



Southern
PREPARATORY ACADEMY



SOUTHERN PREPARATORY ACADEMY

***PREPARING &
UNLEASHING***

YOUR SON'S POTENTIAL

www.southernprepacademy.org

Welcome to Southern Prep!

If you are reading this, you are probably looking for something different for your son. Perhaps the local public or private schools in your area are not meeting your standards. If you are like most families we speak with, you are most likely looking for more structure, more opportunity, more leadership development, more diversity, or more academic support - just to name a few of the most common “mores” we hear.



As the Official Military Academy of the State of Alabama, we have one goal: to prepare our cadets for the responsibilities of life. Each boy who walks through these doors will leave with a heightened sense of respect, for not only himself, but for friends and family too. He will hold his head higher, and walk prouder. My two sons graduated from Southern Prep: Rogan, in 2018, who has now graduated from West Point; and Heath in 2021, who is now following my footsteps at the University of North Georgia.

After my college graduation from UNG, I spent 24 years in the United States Army. My journey with Southern Prep began in 2014 when I was brought on as the Commandant of Cadets. I then took over as President in February of 2017. I very passionately believe in the mission of this great academy and its importance in developing young men of character. This is not only vital for the State of Alabama, but for the future of the entire United States. There is nothing more important than developing the youth of today to be the servant leaders of our national and global community for tomorrow.

The best part of my job is when I get to see a young man grow in confidence, and start to believe in his own God-given abilities. Once a young man truly believes in his own ability, there is almost nothing he can't do.

In the words of our founder, Dr. Lyman Ward: “With sweetness and with perseverance, let us go forward.”

Sincerely,

LTC Jared Norrell
US Army (Ret.)
11th President



Southern

PREPARATORY ACADEMY

WE ARE ***SOUTHERN PREP***

We believe that every young man wants to be a part of something great. He wants to become as wise, as strong, as brave, and as respected as he can be. We also believe that each young man can become his very best self when he discovers that responsibility and hard work can make anything possible. Capable young men with this potential to achieve are the young men of Southern Prep.

Since its founding in 1898, the focus of our school has been to provide students with opportunity. The opportunity to experience something more; to do something bigger; to be someone better. This same transformational experience remains at the core of the school's mission today and is rooted in Southern Prep's close-knit community of adults and students living and learning together in an environment that balances challenge and support.

We are an independent boarding school committed to preparing young men of integrity and strength for leadership in college and beyond. Our graduates are proud to be Southern Prep men. Proud of their achievements. Proud of their success. Proud to be a part of something great.

STRENGTH OF *ACHIEVEMENT*

First we are a school, then we are a military academy. For our students, the advantage is that we are both. This is because when students apply the structure, organization, and self-discipline of military principles to their academics, they become efficient with their study time, excelling in both the quantity and quality of the work they can accomplish.

Our small class sizes and incredibly dedicated faculty contribute to learning environments where teachers are uniquely capable of providing students with individualized attention when they need it most. This has been pivotal in helping boys to identify and establish learning styles that work best for them.

Our teachers go beyond simply instructing, they take the time to understand their students, working hard to build relationships that encourage boys to achieve their full potential. Grades and progress are monitored closely, making it impossible for a student to fall through the cracks. As a result, students at Southern Prep experience significant increases in grade point average and graduate fully-prepared for college-level work.

Academics are at the highest level of importance at Southern Preparatory Academy. At Southern Prep, the curriculum is designed to provide seven years of academic study to students in grades 6-12 who are preparing for admission into a college, university, or vocational training program. The curriculum is challenging, yet rewarding, and is driven by faculty members with over twenty years of teaching experience. Dual Enrollment opportunities are provided through two local community colleges, Central Alabama



Community College in Alexander City, AL and Southern Union State Community College in Opelika, AL. In addition, we offer an honors program, virtual reality classes, and various online courses through our Edgenuity platform.

The academy has an average class size of twelve cadets and possesses a 10:1 cadet to teacher ratio. Each cadet is required to attend mandatory study hall for 1.5 hours each evening to ensure that assignments are completed and to prepare for upcoming examinations. On average, 90% of the graduating class will attend a college or university following graduation.

Southern Preparatory Academy is continuing to build community partners to assist in various vocational training programs. Cadets will be able to participate in academic studies that relate to welding, carpentry, K9 detection services, and more!

