

2026 CLUB “CORPS DAY MUSTER” PLAYBOOK:

The Corps Day Muster embodies the essence of what it means to be a graduate of The Citadel. Both ceremonial and social, Club Musters can choose either formal or informal settings and achieve the same result – that being a demonstration of our unique *Espirit de Corps*.

Ceremonial Elements of a Muster:

- Muster Ceremonial “Roll Call”: *(the discreet and solemn part of the program)*
 - Muster leader presides with introduction of Distinguished Visitors (and any family of deceased present)
 - The CAA Provided Video of those who have passed away *(available, Monday, 2 Mar)* – [found here](#).
 - The associated Muster Roster *(available, Monday, 2 Mar)* of those who passed away during the preceding 12 months is also available for download ([found here](#)) and can be read by several Club Officers as the names come across the video screen (or independently, if the CAA Video is NOT used).
 - Audience members who knew the deceased alumnus should respond with, **“Present for duty, Sir!”** As such, some deceased alumni will have no response, and some multiple, depending on respective alumni connections without various clubs.

- “Taps” is played at the culmination of the CAA Muster video. If you do not use the CAA provided video you are welcome to source your own musician to perform.

- The “*Cadet Prayer*” is spoken.

- The Citadel “*Alma Mater*” is sung.

- Conclusion: *(best to keep brief so as not to take away from the ceremony)*
 - Thank the organizers / Club Leaders / stakeholders.
 - Announcement of next Muster Leader (if applicable) or announce that Muster will be held the same timeframe next year
 - Suggested concluding statement: “The 2026 Citadel Annual Alumni Muster at PLACE is now complete. I charge each of you to remain steadfast in your loyalty to your God and country, to keep your affection for each other and you alma mater. This formation is now dismissed, to be reformed on or close to March 20th, 2027.

The Roll Call: *(language guidance)*

“In this ceremony we honor the member of fellow Citadel Men and Women whose departure from this life has made it impossible for them to answer the Roll Call at this annual Muster. We, their classmates and comrades, hold their memory fast, and answer on their behalf: ‘Present for Duty, Sir.’ Just as they did on the quadrangle at The Citadel.”

The format of the Roll Call is: “First name Last name, Class of year”

The Cadet Prayer:

“Almighty God, the source of light and strength, we implore Thy blessing on this our beloved institution, that it may continue true to its high purpose.

Guide and strengthen those upon whom rests the authority of government; enlighten with wisdom those who teach and those who learn; and grant to all of us that through sound learning and firm leadership, we may prove ourselves worthy citizens of our country, devoted to truth, given to unselfish service, loyal to every obligation of life and above all to Thee.

Preserve us faithful to the ideals of The Citadel, sincere in fellowship, unswerving duty, finding joy in purity, and confidence through a steadfast faith.

Grant to each one of us, in his own life, a humble heart, a steadfast purpose, and joyful hope, with a readiness to endure hardship and suffer if need be, that truth may prevail among us and that Thy will may be done on earth. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen”

Bishop Albert S. Thomas, Retired
First Honor Graduate
Class of 1892

Muster recommendations:

1. Have a written program to give attendees as they arrive. The program should outline the Muster tradition and might include a brief history of the Citadel for visitors. The schedule of event should be indicated, as well as procedure for the ceremony. This is all optional.
2. The roster is provided by the CAA. Copies should be made and provided so that attendees can review the list, find classmates and comrades, and prepare to respond when the roll is called.
3. Ideally, have 2 -4 readers staged to handoff at proportional moments. The list takes a significant amount of time to complete, and the variation is helpful to maintain energy throughout the ceremonial reading.
4. *Give families of deceased alumni special attention.* They should receive an invitation that explains both why they are invited, and the purpose of the Muster.

Muster Tradition

The first annual Citadel Alumni Muster was held in 1998. It was an Alumni Association initiative designed to facilitate an annual coming together of all alumni of the institution, with the purpose of recognizing those in the long gray line of the South Carolina Corps of Cadets who have passed away during the preceding year.

The tradition of Texas A&M, which has conducted Musters since 1883, has been used to develop a new tradition for The Citadel. In honoring those who can no longer stand formation, the event creates a rallying point for alumni. This simplifies the process of getting alumni together by establishing a set date for the rendezvous.

Alumni will come to know that the Muster is always on an exact date -- Corps Day, March 20th -- no matter what day of the week it occurs. In that regard, the Muster is indeed a formation. All graduates and former members of the Corps are expected to report.

No matter where in the world you are on March 20th, find the Muster. Wherever two or more Citadel graduates are gathered, there will be an Annual Citadel Alumni Muster.