HOW MUCH TIME DOES IT TAKE UP?
Units typically meet up on once a week. There may also be additional weekend training and longer camps in the summer – although these will not be compulsory for all volunteers. Volunteers taking on roles of responsibility within the group will commit additional time to the planning and training which goes on behind the scenes to support the activities.

ARE CADETS PART OF THE MILITARY?
Cadet units in schools are supported financially by the Ministry of Defence, but are not part of the Armed Forces. The cadet forces follow some of the customs and traditions of their parent service, such as using the same rank structure. Cadets undertake a certain amount of military-themed training, but the organisations are separate. There is no commitment to military service of any kind, for the cadets or adults involved.

DO I NEED TO BE VERY PHYSICALLY FIT?
It is useful for volunteers to be reasonably fit so they can join in the physical activities, but other qualities are equally important. There are roles at units that will focus on planning and providing administrative support, where physical fitness will be less critical.

FIND OUT MORE
To find out more about becoming a Cadet Force Adult Volunteer, speak to the point of contact at your school.

BECOMING A CADET FORCE ADULT VOLUNTEER
WHAT DOES A VOLUNTEER DO?

There are different roles an adult volunteer can take on within a cadet unit. Many will focus on delivering practical training to cadets and you will have the opportunity to earn qualifications, and pass on your knowledge to cadets. Other roles will focus on administration, planning and delivering a successful and comprehensive training programme over the course of the school year.

Volunteers in school-based cadet units can come from any part of the school staff, or wider community. Experience of working with young people is an advantage but not essential, there is no requirement for any previous military or cadet experience, as full training is provided.

WHY BECOME A CADET FORCE ADULT VOLUNTEER?

To run successfully, all cadet units need enthusiastic and committed volunteers who are happy to get involved in training, planning and the organisation of the unit. It is the volunteers who add value to the cadet experience, and who make a huge, positive difference to the lives of young people.

As a volunteer you will:
• Help young people to reach their potential
• Have fun, develop new skills and try new challenges
• Gain qualifications and skills that will enhance your CV
• Grow in confidence and gain experience
• Have access to potential CPD opportunities

CASE STUDY: Major Eyton Parker, Northumberland C of E Academy CCF

I was involved with establishing the CCF at the school three years ago, as I had seen the positive impact of cadet units elsewhere, and wanted to bring this range of opportunities to the pupils at our school. It’s been very successful, and a personal highlight has been to see the cadets reactions as they marched on the Belgian Armed Forces parade in London - many of them have never travelled far from home at all, so it was rewarding to show them that there is a world beyond that.

Having somewhere that has a clear structure, and is a safe environment is also very enabling. Young people who might struggle in a classroom environment can excel, and work far more independently within cadets. Just as we have a diverse range of cadets, there are a diverse number of roles that it’s possible to take on as an adult instructor. It’s not always easy, and I know a lot of teachers are already incredibly busy. However, our school is incredibly lucky, in that we have a parent who volunteers, and helps with the administration. We’ve also got a number of volunteers who come in to deliver specialist training, like first aid; you really can play to your strengths and find a mix of activities that suits you, and your interests.