

Temecula Valley Young Marines

The Temecula Valley Young Marines is a youth education and service program for boys and girls, ages 8 through high school. The program focuses on character building and leadership, and promotes a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. Young Marine units are community-based programs led by dedicated adult volunteers. Many of these volunteers are former, retired, active duty, or reserve Marines who believe passionately that the values they learned as Marines had a positive affect on them. The Temecula Valley unit, which includes young people from throughout the valley, is commanded by Michael Guiles.

Upon joining the Young Marines, the youth undergo an orientation program, Saturdays and Sundays for 12 weeks. This orientation program is affectionately called "Boot Camp". The youth learn the general Young Marine subjects such as history, close order drill, physical fitness, customs and courtesies, and military rank structure.

After graduating from "Boot Camp", Young Marines continue the character building process and begin a life-long pursuit as productive and contributing citizens in their community. Their next community-oriented project is a home beautification project for a special needs family in Wildomar. They will perform clean-up work, gardening, and painting.

The Young Marines is not a recruiting force for the United States Marine Corps, however, the program teaches the same core values of "Honor, Courage, and Commitment". There are over 21,000 members in nearly 250 units in 40 states across the country and overseas. The Temecula Valley Young Marines are currently accepting enrollment for the May 2003 boot camp class, as well as sponsors of the local unit. Please contact Adjutant Cheryl Kanov at (909) 302-1422, or Information Officer Ruth Allen at (909) 677-2106 for further details.