

VAN HORN YOUTH CENTER

BOOT CAMP



PARENT HANDBOOK

WELCOME
TO
VAN HORN

ONCE A HORNET
ALWAYS A HORNET



PROGRAM

The Van Horn Youth Center is a 44-bed residential treatment facility for boys aged 13 to 18, provided and administered by Riverside County Probation Department. Cadets in the program have been ordered to participate in the program by the Juvenile Courts of Riverside County. The center was established in November of 1973, as a treatment program for girls. In January 1977, the program was modified to include younger boys. On July 5, 1989, a mental health component was added to the program pursuant to a state grant (AB 377). On August 26, 1997, the program added a Boot Camp component. In October of 2007, Van Horn became an all boys program. There are two separate living wings, each having 22 beds. The focus of the entire program is to provide a therapeutic, community-type counseling setting. The participating county agencies in this project are Department of Mental Health, Probation Department and Office of Education. A Probation Counselor and a Clinical Therapist are assigned to work as a team with each cadet at the Center. The goal of this placement is to provide a safe and secure environment where rehabilitation can take place. The total number of therapeutic treatment groups was also expanded.

HOUSING AND GROUNDS

Van Horn Youth Center is divided into two platoons, Gold Platoon and Green Platoon, each having a capacity for 22 cadets. Each cadet has an individual room except for two double rooms that are honor rooms. Cadets share three schoolrooms and a large dining area. The Center is located on a site, which includes a ten acre parcel of land. Traditional team sports, as well as more individualized therapeutic recreational programs, are provided. There is a six-foot fence around the perimeter of the property, primarily to keep intruders out.

REFERRAL PROCEDURE

The placing Deputy Probation Officer presents the minor's case before the Juvenile Division Screening Committee prior to the court hearing to determine if placement is needed. If Van Horn Youth Center is recommended and placement is ordered by the court, the Placement Coordinator will refer the matter to Van Horn for a formal screening. The Van Horn Youth Center Screening Committee consists of the Director, Supervising Probation Officers, and Mental Health staff. The minor is interviewed by the committee to determine suitability for the program. If the minor is accepted, documents such as birth certificate, medical consents, immunization records, and a medical clearance from the juvenile hall doctor must be submitted prior to placement at Van Horn.

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Minors attend an on-site, fully accredited school. An evaluation test is administered to determine levels in math, reading, writing and English. Three hours per day are spent in the classroom and one hour per day the minors participate in a physical education program. Every minor can earn credits toward their high school diploma, or if they meet the criteria, they may test for a General Education Diploma (GED). The school curriculum will be modified to meet special education needs while they are residing at the facility. The Riverside County Office of Education and the on-site school are committed to addressing the educational needs of all minors and if necessary, will assemble an IEP (Individual Education Plan) team to review any special education issues. This process is usually held within 30 days of the minor's admittance to the program. School personnel are responsible for arranging all IEP meetings and contacting the minor's parents and/or legal guardians.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

In cooperation with Riverside County Office of Education, the VHYC has an Interscholastic High School Sports Program.

VHYC fields teams in baseball and cross country.

MILITARY PROGRAM

Van Horn Youth Center offers a comprehensive military component designed after the R.O.T.C./Academy model. Cadets participate in a multitude of activities including marching and drill and physical fitness, which includes an obstacle course. Cadets also participate in special presentation in the community as well as team competition in parades.

The Boot Camp component is set up on a military system. Each rank has established expectations of behavior and specified rewards and privileges if the cadet demonstrates the defined behavior consistently.

Each successive promotion of rank requires an increase in the quality and quantity of responsible behavior, and each offers an increase in rewards as positive reinforcement. Cadets promote from one rank to the next based on demonstrated behavior, performance in all aspects of the program, time in the program, along with the evaluative results of a promotional board. (See Rank Criteria)

CASEWORKER MANAGEMENT

Each cadet will be assigned a caseworker who will work closely with them throughout their program. The caseworker will oversee the progress of the cadet ensuring that they are developing and that their treatment needs are met. Probation counselors are assigned cadets, with whom they work very intensely in individual, family and small group counseling, and develop, keep records and oversee the cadet's progress in the program.

