

The Heritage of the Summerlin Academy Class Ring

The class ring is a symbol of tradition, accomplishment, attainment, and a rite of passage. The class ring tradition was started at West Point in 1835. The Class side of the ring is designed by the class ring committee of each class chosen during their freshmen year at Summerlin Academy. The class crest must include an eagle, a cadet sabre, year of graduation and symbol special to the class (approved by the Heraldry department of Summerlin Academy) and the class motto if so desired. Prior to graduation the class-side is worn closest to the heart signifying the closeness of the class. After graduation the Academy crest is worn closest to the heart signifying closeness with the school

The Founder's ring will be given to the first graduating class at Summerlin Academy and the Founder's ring will be presented to special VIP's, exceptional faculty, and others worthy to wear the Summerlin Academy ring. The Summerlin Academy Ring Council will determine these special presentations.

The Summerlin Academy crest side has a knight's shield emblazoned with a battlement and 3 "vespid" wasp or yellow jackets. The two yellow jackets are symbolic of the lineage of Bartow High School, Summerlin Institute and Union Academy that were joined to create one school, Bartow High School, and is symbolized by the single yellow jacket under the battlement fortification. The battlement fortification is also symbolic of the South Florida Military College that partially once stood on the grounds of Bartow High School, and later became a parent institution of the University of Florida. The Summerlin Academy motto "possim si velim" translated "I can if I try" expresses the core belief that if a cadet is willing to try they can accomplish whatever task lies before them. The oak leaves and acorns are symbols of the military leadership, and Bartow, the City of Oaks. The 3 stars also symbolize the three cadet virtues that Summerlin Academy cadets strive to attain: leadership, citizenship, and scholarship. Students will be able to choose a colored crest if so desired. The orange represents Summerlin Institute and royal blue represents Union Academy.

The class side of the Founder's ring was designed by the Heraldry Department at Summerlin Academy lead by SFC Lloyd Harris. The eagle a symbol of strength stands above the class symbol symbolizing the strength that is gained by attending Summerlin Academy. The eagle is also our national emblem symbolic of the beliefs and principles we hold dear. The cadet saber is a symbol of kinship with the first cadets of South Florida Military College. Our cadet will wear sabers in lieu of rifles. The graduation year is the hallmark of a cadet's outstanding education, and the year of the first graduating class 2007. The open book forever represents and invitation to learn.

Rules for wear:

“The retention and wear of the class rings shall be governed by the traditions of Summerlin Academy.” They are as follows:

- (a) The class ring will be presented to rising juniors, in September of their junior year at a special gathering of the entire Cadet Corps call Ring Presentations. Parents and Ring Cadets will attend a special dining-out ceremony that will be followed by the ring dance which open to the entire Cadet Corps. These ceremonies will be part of Ring-Weekend. The Ring Committee will determine the activities of Ring-Weekend along with Summerlin Academy Staff
- (b) The family may retain or donate the ring to Summerlin Academy of any deceased member. The donated rings will be displayed in the Ring-Case
- (c) The class ring can only be purchased, by rising junior class members in the Spring of the Sophomore year.
- (d) The wearing of the class ring of Summerlin Academy will forever hold a special significance for those who attend SA. It is a symbol of the special bond that graduates of Summerlin Academy will possess.

Freshmen response to the Juniors after they have received their rings the day of Ring Presentations.

“Oh my gosh, Sir / Ma’am, what a beautiful ring.
What a crass mass of brass and glass.
What a bold mold of rolled gold.
What a cool jewel you got from school.
See how it sparkles and shines.
It must have cost you a pretty dime.

Please Sir / Ma’am may I touch it,
May I touch it, Please Sir / Ma’am.”

Junior Response in Latin

Noli me tangere (Don’t touch me)

Anulus equestris fieri niceterium (The ring of knighthood must be won)