

## ABOUT THE YOUNG MARINES

### Who We Are

Southcoast Young Marines is a youth education and service program for girls and boys, ages 8 through completion of high school. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. The program focuses on character building, leadership, and promotes a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

### Membership

The Young Marines is open to all youth ages 8 through completion of high school. The only membership requirement is that the youth must be in good standing at school. We meet every Tuesday night from 6 - 9PM at the Fort Taber Community Center in New Bedford's south end.

### Our Volunteers

Our unit is a community-based programs led by dedicated adult volunteers. Many of our volunteers are former, retired, active duty, or reserve military. We also have teachers, police officers, and medical personnel on our team of volunteers. It is through these caring adults that Southcoast learns the inner values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Adult volunteers are individually screened by the National Young Marines Headquarters based on background information and recommendations provided with each person's registration.

### Training

Upon joining Southcoast Young Marines, youth undergo an orientation program, generally spread out over several weekly meetings, known as Recruit Training. The youth learn general subjects such as history, customs and courtesies, close order drill, physical fitness, and military rank structure. After graduating from Young Marine Recruit Training, the youth have the opportunity to learn more new skills, earn rank, wear the Young Marine uniform and work toward ribbon awards. Young Marines earn ribbons for achievement in areas such as leadership, community service, swimming, academic excellence, first aid, and drug resistance education.

### Mission

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

### Motto

Strengthening the lives of America's youth

### Young Marine Obligation

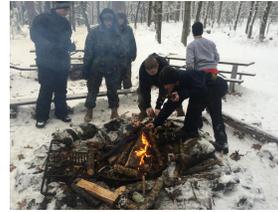
*From this day forward, I sincerely promise, I will set an example for all other youth to follow and I shall never do anything that would bring disgrace or dishonor upon my God, my Country and its flag, my parents, myself or the Young Marines. These I will honor and respect in a manner that will reflect credit upon them and myself. Semper Fidelis.*

### Events and Outings

Besides training and classes, Young Marines participate in a number of fun outings and activities such as:

- Parades
- Hiking trips
- Laser tag
- Canobie Lake Park
- SCUBA diving
- Sailing
- and more!





### National Programs

During summer months, Young Marines have the opportunity to attend Young Marines National Summer Programs of: Adventures, Challenges, Encampments, and Schools (SPACES). Schools consist of leadership courses. Adventures have a historical emphasis and are designed with the younger child in mind. In contrast, older Young Marines can participate in Challenges. Challenges consist of training in areas such as survival skills, wilderness training, and water-based activities. Young Marine Encampments provide the opportunity for Young Marines of all ages to gather together and train as a large unit of up to 700 youth at a time. Over 3,000 Young Marines participate in the SPACES programs each year.



### Awards

The Young Marines is the proud six-time recipient of the Department of Defense’s Fulcrum Shield Award for Excellence in Youth Anti-Drug Programs. The award recognizes military-affiliated youth organizations around the world that have made concerted efforts at spreading the anti-drug messages throughout their communities. The first award was presented to the Young Marines National Headquarters and the second to the Bakersfield Young Marine unit in California.



### Chester, the official mascot

Chester, the puppy bulldog, is the Young Marines official mascot. Chester enjoys all the benefits of Young Marine membership such as the opportunity to earn rank and ribbons, wear the Young Marine uniform, and a free subscription to the Young Marine Esprit magazine. Chester sometimes even makes guest appearances at unit meetings, graduations, and training conferences.

### Young Marines Veterans Appreciation Week

For one week in November each year, Young Marine units across the country celebrate Young Marines Veterans Appreciation Week (YMVAV). The purpose of the campaign is to challenge our Young Marines to dedicate some of their time to help our nation’s veterans and to demonstrate, through their actions, their sincere appreciation for our veterans’ service to our country. Unit projects include sending thank you cards to hospitalized veterans, cleaning up a disabled veterans yard, visiting veterans in the hospital, or simply setting up a community function to socialize with local veterans.



If you're interested in becoming a Young Marine, contact us:



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