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# STRAP EM UP BOOT CAMP

Parent Handbook

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May 2024

# STRAP EM UP BOOT CAMP

(Parent's handbook)

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## Our Beginning

Strap Em Up Boot Camp (SEUBC) is a subsidiary of Stepping Stones Foundation. Stepping Stones Foundation was founded by Drill Sergeant Steven Sullivan in 2011. He served as an Army Ranger for nine years. He felt God was leading him back to Greenville, SC to continue his work by guiding youth and families. Drill Sergeant single-handedly created this program. His hard work and dedication remained until his passing on May 15, 2022.

All board members, instructors, and helpers are volunteers. Our volunteers are background checked and we operate under the buddy system. No child or adult should ever be one on one with anyone. Always take a battle buddy. This is to protect everyone involved.

We are a para-military program, meaning some activities, program curriculum, and the overall atmosphere of the boot camp is military-based. Therefore, participants are called Cadets and all adults will be addressed with the correct titles. For example: Drill Sgt. Klein, not Mr. Klein.

## Our Mission Statement

Strap Em Up Boot Camp (SEUBC) is faith based. It is a youth development and service program for boys and girls ages six through the completion of high school. SEUBC promotes the mental, emotional, moral, and physical development of youth. The program strives to instill a strong work ethic, sense of belonging, purpose, self-discipline, and respect through a structured program. We also strive to provide today's youth with options for tomorrow's world.

## Our Vision Statement

Strap Em Up Boot Camp is known, respected, and valued as a leader in providing direct services and resources to children and families that will improve their lives, and to be recognized in the community as an organization that gives our youth options to build a better world.

### BOARD MEMBERS & TEAM

Director

Executive Director .....Sr. Drill Sgt. Robert M. Klein

Secretary ..... Sgt. Candice McLean

CFO/Treasurer /Communications.....Marie DellaValle  
Fundraiser/Publicity/Life Skills

Behavioralist ..... Sgt. Deborah McClary

Fundraiser	Patrick McDaniel
Construction	Sgt. Billy Ray Broome

### INSTRUCTORS:

Sr. Drill Sgt. Robert Klein, Jr.

Sr. Drill Sgt. Nate Harris

Sgt. Candice McLean

Sgt. Billy Ray Broome

Sgt. Donte Carroll

Corporal Reba Vannelli

Corporal Ann Lusk

Lt. Col. George Rush, PH

## Location and Contact Information

Boot camp location: 9530 Augusta Rd., Pelzer, SC 29669

Administrative office: 108 Meadowview Dr., Taylors, SC 29687

Contact phone number: 864-263-7354/ email: redladybug59@att.net

Website: [www.strapemupbootcamp.com](http://www.strapemupbootcamp.com)

Facebook: **Strap Em Up Boot Camp**

## General Information

Boot camp meets every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for 36 Saturdays regardless of the weather, unless the program is canceled that day by our Executive Director. You will be notified either on the Facebook page, a phone call, or by email. Also, check the Facebook page for other instructions and postings daily.

Boot camp meets at Happy Trails Cowboy Church, 9530 Augusta Rd., Pelzer, SC 29669 in the field behind the church.

Cadets are responsible to come to boot camp in uniform, be on time, bring their reading log and the Parent's Report log, or there will be consequences.

IF YOUR CADET IS UNABLE TO ATTEND BOOT CAMP ON ANY SATURDAY, PLEASE CALL 864-263-7354. If you know ahead of time during the week, please call us.

Cadets are expected to arrive on time and ready to participate.

The following are NOT ALLOWED while at boot camp: cell phones, blue tooth, I pods, watches, jewelry, make-up, nail polish, chewing gum—no eating allowed, no earbuds.

## Tuition and Payments

Strap Em Up Boot Camp is a 501(c)(3), a not-for-profit business. A tuition fee of \$500 per cadet is charged. An initial payment of \$50 is expected at time of sign-up, and five payments to pay off the balance due will be made thereafter to be paid in full. A Parent Payment form is included in the Application/Registration packet. Acceptable payment will be cash, money orders, and personal checks.

This fee includes:

- T-shirt, military like bottoms & blouse, belt, and cover (hat) for training days.
- Canteen, whistle, & boots are earned
- Journal & binder
- Lunches, snacks, water
- Military Bible
- Miscellaneous

## Hands Off Policy

“Hands-Off” means that no team member may touch a cadet or use abusive language as a means of coercion.