MENTAL HEALTH THERAPISTS

An important part of the Van Horn program is the therapeutic interventions provided by Riverside County Dept. of Mental Health. Licensed therapists offer individual, group and family therapy as well a Children's Psychiatrist offers psychiatric assessment, medication evaluation and management. The goal is to impact areas such as anger management, substance abuse, depression and victimization to offer healing, change and a successful future upon graduation from the program.

INDOOR/OUTDOOR EXERCISE AND RECREATION

Cadets will be given the opportunity to participate in indoor recreational or exercise activities, which may include, but not limited to:

- Approved television programs
- Radio
- Video games
- Board games
- Ping-pong
- Art activities
- Reading
- Indoor games
- Letter writing

Additionally, minors will also be given an opportunity to have outdoor physical activity each day, weather permitting.

PHONE CALLS

Upon admission to Van Horn Youth Center, the cadet will be given an initial phone call to their parents or legal guardian. Cadets are allowed to make or receive four (4) phone calls weekly. Cadets are not allowed to make or receive phone calls after 8:00pm. Cadets are allowed to speak only to their parents/guardian; they are not to speak to other relatives, siblings, boyfriends, girlfriends or any unauthorized person without permission from Probation staff.

MAIL POLICY

Minors may send and receive mail. However, they may not order any subscription items. They will be provided with pencils, paper, envelopes and given sufficient time to write letters. Prior to mail leaving the facility, staff will ensure that outgoing mail is properly addressed, without slogans or symbols appearing on the outside of the envelope. Correspondence is permitted between probation facilities, however all such mail will be reviewed. A minor may be placed on *mail review status* if any of the following is determined:

- Advocates the direct furtherance of a specific criminal act.
- Advocates or encourages specific acts of violence or physical harm to person/persons, or contains threats of suicidal intent.
- Advocates or plans for escape.
- Contains contraband.
- Promotes the furtherance of gang activities that may fall under any of the above categories.

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GRIEVANCE

Cadets have the right to file a grievance if they feel any condition of their confinement has been violated. All cadets will be instructed regarding the grievance procedure during the intake process. Grievance forms and a copy of the policy are posted in all living units and cadets will have easy and immediate access to these forms.

RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL SERVICES

To provide for the spiritual needs of the cadets, access to religious services and religious counseling are provided. Attendance is voluntary. Efforts will be made to accommodate, as practical, the cadets' request for a specific religious service and/or specific religious representation. Religious personnel, who provide counseling and programming to the cadets, are to be certified and approved by their church or religious organization. Religious counselors and representatives adhere to the rules of the facility and the Riverside County Probation Department Code of Ethics. For the safety and security of the facility, staff will be present at all religious services.

HEALTH CARE

Medical Services are provided for the cadets by Detention Health Services. The cadet's parents/guardian will be notified immediately of any medical emergencies or serious medical issues regarding their child.

Dental treatment will be provided as deemed necessary by medical personnel.

DISCIPLINE

While at Van Horn, staff will make every effort to maintain control of the cadets through methods of positive reinforcement, such as incentive/point system programs, which involve rewarding desirable behavior. The goal of Van Horn is to avoid discipline problems by establishing an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation. Staff will set an example of courtesy and consideration in their daily interactions with the cadets and the same is expected in return. Discipline shall be imposed at the least restrictive level needed to promote the desired behavior and shall be commensurate with the seriousness of the misconduct. Disciplinary procedures shall only be administered by designated staff and shall be reviewed by the Supervising Probation Officer or Duty Officer on a regular basis. Staff shall clearly communicate to the cadet the reason(s) for any disciplinary action. The discipline will show a direct relationship between the negative behavior and the consequence. Group discipline and corporal punishment are not permitted. During the intake process, all cadets will read and have the Rules of Conduct explained to them, the Rules of Conduct, which describe minor/major violations and possible disciplinary measures, are posted in all the living units.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

All reasonable precautions shall be taken to ensure the cadets' safety in the event of an emergency. Regular fire and earthquake drills will be conducted. The purpose of the fire and earthquake drills are to establish procedures regarding what actions will be taken in the event of an actual fire, earthquake or other emergency. Cadets are expected to behave and respond in every evacuation exercise as if a true emergency exists.

USE OF FORCE AND/OR RESTRAINTS

Riverside County juvenile facilities are committed to ensuring the physical safety and security of all minors, staff and visitors within each facility, as well as the public. Staff will use only the level of authorized defensive force needed to stop aggressive behavior and ensure the safety/security of the minors. Staff will make every attempt to preserve the integrity, respect, dignity and safety of all minors.

