

Summer Edition



LEADER

MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY  
FORGING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

LEADER SPECIAL ISSUE

# 2023 SUMMER CAMP

BUILDING LEADERSHIP SKILLS  
AND POSITIVE MINDSET  
THROUGH CAMP ACTIVITIES

SPOTLIGHT  
**SUMMER CAMP CADET  
INSTRUCTOR**  
PASSING ON EXPERIENCE AND LEADERSHIP  
KNOWLEDGE TO CAMPERS





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## ON THE SPECIAL ISSUE BACK COVER

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# *Overcoming Fear*

## **CAMPERS TAKE ON REPEL, ZIP LINE AND ROCK WALL AND GAIN THEIR CONFIDENCE**

Looking up at the rock climbing wall can be a little scary. Looking down from the top to repel and zipline can be even scarier.

These campers learned the safety and techniques, and conquered their fears gaining all the confidence they needed to climb up and zip down!

"In my head, I definitely was not doing it," says one Alpha camper, "and then, I just wanted to do it again!"

These campers will take with them the confidence to look fear in the face and one step at a time, tackle the task ahead.

Way to go, campers!







# TAKE FLIGHT



UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MR. GARIB, CAMPERS  
SPREAD THEIR WINGS INTO THE AEROSPACE PROGRAM.



Summer camp isn't just on the ground here at MMA. Campers who opt into the aerospace program are in for some lessons in the skies!

Under the direction of Mr. Garib, several campers were able to spread their wings this summer and really soar into the aerospace program.

From in the classroom learning instruction, to perfecting the practice on simulators, these aero-campers then took their hands-on learning into the air.

With small class sizes and dedicated staff, these young men remained focused and excelled in the aerospace program.

We look forward to one day seeing our future pilots in the beautiful skies!



# WHEN THINGS GET MUDDY

## SLIDE FOR LIFE

Hang on to a rope while you cross a water pond...sounds easy enough...or...

It may be a shallow water pond below these campers, but the task at hand is more difficult than what meets the eye. Campers slide themselves across the rope, holding on tight, to make it across without falling into the pond. While some remain on top of the

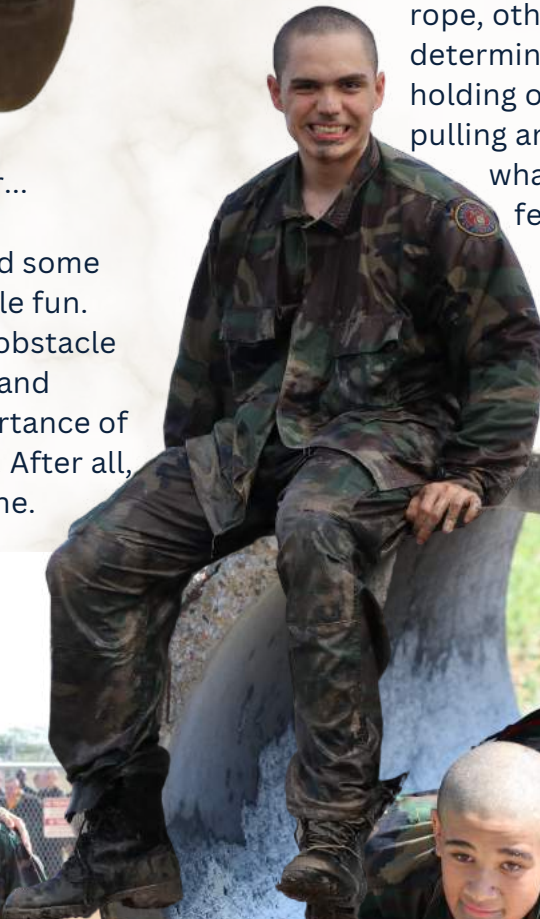
rope, others fell over, but were determined to complete the task holding on for life. Sliding, wrapping, pulling and pure determination was what got these campers across feeling accomplished!

A big success for a challenge that is more than what your eyes behold.

## THE MUD PIT

Crawl...run...jump...dive...over and under... Just. Get. Through.

Campers got wet and muddy and learned some amazing survival skills while having a little fun. At the start, campers wonder why each obstacle is there, but imagining a real life setting and learning each skill, they realize the importance of each obstacle and what it teaches them. After all, a little mud on the face never hurt anyone.





# FIRE AT THE READY

CAMPERS LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF GUN SAFETY,  
CONTROL AND ACCURACY



## RIFLE RANGE INSTRUCTION

Safety and proper instruction is of high and utmost importance. Our Drill Instructors and Camp Instructors are top notch when teaching our campers the proper rules about the rifle, safety when using it around yourself and others, and how to use the rifle in a safe way to learn how to shoot properly.

Our campers have plenty of practice under the direction of their instructors before stepping out to put their newly learned skill into practice.

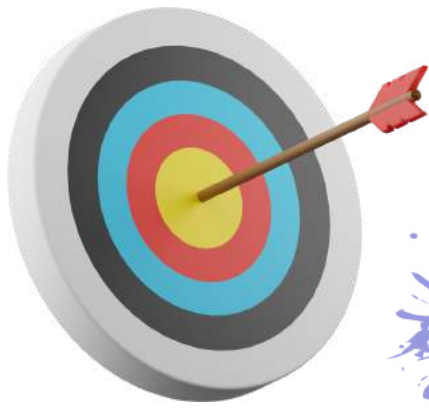
## RIFLE RANGE INSTRUCTION

Once our campers have been through proper instruction in the indoor range, they take their practice one step further and go outside to do skeet shooting helping them practice with a moving target.

Under the instruction of Dr. Butler, the campers now are learning how to use the rifle properly with a moving target in front of them. Campers know the importance of safety, but also learn a great new life skill while having a bit of fun. The smiles on their faces as they hit their moving targets is priceless.