10:1

Student to teacher ratio

90%

Of graduates enroll in a postsecondary institution

VR

Cadets can now use virtual reality (VR) to learn hands-on in the classroom



STRENGTH OF *LEADERSHIP*

Southern Prep's military traditions provide opportunities for leadership through structure, discipline, and hierarchy. This system of earned privilege and respect is vital in teaching cadets to take accountability for their actions. What is most significant is that our students do not merely learn about leadership—they practice it daily.

Our military structure creates cadet hierarchies based upon motivation and inspiration. As cadets progress, they earn promotions along with more privileges and responsibilities. This creates a system where cadets lead one another—by both example and incentive.

Because military standards surrounding organization, self-care, and respect are clear and consistent, it creates an environment where the possibility for achievement is equal among all cadets. For many boys, this provides a new opportunity to prove themselves...and they do. This success based on personal merit and accomplishment creates the self-motivation and self-confidence that leads to a future of achievement and success.



Military Leadership Opportunities and Requirements

- Chain of Command within the Corps of Cadets
- Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)
- Sword Drill
- Parades
- Classroom Procedures
- Daily Tasks



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Our son was crushed by online school during Covid. Became incredibly unmotivated and got stuck. He bravely said yes to attending Southern Prep. To date, he played football & soccer, was promoted to company commander in one year, started on his private pilot's license, graduated with 2 college credits and made good friends. He was also accepted to his dream aerospace college. We honestly can't believe the difference in his confidence and motivation to succeed. The way he speaks and carries himself is so different. Nothing we could have done for him. He did this work by himself. Our son has always hated the mundane. Southern Prep is anything but mundane.

**- Mary Cooper
Parent of Graduate**

STRENGTH OF *OPPORTUNITY*

At Southern Prep, opportunity for growth isn't limited to classrooms, dorms, and athletic fields—our signature programs provide plenty of additional opportunities for young men to discover their potential. Our goal is to provide students with a link between learning and doing by tying knowledge to hands-on experiences.

Youth today are navigating a world that's becoming increasingly complex—where success is driven not only by knowledge but by the ability to enact that knowledge. Therefore it's more important than ever to provide young men with hands-on experiences that will hone their ability to explore, to investigate, to make sense of information, and to solve tough problems. These are the skills gained through our signature programs.

When students have the vision to dream, we take it upon ourselves to provide them with the opportunity. This is what drives the implementation of signature experiences such as our Aviation Program—which provides our boys with the opportunity to (literally) soar to new heights. There is no comparison to the self-confidence and pride a young man exudes when he earns his private pilot's license. At Southern Prep, this experience is possible.



AVIATION

Southern Preparatory Academy offers a unique aviation program to its cadets who are 16 years of age and older and meet the required academic and medical qualifications. Cadets will have the opportunity to undergo rigorous academic studies and training to earn a Civilian Private Pilot's License. The curriculum for the program consists of approximately forty-five hours of flight time, one semester of ground courses, and a preparation course for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) written test. The program is taught by experienced professionals who have flown for commercial airlines and in various branches of the military.

The flight instruction for this program is completed at the Alexander City airport in partnership with Brown Aero Flight School. Alexander City is located approximately twenty miles northwest of the academy. The courses will be taught on campus in Tallapoosa Hall, the main academic building for Southern Prep. One classroom has been repurposed for aviation studies and is designed to look like an airport hangar.



DRONES

Drone training at Southern Prep is designed to move past hobby drone operation and be an introduction to aviation and flight training for our junior students. The academy provides both an introductory course and an advanced course. Both courses include supervised flight training, classroom ground curriculum, and an introduction to the aviation industry spectrum. Introductory training will be completed with Mavic Pro Quadcopter and advanced training utilizes fixed wing RC Aircrafts.

Students will not only learn how to safely operate their drone, but how to assimilate it into a flight environment to include designing a runway and traffic patterns.

Outside the classroom our aviation students are invited to attend community events, travel to airshows and tour airports and other aviation facilities to become familiar with and build their network across the industry.

SCUBA TEAM

Southern Preparatory Academy offers 4 opportunities to become open water SCUBA certified during the school year. This allows for 1 session every 9 weeks of the school year, with a limited number of 12 cadets per session. A training session will include four days of specialized training (classroom and water skills) at the Southern Skin Divers Supply facilities. Certification check off weekend includes 2 days of dives at Morrison Springs or Vortex Springs (both FL panhandle) and either shore dives at St. Andrews Jetties, FL or a boat dive off the Florida coast.

