



# Sarasota Military Academy

## SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY PREP DRESS CODE

### SMA Prep Uniforms

- Monday through Thursday: Dress uniform  
Friday: Student choice: dress uniform or polo uniform  
Physical Education Classes: PE uniform

Uniforms are available for purchase from Children's World Uniform store. Visit the store on Bee Ridge Rd. or visit their website ([www.childrensworlduniform.com](http://www.childrensworlduniform.com)) to check prices, sizes, and/or to place orders. Gently-used uniforms are available in limited sizes and quantities. Please call the office to make an appointment to purchase gently-used items.

### Dress Uniform:

- Light blue Oxford shirt (Children's World)
- Dark blue slacks (Children's World)
- White t-shirt or camisole (optional) from a store of your choice
- Blue belt (Children's World)
- Black socks (that cover the ankles) from a store of your choice
- ALL black sneakers or shoes with black laces from a shoe store of your choice
- Name tag, crest, epaulets, ribbons (when earned) are provided by the Academy; lost or damaged items must be immediately replaced by purchasing through the school.

Sarasota Military Academy Prep is, as the name implies, an institution where military traditions and customs are an important part of the experience. Cadets are required to wear and care for the uniforms properly. The uniform will be worn in accordance with standards outlined in this handbook which are like those of the military and JROTC program. When the uniform is worn, it will be worn completely and not mixed with clothing or shoes not outlined in this dress code or without **required** items such as belts, nametags, epaulets, etc.

Uniform inspections will be conducted in formation. Cadets and parents must understand that this uniform represents SMA Prep's high standards and must be worn with proper respect. Cadets may not play sports or be involved in any work detail while in the SMA Prep Dress Uniform, nor may they engage in any conduct that would bring embarrassment or disgrace to the uniform or SMA Prep. Further, the uniform may not be worn to promote political causes or at partisan political organizations' events.

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Only plain (no writing of any kind on the t-shirt), white undergarments may be worn under the dress shirt. The wear of an undershirt or camisole is optional. No long sleeve shirts may be worn under the dress shirt.

Only black socks that cover the ankle (preferably mid-calf length) may be worn with the Dress Uniform. All other socks are **NOT AUTHORIZED** for wear with the Dress Uniform!

**Cadets may NOT wear the Dress Uniform while performing fundraising activities.**

### Placement of Uniform Pin-on Items and Belt

**Nametag:** Centered on the right pocket flap

**SMA Prep Crest:** Centered 1/8" above nametag

**Ribbons:** Centered 1/8" above the left pocket flap

**Belt:** Tip of the belt should be to the left side of the buckle

### Replacement of lost/broken items:

- "Frogs" (pin clasps) and nametag backings are available at the front desk, the Eagles Nest (during lunch), and through Military Studies using "Eagle Points"
- Reorder lost crests (\$4) and nametags (\$4) at the front desk

### Polo Uniform:

- Polo Shirts - navy blue with gold sides (Children's World)
- Pants and/or shorts - dark blue (Children's World)
- White t-shirt or camisole (optional) from a store of your choice
- Blue belt (same belt as dress uniform) (Children's World)
- Black socks (that cover the ankles) from a store of your choice
- Any boat shoes or color sneakers with any color laces from a shoe store of your choice (No shoes with wheels/rollers or light-up shoes allowed).

Uniform inspections will be conducted in formation. Polo shirt, dark blue pants and/or shorts, and the blue belt (same belt as dress uniform), **MUST** all be purchased at Children's World.

Shorts and pants must rest at the natural waist of the cadet; no more than 2 inches below the navel. Shorts must not extend below the knee and must be hemmed no more than 4 inches above the knee. Shorts and pants must have at least 1 inch of free play (without pulling) in the garment at the hips and legs. Shorts may NOT be rolled up.

The bottom button of the polo shirt must be buttoned. Only plain (no writing of any kind on the t-shirt) white undergarments may be worn under the polo shirt. The wear of an undershirt or camisole is optional. No long sleeve shirts may be worn under the polo shirt.