# RIGHT ON TARGET



It's no easy task to learn to point and shoot. Safety is priority and perfecting the practice is key to enjoying the skill of shooting.

Campers had the very best

instructors and cadet instructors teaching and guiding them to become safe and accurate shooters. After passing their individual target practice and safety courses, campers got to have a little fun

individually and between platoons.

Campers used their bows and arrows to learn a different type of shooting accuracy furthering and expanding their skills.

Once everyone had shown their skill levels, they took their knowledge to the paintball field for a colorful, friendly, and fun competition between platoons. On the field, the campers were able to put their skills into motion and utilize all they had learned, from safety to proper use to finding that moving target. Our campers did an amazing job learning and showing true maturity and responsibility when they put their new skills into practice.





# THROUGH THE EYES OF A CAMPER

## CAMPERS TELL US HOW THEY SEE SUMMER CAMP AND HOW IT CHANGES THEIR LIVES FOREVER

Many children attend summer camps across the nation. Some for arts, some for sports and some just for fun. However, there really is no summer camp quite like ours here at MMA.

Learning life skills, proving to themselves they can overcome through adversity in tough situations and making lifelong friends along the way is what the month spent in the barracks will do.

Every camper has a different experience. Not everyone will like it, not everyone will hate it, and some may even fall in love with it. Whatever the case may be, you can count on that each camper developing new skills and a new mindset and they might surprise themselves and their families in the process.

**“ I came to summer camp last year and when I started I was so scared. I had never been away from my parents and I didn't know what to expect. By week two I was having so much fun and meeting so many friends. The best part is that I still keep up with those friends today. I had to come back and do this again! My friends came too but are in a different company now, but I am just so excited to be here. I am meeting even more new people and I am so glad I could do this again. Best way to spend my summer! ”**

**-Trevor Bartholomae**  
Charlie Company





# CARDBOARD BOAT

*Regatta*



A cardboard box and duct tape...who knew this could lead to building a survival tool AND create so many smiles! The annual regatta brings out the best teamwork within the companies as each group vies to be the last boat sailing. Each group brings to life their own ideas in building the best boat for competition. While some flip, some soak and sink, others make the trek and survive the choppy pool waters.

One thing is for sure, sink or swim, these campers sure had some great laughs and big smiles working together to be the MMA Summer Camp Cardboard Boat Regatta winners!





# Survival SKILLS



Simple lifeskills are important to being prepared for all the things life may throw your way- some they will use daily and others they may only need in tough situations. Whatever the future case may be, you can bet on our campers being prepared. Our cadet instructors taught our campers the simple art of tying a tie. Whether a big fancy event, or maybe when they become adults in the corporate world, our campers know how to tie their own tie to look sharp!

Hiking may seem simple enough. Some do it for sport and some for leisure, but knowing your surroundings and taking the proper tools is important. Our drill instructors hiked through hills, trails and over bridges with our campers and taught them some basic skills along the trails.

Camping overnight was a great way to learn multiple skills in one night. From pitching the tent to starting a fire, campers learned an array of skills they may have to put to use one day. A little fun was included with a hamburger cookout!







# THE BUILDING BLOCKS IN LIFE



The high ropes course helps campers overcome fear. They learn to use their own coordination and dig deep to find the confidence to conquer one of the camp's toughest challenges!



Combat fitness teaches some amazing emergency situation lessons. Our campers practiced with one another how to properly carry another person and, they also learned how to maneuver through crawling and running with obstacles in the way.

A little facepaint anyone? Well, this is no ordinary face painting. Our campers learned the importance of camouflage, cover and concealment in various activities and scenarios. They learned to conceal themselves from others as well as looking for signs of how to spot a camouflaged person or item.





# THROUGH THE EYES OF A CADET INSTRUCTOR



Cadet instructors play a vital role during summer camp. Not only do they assist their company Drill Instructors with the daily activities, but they have a huge impact on the current summer campers. Current MMA Cadet, Ubaldo Flores, remembers his first summer camp and all of the feelings and emotions that come with it. The success he had by the end of his first camp is why he chooses to lead and let campers know how rewarding it is. Even his father is still proud at the choices he's made following that summer camp. "He's a leader, and I am very proud of him now helping these new summer campers and showing them what a great choice they have made." says Mr. Flores. SgtMaj Cece, USMC (Ret), Drill Instructor of Golf Company says, "Cadet Flores is an amazing young man. He is a true leader here at MMA! Glad to have him in Golf Company."



“Being a summer camper helped me become a relatable CI (cadet instructor) to be able to relate to the feelings the campers have about being at summer camp.”  
William Bozell -  
Fox Company Cadet Instructor



“I was a young kid and knew I had to do something after Covid quarantine to get back out and continue growing to be a better person. I chose to try the MMA Summer Camp. Now coming full circle as a CI, I knew exactly how those kids were feeling and I wanted to make sure they understood I was once here too. I want to get the best out of them.”  
Ethan Appell -  
Fox Company Cadet Instructor





# Summer Camp 2023

## GRADUATION WEEKEND

### *Reuniting with family...* FAMILY DAY SOCIAL

After all the hard work, perseverance and determination these campers gave for one month, celebrating their success with family and friends is the best feeling! The proud march they make towards their parents, with the company they have grown bonds with, echos through Batallion Street as family waits anxiously to hug their campers.



### *Celebrating accomplishments...* SUMMER CAMP GRADUATION



Graduation Day finally arrived and it was time to celebrate our accomplished campers and share the joy with their families. With a beautiful parade led by our cadet instructors, our summer campers marched proudly in front of hundreds of onlookers, all there to support their most recent success. Congratulations, gentlemen! We were proud to have you!







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