FURLOUGHS

Cadets will be eligible for furloughs with their parent or legal guardian when they have achieved the rank of Corporal, which generally should take five months. All furloughs will be arranged by the caseworker. The length of the furloughs will increase as the cadet progresses in the program. Prior to the cadet's first furlough, the assigned caseworker will meet with the parents/guardian and cadet to review the conditions of the furlough.

TREATMENT PROGRAMS

All cadets will participate in a variety of treatment programs while at Van Horn. The programs include Anger Management, Parenting, ASAP (Anti-Substance Abuse Program), TAG (Teens Against Gangs) and Victim Awareness.

AFTERCARE SERVICES

The aftercare component provides intensive community supervision for graduates of the Van Horn program. The objective is to assist the graduate in making a successful re-entry to the community and ultimately remaining arrest free. The focus of this component includes job placement, drug and alcohol counseling, urine testing, school attendance, family counseling, and overall supervision/support of the minor.

The aftercare caseloads are limited in size. If the minor cannot be contacted at home or school three times per week, he/she will be expected to report to the probation officer's office as directed. During the aftercare phase, the minors are required to participate in-group meetings conducted in the community by the aftercare probation officers. An emphasis is placed on collection of any fines or restitution owed to victims. Upon successful completion of the aftercare phase, wardship may be terminated. Those who are not able/willing to comply with their court orders are returned to Juvenile court for further disposition/sanctions as ordered by the court.

RE-ENTRY

This program is a team effort with the clinical therapist, caseload counselor, and aftercare probation officer. It addresses the issues of re-integration back to the family and community. An emphasis is placed on schooling and/or employment, coupled with continued mental health intervention and substance abuse treatment.

VAN HORN YOUTH CENTER

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

- The program at Van Horn Counseling usually last 8 months.
- Van Horn counseling will provide individual, family and group counseling for minors placed at Van Horn Youth Center and their families.
- Your child will be assigned a Clinical Therapist who, with you and your child's input, will develop a Care Plan, identifying areas of strengths and areas needing improvement while in treatment.
- A Doctor will assess your child and if indicated, medication may be recommended. If so, you will be contacted by the Doctor or Clinical Therapist about the benefits and side effects of this medication.
- The Clinical Therapist will contact you to arrange family counseling sessions. Participation in family counseling is mandatory at Van Horn Counseling.
- As your child's graduation from Van Horn Youth Center nears, the Aftercare Probation Officer and the Case Manager will assist you and your child with transitioning back into your home.
- Aftercare services are available for those living in the Riverside area. Case Management is offered to link your child to Mental Health services in your area. Arrangements for this will be made through the Clinical Therapist and the Aftercare Case Manager.
- You can contact your child's Clinical Therapist anytime for information and guidance.

VISITING RULES



RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT



VAN HORN YOUTH CENTER

VISITING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Visiting Hours

Visiting at Van Horn Youth Center is held every Sunday from 2pm to 4pm.

Authorization Visitors

Only parents and legal guardians are authorized to visit. Parents must have a valid photo identification and are required to sign the visitor log. Siblings and relatives of the cadet **are not** authorized to visit and **will not** be allowed in the facility. Special visits must be authorized by the Supervising Probation Officer by appointment only. Special visits will not take place during regular visiting hours.

Visiting Rules

1. All visitors are subject to metal detector or wand search.
2. No purses, bag backpacks are allowed into the facility.
3. Proper dress is required. No gang attire; no provocative garments, attire; no clothing promoting drug use and/or illicit activities.
4. No cell phones, cameras, beepers/pagers or any other electronic devices are permitted in the facility.
5. No food, candy, gum or beverages.
6. No smoking inside the facility. Cigarette, matches or lighters will not be permitted in the facility.
7. Any person who is in possession of or brings drugs, tear gas, weapons or alcohol into a County Juvenile Facility will be prosecuted under 871.5 WIC.
8. Any visitor suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance will not be admitted into the facility.
9. Parents are allowed to bring in personal hygiene items. No aerosol or spray cans, glass container, aftershave or mouthwash containing alcohol will not be allowed (see attached personal hygiene list).
10. Parents are allowed to bring one inexpensive watch, laundry detergent (no liquid, no bleach).
11. No money is allowed.
12. All incoming property must be left at the front desk and will be searched and approved by Van Horn Youth Center staff before it is given to the cadet.