Once Open-Water certified, divers can participate in a myriad of dive trips in the Fall and following Spring. These dives typically include: drift diving and snorkeling with manatees in the Rainbow River and Crystal River, FL; inshore wreck diving trips out of Panama City, FL; or offshore wreck dives out of Orange Beach, AL. Over the course of the year, the Diving Rangers are also involved in search, rescue, and recovery training. They also help with Clean Up Lake Martin and have various other opportunities to dive throughout the school year.



STRENGTH OF *BROTHERHOOD*

Ask any student, past or present, what he values most about our school and the answer will likely be: the brotherhood. Southern Prep provides young men with a unique opportunity to benefit from an environment that fosters the development of these bonds: where cadets share a common goal of not only becoming leaders, but also becoming part of a team.

This bond of brotherhood often forms within the first weeks of school, when cadets are navigating the same new challenges and discovering that by working together and supporting one another they will persevere. This unwavering trust between cadets creates lifelong bonds that would have been unimaginable to many boys prior to their Southern Prep experience. They learn quickly that these friendships are built upon dependability and trust, and will serve as a foundation for future relationships—whether at school, at home, or beyond.

The bonds at Southern Prep aren't limited to the brotherhood of the boys. We are a community of students, faculty, and staff who know each other well, celebrate our victories, band together in times of challenge, and possess mutual respect for one another. We believe that when your son becomes a part of our community, we become your extended family. We support your continued involvement throughout your son's experience.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

Southern Preparatory Academy is a small school on purpose. One of the benefits of attending a small school is the opportunity to participate in athletics and various extra-curricular activities. Southern Preparatory Academy is a member the Alabama Independent Schools Association (AISA) and competes against schools from across Alabama. As a small boarding school, the focus of participating in a sport is not necessarily about skill level, but rather the motivation and drive to improve themselves and the team.





SPORTS OFFERED:

- FOOTBALL
- CROSS COUNTRY
- BASKETBALL
- BASEBALL
- TRACK AND FIELD
- SOCCER



ACTIVITIES OFFERED:

- COLOR GUARD
- DRILL TEAM
- RANGER TEAM
- RIFLE TEAM
- SCHOLARS' BOWL
- BETA CLUB
- SWORD DRILL
(PRECISION SILENT
DRILL WITH SWORDS)



STRENGTH OF *PREPARATION*

As a college preparatory school with a military boarding structure, we do more than prepare young men, we transform lives. One of the most significant benefits of military boarding life is that boys learn to face challenges and work through them. When things are difficult or tedious, they don't have the option of shutting down or avoiding; instead they tackle them with the focus and discipline to move forward.

Each day at Southern Prep transforms a boy just a little bit more, leaving him smarter and stronger than the day before. Despite a challenging academic program, he rises to meet expectations and push his own learning potential. Outside the classroom, through encouragement from mentors and coaches, he becomes empowered to chart his own course. And eventually, he might just find himself growing into someone he never expected.

To be ready for college and life beyond means much more today than academic preparation; it means preparation for life. Our graduates move on with the skills to lead; with strong abilities in self-discipline, organization, and teamwork; and with the drive to achieve. They have grown, they have transformed into men, and they are truly prepared for success.



The purpose of Southern Preparatory Academy is to educate and to enable young men from various backgrounds. One hundred percent of Southern Prep graduates have a post graduation plan, no matter if the goal is to enroll in a two-year or four-year college or university, enlist in a branch of the United States Armed Forces, or join the workforce. Below is a collection of several colleges and universities that have been attended by our graduates.

- **Harvard University**

- **The United States Military Academy at West Point**

- **The Citadel**

- **Norwich University**

- **Auburn University**

- **University of Alabama**

- **University of Kentucky**

- **Marion Military Institute**

- **Emory University**

- **Georgetown University**

- **Georgia Military College**

- **University of Louisiana – LaFayette**

- **Charleston Southern University**



90%

Of Cadets attend a
postsecondary institution

10%

Of Cadets enlist in the United
States Military

100%

Of Cadets have a post graduation
plan



SOUTHERN SURVIVAL *SUMMER PROGRAMS*

Are you looking for a summer experience unlike any other? The Southern Survival programs at Southern Prep are designed specifically with boys, rising 6th-12th grade, in mind.

We believe that our summer programs are very important to improve the overall personality of boys and to make them competitive by developing skill sets.

ACADEMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM

Our boarding summer school program is a one (1) credit hour, four (4) week long in-class setting, geared towards academic recovery in core subjects. Students experience rigorous academic class work and supervised evening study hall.