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Only athletic shoes or boat shoes are to be worn. Cadets cannot deface the shoes in any way. Shoes must be TIED *properly*. All colors are allowed. Black socks must be worn that cover the ankle. Jewelry, make up and nail polish standards are the same as with the SMA Prep Dress Uniform. (See jewelry, make up, and nail polish policy).

**Females may wear hair down only on Fridays.** Headbands and pins are allowed as long as they are PLAIN and match the hair color.

### PE Uniform:

- Light blue tee shirt (Children’s World)
- Dark blue shorts (Children’s World)
- Black socks (that cover the ankles) from a store of your choice
- Any color sneakers with any color laces from shoe store of your choice

Only the SMA Prep PE Uniforms are authorized for all physical activities. These must be purchased at Children’s World.

### Sweatshirt/Hoodie (from Children’s World):

- A navy colored sweatshirt with zipper, hood, and SMA Prep logo

The SMA Prep Sweatshirt is the ONLY authorized sweatshirt to be worn with any of the SMA Prep uniforms (dress, polo, or PE uniforms). It is authorized for wear inside the classrooms/buildings ONLY, except for designated Sweatshirt Days or Cold-Weather Days, when it may also be worn outside. Cadets who are unable to purchase an SMA Prep sweatshirt due to shortages or other approved reason, may receive authorization from the Head of School or designee to wear an alternate sweatshirt. A cadet must ask permission from the teacher before donning the SMA Prep sweatshirt in the classroom.

### Sweatshirt Days

A “Sweatshirt Day” is any day when the weather drops below 70 degrees but is not cold enough to be designated as a “Cold-Weather Day” by administration. During a Sweatshirt Day, cadets may wear their SMA Prep sweatshirts (or authorized sweatshirts) outdoors as well as in the classroom or building. Sweatshirts may only be worn zipped up and always with the hood down. Sweatshirts may not be draped around the neck or tied around the waist.

### Cold Weather Outerwear Policy for Designated Days

On days when the weather is predicted to be a “Cold-Weather Day” (approximately 55 degrees or below), the Head of School or designee may implement the Cold-Weather Outerwear Policy enabling cadets to wear warmer coats/jackets. Families are asked to do their best to provide conservative, plain black or dark colored coats/jackets when possible. Cold-Weather Days apply to both the SMA Prep dress uniform and polo uniform. The following guidance is provided for Cold-Weather Days:

- Coats must be worn fully closed (buttoned, zipped, or snapped).
- Multiple coats/jackets (layering) are authorized to include rain coats.
- Coats/outerwear are to be worn outside only.

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- When the cadet enters a classroom, the outer coat(s)/jacket(s) should be removed and placed on the back of the cadet's seat or in his/her backpack. The cadet may continue to wear the SMA Prep sweatshirt (or authorized sweatshirt) while in the classroom on designated "Cold-Weather Days".
- Cadets are also authorized to wear hats, gloves, and scarves on designated cold-weather days as needed. These items must be removed while indoors.

### Care and Maintenance of Uniforms

Standards to be met while in uniform include maintaining the uniform in a clean and serviceable condition. After initial purchase of all uniforms, it is the cadets'/parents'/guardians' responsibility to properly maintain the uniforms. This includes: laundering, dry cleaning, sewing on lost buttons, necessary mending, replacement of broken zippers, and repair of torn/loose hems. Uniforms deemed to be in disrepair must be replaced.

## GROOMING STANDARDS

### Hairstyles

Extreme, eccentric, or faddish haircuts/hairstyles are not authorized. If dyes, tints, or bleaches are used, they must result in a NATURAL hair color. Hair cannot be more than one color.

### Male Haircut and Shaving

Male cadets must keep the hair on top neatly groomed. Extreme, eccentric, or faddish haircuts or hairstyles are NOT authorized. Further, the hair must not touch the ears or the collar of the Dress Uniform shirt. In any case, the length cannot exceed 2 inches (or less if hair is thick). The hair must present a TAPERED appearance. Also, inappropriate styles that result in shaved portions of the scalp (other than the neckline) or designs cut into the hair are prohibited.