Visiting is a privilege. Any visit may be terminated or denied at the discretion of the Supervising Probation Officer or Duty Officer for reasons not limited to:

- Safety and security issues (ie: a minor's behavior has become negative, disruptive or argumentative causing him to become a threat to the safety of themselves or others).
- Failure to comply with the rules and regulations posted at each facility.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

PROGRAMS AT VAN HORN YOUTH CENTER

- **ANGER MANAGEMENT:** An 8-week program designed to teach cadets how to recognize anger in themselves and others. The program gives the cadets ideas on how to handle volatile situations and de-escalate acting out behaviors. The program involves self-evaluation regarding self-esteem, anger, (physical, emotional reactions/feelings) and teaches alternatives to violence. Upon completion of the program, cadets receive a certificate.
- **ASAP (ANTI-SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM):** An 8-week program incorporated with 4 weeks of NA (Narcotics Anonymous) & AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) and volunteer groups. This program is designed to educate cadets on the short and long term effects of drugs and alcohol on their physical, mental, emotional and psychological well being. The program also emphasizes the effects on their families and other relationships. Upon completion of the program, cadets receive a certificate.
- **PARENTING:** A program presented in conjunction with RCOE focusing on pregnancy prevention and parenting skills.
- **TAG: (Teens Against Gangs)** An 8-week program targeting cadets involved in or associated with gangs and gang behavior. Cadets learn to recognize the impact their gang affiliation has upon their life, their family and their community. Upon completion of the program, cadets receive a certificate.
- **VICTIM AWARENESS:** An 8-week program designed to bring awareness to cadets of the pain and suffering experienced by victims of crime. The program emphasizes personal reflection as to how their crimes have affected their victims and their own families. At the end of the program, the class tours the Museum of Tolerance as the final lesson. Upon completion of the program, cadets receive a certificate.
- **SAFER CHOICES:** A 2-week program that provides education and awareness on sex (boundaries, limits and risks), dating, refusal skills, communication, pregnancy, STI, HIV and AIDS. The program reviews what are myths and what are facts. The cadets are tested and given a grade at the end of the course.
- **BOOT CAMP MARCHING:** Participation by all Van Horn cadets is a required part of the overall program. Includes the Company, Color Guard, Banner Carrier, Cadence Caller, and Guard On. The cadets perform at six parades annually, which include, the Veteran Parade, Banning Stagecoach Festival, Black History Parade, the Indio Date Festival, Beaumont's Cherry Festival and Big Bear's Old Miners Day Parade. The cadets are judged on marching precision, presentation, routine and Color Guard presentation.

- **COLOR GUARD:** Consists of four cadets who compete for the position through an application process that includes a written declaration of interest and an oral interview before the promotional panel. Color Guard participants are frequently invited to perform the presenting of the flags and leading in the Pledge of Allegiance at various ceremonies such as school graduations, Riverside County Probation Awards Ceremonies and other private and county functions. Cadets must maintain their rank and leadership skills in order to secure their position on the Color Guard.
- **SPECIAL OLYMPICS:** Van Horn cadets volunteer on Saturdays assisting Special Olympics athletes at practices and local and regional competitions. Cadets encourage and motivate athletes, keep time and scores for selected events, pass out water and lunches, and generally assist officials as needed.
- **6 PILLARS OF CHARACTER:** A six week program presenting six words described as the “pillars of character”; trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship. Each week focuses on one of the words and what that word means in the context of character. Counselors use art, word games and contests to make the program fun and exciting.
- **EDUCATIONAL OUTINGS:** Van Horn cadets participate in off-grounds activities that are educational, as well as being fun. Examples include RCC Performance Riverside plays, the Museum of Tolerance, the West Wing Foundation Tour, Riverside Municipal Museum and a day at the beach.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Community service projects are an important part of the Van Horn program. All of the projects selected are to assist the cadets in developing pro-social attitudes as well as provide them with the experience of helping others and giving back to the community. Some of the projects cadets have volunteered at are: Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful, Red Ribbon Week, Walk-A-Mile in Their Shoes, Feeding the Homeless, Race for Humanity, Stroll and Roll, Relay for Life, Shop to Stop Cancer Event and many more.

IT'S NOT WHERE
YOU HAVE BEEN
BUT WHERE
YOU ARE GOING

HOORAH!!!!!!!