Summer school students also participate in fun activities after school and on the weekends.



COURSES OFFERED:

- ACT/SAT PREP
- CORE CLASS CREDIT RECOVERY
- ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)
- TEACHER-LED ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR SPECIAL SUBJECTS



SOUTHERN SURVIVAL CAMP

Our camp session is full of activities designed to challenge our campers to build camaraderie, discover their inner leader, and establish lifelong friendships.

Every summer, our campers master survival, leadership, and team building skills that they can use for life!



ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- FIREARM SAFETY COURSE
- BOATING, FISHING, & SWIMMING
- NATURE HIKES
- ZIP-LINING
- TEAM-BUILDING
- PAINTBALL TOURNAMENTS
- SHELTER BUILDING & CAMPING
- AVIATION
- WHITE WATER RAFTING

**ACTIVITIES MAY VARY EACH SUMMER*



FORGED BY OUR *VALUES*

“It is by the grace of God that the academy has touched so many lives for more than 120 years, and it is by His grace that this institution will continue to do His work for the next 100 years.

LTC JARED H. NORRELL

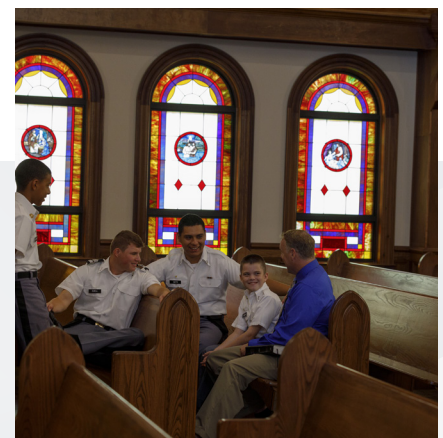
11th President of Southern Preparatory Academy

Dr. Lyman Ward believed a true education is of the mind, body, and spirit. Cadets across campus have an opportunity to better themselves in a variety of ways, such as through the weekly worship service in the Dixon All Faith Chapel on campus. This non-denominational service inspires young men to become more than they ever thought is possible.

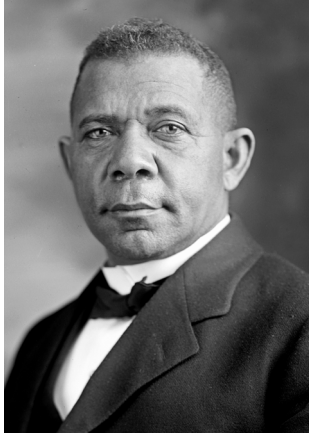
The worship service pastor, Reverend Rod Siggers, is also the campus barber! As the pastor, Rev. Siggers develops a meaningful and personal connection with each cadet on campus!

“Teach me knowledge and good judgment,
for I trust your commands.

Psalms 119:66



THE HISTORY OF *DR. LYMAN WARD*



Southern Preparatory Academy has a long and storied history. The academy was founded in 1898 by Dr. Lyman Ward, a Universalist minister from New York. The school envisioned by Dr. Ward would “prepare young men and women for the work of life, whether in manual training or in literature and art.” Dr. Ward began a fundraising campaign of \$5,000 to establish the school from various churches and communities in eastern Alabama. This campaign framed the groundwork for the academy.

Dr. Ward’s view on education was primarily influenced by Booker T. Washington. They both believed in the importance of education in molding the minds of young men and women, particularly those in impoverished situations. It was upon hearing a lecture from Booker T. Washington that Dr. Ward decided to move south. Dr. Ward attended Tuskegee Institute with the sole purpose of learning new methods and techniques that he could bring to the academy. Dr. Ward, however, adopted an additional approach for the academy---- contributions of labor, thus teaching the value of hard work while developing self-reliance in his students.



Booker T. Washington and Dr. Ward developed a unique friendship in the late 1890’s. The two leaders traveled together to speak to groups of people about the schools and fundraised for various projects. In many ways, Tuskegee Institute and Southern Preparatory Academy, then Southern Industrial Institute, are considered to be sister institutions. Booker T. Washington was influential in the core values of Southern Prep, particularly its non-denominational focus of religion, and played a critical role in its overall success.

Southern Preparatory Academy has adapted through the decades. However, with the help of influential men and women, including Booker T. Washington, the core values of integrity, honesty, and loyalty for the academy have remained consistent. The academy now seeks to continue building upon the legacy of Dr. Lyman Ward as new cadets from across the world earn the necessary education and leadership skills to be successful throughout life.



