canada during times of war, conflict and peace, Cadets from 102 Squadron participate in an overnight Vigil at the Barrie Cenotaph. The Cadets, along with a supervising officer, attend the Cenotaph in groups of 5 for one hour shifts from sunset on the 10<sup>th</sup> until the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of November 11<sup>th</sup>. Each group of 5 is a mix of junior and senior cadets and often includes Army and Sea Cadets from Barrie as well. Please note – senior cadets typically complete additional shifts and usually attend the late night/early morning hours. During the time they are not at the Cenotaph, the Cadets are housed at the Barrie Armoury and are supervised by the Commanding Officer and/or Squadron staff. After breakfast, Cadets take their designated positions in preparation for the Remembrance Day Parade. Cadets are encouraged to participate in the parade even if they cannot attend the Vigil. After the parade, Cadets can be picked up at their original drop off point, where their overnight gear will be waiting. If your Cadet wants to participate in the parade and requires a letter for their school, one is available from the Commanding Officer.



If you have not attended this special event, please consider it – it is a moving experience and a valuable opportunity to show support for our veterans.

## Christmas Boxes or Stockings

Cadets are offered the opportunity to fill a small Christmas stocking or shoe box with small gifts for those in need in our community. The Squadron has donated almost 100 stockings each year to this worthy cause.

## **Squadron Sponsoring Committee (SSC)**

The Squadron Sponsoring Committee represents the local civilian side of the Air Cadet Program which works in partnership with the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces. It is a group of civilian volunteers who assist in raising funds for training and providing support and other assistance to the Commanding Officer.

Funds acquired by the SSC help cover operating and administrative expenses, provide awards and scholarships, and cover other costs not funded by the Department of National Defence. It operates under the by-laws established by the Air Cadet League which includes maintaining strict financial controls. The SSC is a registered charity in Canada (Canada Revenue Agency control number 130387665RR0031).

The members of the SSC may be parents, members of service clubs such as the Air Force Association of Canada, or simply members of the community who want to play a role in ensuring the success of the 102 Squadron. All members of the SSC are screened under the Vulnerable Sector Screening guidelines, as are all volunteers and staff who have an active role in the Squadron.

## **Fundraising Activities – Tagging**

What is “tagging”? Tagging is an extremely low risk method of raising considerable funds over a weekend. In short, cadets stand in pairs outside a local business (ones that have been previously approached by the SSC and have given their permission for tagging) and ask “Would you like to help support Air Cadets” to people entering or leaving. For each donation, the Cadet hands out a “tag” which the person can wear showing that they have supported Air Cadets.

Tagging weekends are run twice a year – in the Fall and in the Spring. Tagging is a mandatory activity for Cadets. Each weekend is divided into 5 shifts (one on Friday evening, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, Sunday morning and Sunday evening) and Cadets are expected to attend a minimum of 3 shifts per weekend. Lunch



is provided for Cadets who attend both shifts on either Saturday or Sunday. The more Cadets that attend tagging shifts, the more money can be raised that will support more Cadet activities. Your Cadet will sign up during a parade night for their shifts and they are expected to show up for the shifts that they sign up for. Tagging locations have been arranged by the SSC based on a certain number of Cadets signing up for – and showing up for – their shifts. If your Cadet signs up and then cannot show up, they are expected to call the Squadron before their shift to explain their absence.

Parent volunteers are always needed during tagging weekends as drivers to bring Cadets to (and pick them up after) their tagging locations. **All volunteer drivers must be screened and complete a Canadian Police Records Check (PRC) with Vulnerability Sector Screening (VSS) prior to the tagging weekend.** You will typically be given 4 to 6 Cadets (including your own) to bring to 2 or 3 locations and then pick up Cadets from the same locations at the end of their shifts. All Cadets (including your own) must return to the Armoury to drop off their tagging boxes before heading for home. Volunteering as a Tagging Driver only takes about an hour at the start and another hour at the end of the day. Volunteer drivers are critical to the success of the tagging program. If you are available as a volunteer, please send an email to the volunteer coordinator at [ssc@102squadron.com](mailto:ssc@102squadron.com)

### **Fundraising Activities – Canteen and Kit Shop**

The SSC operates a Canteen and Kit Shop on parade nights that is open during the evening break. The Canteen sells juice, candy and chips while the Kit Shop sells shirts, T-shirts, hoodies, pins and water bottles with the 102 Squadron logo. Kit Shop supplies always make great gifts for Cadets!