Males will be clean-shaven; however, they may have sideburns. If worn, sideburns will not extend below the bottom of the ear opening, and they are NOT allowed to end in a "point"; they must end with a solid horizontal cut that is not angled. Sideburns will not be tapered or flared. The length of sideburn hairs when extended will not exceed 1/8 of an inch. Mustaches are permitted; if worn, males will keep mustaches neatly trimmed, tapered, and tidy. No portion of the mustache will cover the upper lip line or extend sideways beyond the corners of the mouth. Male fingernails may not extend past the tip of the finger.

### Female Hair Standards

Many female hairstyles are acceptable, if they are neat and conservative. Extreme, eccentric, or trendy haircuts or hairstyles are not authorized. If cadets use dyes, tints or bleaches, they must choose those that result in natural hair colors (not two-tone styles.) Additionally, females will ensure that hair is neatly groomed, that the length and bulk of the hair are not excessive, and that the hair does not present a ragged, unkempt, or extreme appearance. Females may wear braids if the braided style is conservative, the braids lie closely on the head, and any hair-holding devices comply with the standards below. For further explanation, the female hair standards are broken into three different categories:

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**a) Short length.** Short hair is defined as hair length that extends no more than 1 inch from the scalp (excluding bangs). Hair may be no shorter than 1/4 inch from the scalp (unless due to medical condition or injury), but may be evenly tapered to the scalp within 2 inches of the hair line edges. Bangs, if worn, may not fall below the eyebrows, may not interfere with the wear of all headgear, must lie neatly against the head, and not be visible underneath the front of the headgear. The width of the bangs may extend to the hairline at the temple.

**(b) Medium length.** Medium hair is defined as hair length that does not extend beyond the lower edge of the collar (in all uniforms), and extends more than 1 inch from the scalp. Medium hair may fall naturally in uniform, and is not required to be secured. When worn loose, graduated hair styles are acceptable, but the length, as measured from the end of the total hair length to the base of the collar, may not exceed 1 inch difference in length, from the front to the back. Layered hairstyles are also authorized, so long as each hair's length, as measured from the scalp to the hair's end, is generally the same length giving a tapered appearance. The regulations for the wear of bangs detailed in paragraph (a), above, apply. No portion of the bulk of the hair, as measured from the scalp, will exceed 2 inches.

**(c) Long length.** Long hair is defined as hair length that extends beyond the lower edge of the collar. Long hair will be neatly and inconspicuously fastened or pinned, except that bangs may be worn. The regulations for the wear of bangs detailed in paragraph (a), apply. No portion of the bulk of the hair, as measured from the scalp, will exceed 2 inches (except a bun, which may extend a MAXIMUM of 3 inches from the scalp) and be NO WIDER than the width of the head. Buns must be located on the back of the head so that the top of the bun does not protrude higher than the top of the head. As cadets move on to the high school, this requirement will mandate wearing of hair (usually with buns placed lower on the head) so as to not interfere with the proper wear of any headgear. Prep cadets are encouraged to practice wearing styles that would meet the high school standard.

Examples of hairstyles considered to be faddish or exaggerated and therefore prohibited for wear with the SMA Prep uniform, include, but are not limited to, shaved portions of the scalp other than the neckline, designs cut in the hair, unsecured ponytails (except during PE), and unbalanced or LOPSIDED hairstyles are prohibited.

Pony tails, pig tails, or braids that are not secured to the head (allowing hair to hang freely), widely spaced individual hanging locks, and other extreme styles that protrude from the head are prohibited. Foreign material (beads and decorative items) may not be woven into the braids. Dreadlocks are unauthorized. "Twists" are unauthorized (except French Twists.) Hair extensions are authorized; however, they must have the same general appearance as the natural hair and conform to the above regulations.

Hair-holding devices are authorized only for securing the hair. Cadets will not place hair-holding devices in the hair for decorative purposes. All hair-holding devices must be plain and of a color as close to the cadet's hair as is possible or clear (e.g., a blonde may wear brown or clear hair-holding devices). Authorized devices include, but are not limited to, barrettes, combs, pins, clips, thin (1/4" or less) headbands, or elastic bands. Devices that are conspicuous, excessive, or

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decorative are prohibited. Some examples of prohibited devices include, but are not limited to, “scrunchies,” beads, bows, claw-clips, wide headbands, and barrettes with butterflies, flowers, sparkles, gems, or scalloped edges or in colors not closely matching the hair.

