

## Requirements for MCJROTC Participation

### PURPOSE

*This lesson identifies the requirements for participation in the MCJROTC program. You will learn about enrollment, citizenship, and physical fitness requirements for participation in the MCJROTC program.*

2031. These requirements also determined who could participate in the MCJROTC.

There are three requirements that will determine your MCJROTC participation. They are:

1. High school enrollment
2. **Citizenship**
3. Physical fitness

### Introduction

Haven't you noticed that there are rules everywhere you go? In everything that you do, certain requirements must be met. To join your community swimming pool, use local recreation facilities, and even go to school, you have to meet the requirements in order to join or attend. The same is true for participation in the MCJROTC program. There are requirements that must be met in order to participate in the MCJROTC.

### Background

Congress established the Junior ROTC under the **National Defense Act** of 1916. Certain requirements had to be met as stipulated by Congress under U.S. Code: Title 10, Section

### High School Enrollment

In order to participate in MCJROTC, you must be enrolled in and attending a regular course of instruction in a high school where a MCJROTC unit is located. You cannot be attending one high school while participating in a MCJROTC in another high school. You must also be in a grade above the eighth grade. Therefore, all students in



this program are in grades ninth through twelfth. Normally, the majority of the students will be first year students and in the ninth grade, with the remainder ranging from tenth through twelfth grades.

## Citizenship

Students enrolled in the MCJROTC program must be in one of the following three citizenship categories:

1. **Citizens** of the United States
2. **Nationals** of the United States
3. **Aliens** lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence

A citizen is a person who is born in a country or who chooses to become a member of a country according to its laws. Citizens owe allegiance to their government, which in turn grants them rights and privileges of citizenship. Your rights as citizens are guaranteed under the Fourteenth Amendment, which clearly states that birth and **naturalization** are the two ways to become a citizen of the United States.

Technically, citizenship by birth is possible in one of two ways: *jus soli*, the “law of the soil,” meaning those who are born in the United States, or *jus sanguinis*, the “law of the blood.” For example, although many military family members are born outside the jurisdiction of the United States through the “law of the blood,” they are considered citizens.

Citizenship by naturalization occurs when an individual who was not born in the United States voluntarily chooses to become a citizen of the United States. Those who wish to become naturalized citizens must give up (renounce) their citizenship to their former country and swear an

oath of allegiance to the Constitution and laws of the United States.

“National” is applied to a person who is a citizen of a nation, but lives abroad. To be eligible for participation in the MCJROTC program, a student who falls into this category would have to be a national of the United States.

An alien is a foreign-born resident who has not been naturalized and is still a subject or citizen of a foreign country. To meet the requirements for MCJROTC, aliens have to be lawfully admitted to the United States and applying for permanent residence.

These requirements for citizenship are in keeping with a primary purpose of MCJROTC. Remember, a purpose of JROTC as prescribed by Congress is to instill values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment.

## Physical Fitness



Participation in the MCJROTC also requires that students meet health and physical standards. The Semper Fit Fitness Program is the MCJROTC physical fitness program conducted throughout the school year. Cadets must have current school physical evaluations certifying that they are physically fit for participation in the program. The Semper Fit Fitness program focuses on more than just the physical fitness training aspect; it also provides wellness training to include good nutrition and stress reduction, to name a few. More in-depth coverage will be provided in the lessons on physical fitness.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, you are among a select group of young people who meet all of the requirements and have accepted the challenge of being a proud member of the MCJROTC. As a cadet, you will learn what it takes to be a leader while developing as a citizen. You will also improve your physical fitness through participation in physical activities designed to promote healthy competition and establish a pattern of fitness for a lifetime.❖

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