### **Other Fundraising Ideas**

There are many other possible fundraising opportunities throughout the year and the SSC is always open to new ideas for fundraising. If you have an idea or have taken part in a successful fundraising campaign with another organization, please talk to one of the SSC members. You can recognize the SSC members by their Squadron shirts and nametags – and find them staffing the Canteen and Kit Shop.

## **Some Final Thoughts and YOUR role**

Joining the Air Cadets is a big step for a young person. As parents, you can do a lot to support your son or daughter as they proceed through the Air Cadet Program.

Parents and guardians play a pivotal role in an Air Cadet's career beginning with your consent, on the appropriate forms, for your son or daughter to become a member of a cadet squadron. With the exception of regular weeknight training, cadets must also have written permission to attend other training opportunities, including weekend training, public parades, fundraising, etc.

Parents and guardians can also do a lot to help their son or daughter become successful in the Air Cadet Program by showing an interest in their training and by supporting them during the year. Some ways parents and guardians support their cadets include:

- Helping them organize their after-school time so that they will have time for Air Cadets, school work, and other family commitments;
- Reminding them to look after their uniforms (washing, drying, ironing, polishing, sewing, etc.). However, it is important that the Cadet do these things for himself or herself;
- Adding Air Cadet training activities on the family calendar. Most training events (with a few exceptions) are planned well in advance, advertised from the beginning of the training year and identified on the website ([www.102Squadron.com](http://www.102Squadron.com));
- Avoiding activities that conflict with major events – such as Tagging and the Annual Review;
- Transporting your son or daughter (and maybe some of their friends) or making arrangements with someone dependable and trustworthy to do so. Frequently, parents of close friends share this responsibility to minimize the amount of driving involved;
- Encouraging your Cadet to participate in Squadron teams and activities. The more they put into the Squadron, the more they will get out of the program.

Parents and guardians also play an important role in supporting the Squadron Sponsoring Committee. With all the activities your Cadet may be interested in, it's not hard to get involved and all your efforts directly contribute to the Squadron's success. If you are interested in volunteering please email

ssc@102squadron.com. The success of each Cadet will mirror the support received from their peers, supervisors, and, most of all, from their parents or guardians.

If you have any questions about the information included in this document, please contact the Commanding Officer in person or by email ([co@102Squadron.com](mailto:co@102Squadron.com)) or the Chair of the Squadron Sponsoring Committee in person or please email [ssc@102squadron.com](mailto:ssc@102squadron.com).

## **Volunteer Interest**

We hope that you and every member of your family are, or will become a Squadron volunteer. Please apply at  
**SSC@102SQUADRON.COM**

**Do you work for a company that might be willing to donate to  
102 (Barrie Silver Fox) Squadron?**

102 (Barrie Silver Fox) Squadron Sponsoring Committee is a non-profit registered charity that raises funds to support the operation of 102 (Barrie Silver Fox) Squadron. As a charity registered with the Canada Revenue Agency (under control number 130387665RR0031), the Squadron Sponsoring Committee is able to provide tax receipts for donations. We are constantly looking for funds to continue to improve the operations of 102 (Barrie Silver Fox) Squadron.

If you think that your company might be willing to donate and support our Squadron, please complete the short form below and give it to any member of the Squadron Sponsoring Committee. We will prepare an official donation request letter that you can present to the appropriate person within your organization. Please keep in mind that some companies would prefer to donate goods in lieu of funds – this is also very much appreciated!

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Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Name (if known): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to receive the Donation Request Letter?

Please email it to me at the following email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please hold it for pick up on Monday night