SEUBC team is expected to lead through positive methods that do not include the use of physical force or verbal abuse. Use of such tactics must be considered a leadership failure. “Hands-Off” leadership also prohibits staff members from using unprofessional language, including profanity, vulgarity, or off-color jokes when interacting with correcting or motivating cadets. This includes joking and horseplay that is easily carried too far. The uncompromising standard for behavior and language on the part of the team is nothing less than complete transparency and total professionalism. Cadets or team shall not be subject to disciplinary action or any other form of retaliation for reporting an alleged violation. Any cadet experiencing or witnessing any violation of this directive is to immediately report it to their superior or the next member in the chain of command.

NOTE: THIS POLICY IN NO WAY PREVENTS SEUBC TEAM FROM THE USE OF TOUCH AS A RESPECTFUL AND PROFESSIONAL WAY TO CONNECT WITH AND TEACH A CADET. IN ADDITION, THIS POLICY DOES NOT IN ANY WAY INFER THAT A TEAM MEMBER CANNOT DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST AN OUT-OF-CONTROL CADET, NOR MEANT TO INTERFERE WITH ANY INSTANCES WHERE A TEAM MEMBER MAY NEED TO REACT PHYSICALLY AND OR/QUICKLY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE CADETS OR OTHERS.

## Discipline Policy

Offenses include but are not limited to:

- Fighting – Verbal threatening or posturing, horseplay, and/or disrespectful behavior
- Fighting – Shoving and pushing (requiring someone to separate)
- Misconduct – possession of contraband
- Disturbing class
- Refusing to participate
- Failure to follow instructions
- Fraternalization – Open display of physical contact, affection, or any sexual misconduct
- Fraternalization between cadets is NOT allowed
- Destruction of Boot Camp property (ZERO TOLERANCE)
- Theft (ZERO TOLERANCE)
- Possession of any medication AWOL – on campus
- AWOL – off campus
- Using obscene/vulgar language
- Threatening another cadet or team member
- Bullying
- Any gang related activity
- Behavior unbecoming of cadet – uncontrollable– explicit behavior – behavior that is dangerous to self or others
- Tobacco products including vape pens
- Branding/self-mutilation/notching eyes
- Physically assaulting a team member
- Failure to pass drug test
- Possession of any weapon, or using any item as a weapon
- Possession of illegal drugs – CONSEQUENCE: Violation will result in automatic removal from the program and police will be notified

Consequences are participation in Doom Squad. This is intense physical activity and demands participation.



## Medical Policy

Before a cadet can begin, a physical must be completed by a physician and a copy of the medical paperwork **MUST** be on site with appropriate Emergency Contact listed clearly.

A team member must sign off on your cadet's medical information.

If your cadet has an inhaler or Epi Pen, **PLEASE** make sure it is on hand for **EVERY** boot camp session.

## Educational Support

Educational support is available for each cadet. The team can attend IEP (Individual Education Plan) meetings as a support person. The team and volunteers will always encourage reading and academic excellence.

Cadets are required to read daily for 20 minutes and to log it on the form labeled "Reading log." The cadets are also responsible to write something positive daily in their composition books that they receive at orientation and shown to instructors every Saturday to get signed off. If they fail to do this, there will be consequences.

Life Skills is a class. Work pages are given to be done at home and handed in the following Saturday. Again, failure to do this will mean consequences.

## Program Components

SEUBC is a youth development program with a combination of physical training, life skill classes, leadership opportunities, and community outreach. Teamwork is a very important part of SEUBC. There will be a sit down with you and Team members at the initial intake, at the halfway point, and at the end to discuss goals you may have and what steps can be taken to help your child.

### Physical Training

- Marching
- Dummy Rifle Drills
- Training Trails
- Pugil Training
- Obstacle Courses

There are many program segments which concentrate on physical training. Just as in paramilitary boot camp, physical training is first and foremost. These are both rigorous and fun. Practices such as helping platoon mates teach teamwork and instill camaraderie. The instructional commands are disseminated throughout the day's activities. In this manner the participating members are also instructed in our guiding principles of faith and purpose. Ample rest periods are strictly enforced.