LOCATION



Southern Preparatory Academy is located 63 miles (101 kilometers) from the Alabama state capital, Montgomery; 92 miles (148 kilometers) from Birmingham, Alabama; and 113 miles (182 kilometers) from Atlanta, Georgia. Camp Hill is located only 13 miles (21 kilometers) from Lake Martin, which is consistently ranked as one of the best lakes throughout the United States.

In addition, Southern Preparatory Academy is located 23 miles (37 kilometers) from Auburn University. Cadets have the opportunity to participate in various Auburn University tours and community outreach events.

Southern Prep can provide transportation to and from the Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta, GA.

WHY *SOUTHERN PREP?*

Our world can be a complicated place, and as a result family situations can also be complicated. But no matter what our family situation may be, we all want our children to experience a safe, structured and nurturing environment for learning and personal growth. At Southern Prep, our pristine campus offers this space, free from the distractions and temptations found in public and day schools. We provide a significant alternative to schools that may not be meeting a child's needs. Days are full and structured with time for classes, meals, study, activities, and sports. Through 1:1 attention, students are supported and are fully engaged in fulfilling their potential.

HOW?

- Small class sizes and dedicated teachers provide personal instruction for mastering learning skills and developing new ones.
 - Military boarding structure provides opportunities for leadership
 - Innovative signature programs provide an opportunity to discover and explore interests.
-

PERCEPTION SHIFT

- We find that many people have misconceptions about who we are and what we do.
-

WHO ARE WE THEN?

- We are the same as any other college prep boarding school...but better.
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WHY?

- Because we provide students with the discipline and structure needed for focus, self-reliance, and success. Beyond our strong academic program, our military traditions teach students how to become distinguished citizens and confident leaders.

ROAD LESS TRAVELED

We owe Southern Prep so much appreciation! Thank you for teaching Stuart accountability, for showing him responsibility, for instilling in him respect and pride. Thank you for taking a young man who was sliding by and challenging him to call on his potential. I will be enthusiastically telling the success stories of Southern to anyone who will listen for the rest of my life.

- Cynthia Hauer, Parent of Graduate

As much as I've missed attending regular school, this experience has helped me a ton. I would not be the person I am today if it weren't for Southern Prep and all of the staff. Anyone from Southern Prep reading this, thank you, and thank you Mom & Dad for giving me the chance to redeem myself.

- Dylan Dawson, Current Student

Thank you Southern Prep for doing for my child what I couldn't! I wish you all could know what you meant to my son. Every year. Not just this one.

I could write a book..... But I'll leave it at this. Just wanted to say THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!!

- Jessica Kittrell, Parent of Graduate

If you yelled at your son today for not getting out of bed and turning off video games and don't know what to do next, call the Admissions team and go for a visit. Quit enabling them at home... trust me, I did it for too many years. Southern Prep will make your boy a man.

- Matt Cooper, Current Parent

It changed my life, it made me realize my full potential which public school could not. It gave me the confidence and strength I lacked and helped transform me into someone entirely new. You get out what you put into it and I was able to get a scholarship to Marion Military Institute. I've made life-long friends I never had back at home. I don't know where I would be now without what the school has done for me. Now I have a challenging but great future ahead of me in the United States Air Force.

- Michael Logan, Class of 2017

I was a student at the academy and looking back on my experience, I am so thankful for the time at this school. Was it tough? Absolutely. Did I miss home? Yes! Today, so many of my successes are a direct result of my time there. It really helped me to mature, learn respect, stay organized...overall, skills that are not available in regular schools. The staff was strict but fair and made sure our well being was a priority. I would absolutely recommend the academy for any student that needs a little guidance.

- John Shelby, Class of 2000

In my opinion, this is the best school any parent can send their young man to. It has done an awesome job for our grandson. Thank you Southern Prep!

- Cindy Bonvillian, Current Grandparent



ARE YOU READY TO ***CHANGE YOUR SON'S LIFE?***

Schedule a tour with the Admissions Office today!

Admissions Checklist

- Call 256-307-7348 or 256-790-9202 to schedule a tour of our pristine 320 acre campus in Camp Hill, Alabama.
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- Speak directly to current or former parents and cadets to learn firsthand the impact that can be made in your son's life.
-
- Enroll! It will be one of the best decisions you have ever made.



Southern

PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Southern Preparatory Academy Admissions Department



256-307-7348



admissions@southernprepacademy.org



The Southern Prep Academy



@SouthernPrep98



@southernprepacademy



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