### Jewelry Standards

While in any uniform, females may wear post-type earrings in gold, silver, white pearl, or diamond. The earrings will not exceed 6mm or 1/4inch in diameter; they must be unadorned and spherical (round). The ONLY body piercings allowed for females are earrings which may only be worn in the lowest piercing in the ear lobe. No other earrings are authorized. Males may not wear earrings while in uniform. Earrings are not authorized with the PE uniform.

Face piercing of any type, tongue rings, belly rings, and ear gauges are strictly prohibited. **Cadets who get new piercings during the school year that are not in compliance with the uniform policy must remove them immediately; they cannot be covered up by Band-Aids, etc.** We suggest you get new piercings during the summer months, so they have time to heal and don't necessitate posts to keep them open.

Both males and females may wear necklaces **IF** they are not visible in any uniform and the chain is no larger than the Army ID tags chain. No bracelets are allowed while in uniform. Both males and females may wear one ring per hand and a wrist watch: These must be conservative and not detract from the appearance of the uniform (no large or colorful rings and watches – you may only wear black, gold, or silver watches that are not oversized or ornate).

### Cosmetic and Nail Polish Standards

Tattoos and Henna designs may not be visible while on campus and in uniform.

**Males:** Nail polish and makeup is prohibited.

**Females:** The ONLY type of nail polish authorized is CLEAR nail polish. French tips (white, frosted or anything other than CLEAR) are not authorized. Females may wear cosmetics if they are conservative and complement the uniform and their complexion. Eccentric, exaggerated, or trendy cosmetic styles and colors are inappropriate with the uniform and are prohibited. Some examples of extreme makeup colors include, but are not limited to, purple, gold, silver, blue, black, white, red, camouflage colors, fluorescent colors, glitter and painted designs. False eyelashes are prohibited. Nails are to be neatly trimmed and not to exceed ¼” from the tip of the finger.

### Eyewear

Eyewear, including sunglasses, that is trendy or has lenses or frames with conspicuous initials, designs, or other adornments is not authorized. Cadets will not attach chains or ribbons to their eyewear. Glasses may not be worn on top of the head at any time.

### Backpacks

Handbags, backpacks, and book bags will be conservative and professional in appearance.

Advertising, cartoons, or other commercial designs are not authorized. Contents of the bag may not be visible; therefore, see through or mesh bags are not authorized.

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### Hats

Hats, berets, or other headgear is NOT authorized for wear with any uniform at SMA Prep EXCEPT for specially designated programs as needed such as the SMA Prep Drill Team.

### Special Dress Days

There will be occasions when students will be allowed to dress up, dress down, or wear special clothing for a dance or other event. Please keep in mind that SMA continues to have high standards for appearance, even when not wearing a uniform. All clothing must be tasteful and appropriate.

- No inappropriate writing or signs on clothing, such as anything pertaining to drugs, alcohol, profanity, nudity, or anything controversial or suggestive.
- Clothing may not be ripped, torn, or have holes, except when part of a special costume.
- Pants, shorts, and skirts must sit at the waist.
- No pajamas, slippers, hats, or baggy pants.
- If wearing a hoodie, the hood must remain down and is not to cover the head.
- No spaghetti straps, muscle shirts, tube tops, or tank tops.
- Shoulders and back must be covered.
- No midriffs or cleavage showing.
- Skirts, dresses, & shorts may not be higher than 4 inches above knee and must be hemmed.
- Leggings may ONLY be worn with a dress, skirt, or shorts
- No skin-tight clothing.
- The same jewelry and make-up standards apply as with wear of the uniform.
- Male cadets must be clean shaven.
- Shoes must be closed toe with heels no greater than 2".

### Lost & Found

SMA Prep is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Do not bring valuables to school. Lost and found is located at the front desk. Any item not claimed within 2 weeks may be re-purposed or thrown away. (Be sure to label uniforms, jackets, and personal belongings).