### Life Skills Classes

- Etiquette Essentials
- Positive Self-Talk
- Confidence
- Purpose
- Goal Setting
- Emotional Control
- \*Stress Management
- \* Motivation
- \* Teamwork

## Promotion/Graduation

### Promotion

Cadets that display positive leadership skills will be promoted. The first promotions will be to Junior Leader. The 2<sup>nd</sup> promotion will be to Leader. A cadet who becomes a Leader can earn their stripes for their next promotion.

These promotions are to encourage more personal growth and will be evident with a new “Leadership name.” A promotion ceremony will take place and the cadet will be presented with a certificate, dog tags, ammo belt, canteen, and boots.

### Graduation

Cadets who complete all 36 Saturdays of boot camp will be presented with a certificate of completion.

## Outcomes

Cadets that have participated in SEUBC in the past have reported the following outcomes:

- Increased confidence
- Increased self-motivation
- Taking responsibility for actions
- Better relationships with parents/guardians, siblings, teachers, and peers
- Decreased stress and anxiety
- Healthier eating habits
- Increased leadership skills
- Mindfulness of risky behaviors and people
- Increased self-esteem
- Increased respect for others and property
- Caring and supportive adults to turn to

The program day begins at 9 a.m. with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the CADET CREED. The close of the cadet's program is at 4:00 p.m. with a prayer.

### CADET CREED

I am someone special  
Uniquely created by God  
And full of potential

Often Imitated  
Never Duplicated  
RESPECT  
MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

## Boot Camp Terms and Acronyms

Battle Buddy – Another person that is with a cadet at all times. No one should ever be alone while at boot camp.

Blouse – Military jacket

Cover – Hat

Chow – Snack time/lunchtime

D&C – Drill and ceremony

SEUBC – Strap Em Up Boot Camp

## Volunteer Creed & Duties

SEUBC does not have any paid team leaders. Everyone working with SEUBC are volunteers. Each person volunteering with SEUBC will have a background check completed.

All volunteers are mandated reporters, meaning that if there is a suspicion of child abuse or neglect, the Department of Social Services will be contacted.

All volunteers must present themselves in a professional manner at all times. Volunteers are never to be alone with a cadet. We operate on the battle buddy system for adults and cadets.

## Cadet Rules

- 1) Be prepared with full uniform and ready to start
  - 2) Males are not allowed to mingle with the females
  - 3) Male hair should be cut and neat
  - 4) Female hair must be put up in a bun
  - 5) No chewing gum
  - 6) No crossing arms
  - 7) No hands on hips
  - 8) No hands in pockets
  - 9) No cursing or vulgar words
- No fighting

## Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

As a Parent/Guardian of a cadet of SEUBC, there are things you are responsible for. Communication is key. Please let one of the Board Members know if your cadet will be absent, late, etc.

Parent/Guardians are required to attend the meeting each month, which is held the second Saturday of each month.

SEUBC works with the cadets, *as well* as with the Parent/Guardians. If cadets are learning new ways to control and improve themselves, it is imperative that the Parent/Guardians understand and grow and change with the cadets. The meetings will range from a structured curriculum to open group conversations about issues that may be in common with other Parent/Guardians.

At SEUBC, we are family. We welcome conversations and input from you!

### Fundraising

Strap Em Up Boot Camp is a non-profit organization, staffed with volunteers, so we depend on fundraising and donations. The funds cover what tuition does not cover. This program was created as a ministry, therefore, no child is punished because of financial hardship. In your Application/Registration packet there is a Parent Payment form. Upon signing up your child, a minimum of \$50 is required. There will be 5 more payments due before the child's program is completed. If your child leaves the program prematurely, we ask that you please return the complete uniform.

We are a ministry first and a business second.

We love and appreciate our financial donors!

## Signature of Receipt

By signing below, you acknowledge receipt of the Parent/Guardian handbook. Please take the time to read this handbook, as it may answer questions you might have.

This signature sheet will remain with your cadet's file as a permanent document. If there are any amendments to this handbook, the Parent/Guardian will be notified as to the status of your enrolled child in boot camp.

I acknowledge the program schedule, tuition, and expectations. I agree to attend at least one Parent/Guardian meeting a month. I agree to communicate with the team of Strap Em Up Boot Camp.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

By signing below, you acknowledge receipt of a uniform as follows:

- T-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_
- Blouse size \_\_\_\_\_
- Bottoms size \_\_\_\_\_
- Cover
- Canteen/water bottle
- Journal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Cadet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have received a journal and understand the expectations of reading and completing the reading log each week.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Cadet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of SEUBC team member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date