

Class of 2019 crest symbolism (from PPW script)



Every West Point Crest includes a United States Army Officer's Sword along with a Cadet Saber representing Duty; the lettering "USMA", Class's graduating year and class motto denote honor and the Bald Eagle and American flag encapsulate the virtue of this great nation which we have committed to serve. Much like every other crest, our class graduating year of 2019, denoted by roman numerals, stretches across the bottom of the crest to represent the foundation of who we will become as officers. USMA is placed in gold at the top of the crest to serve as a constant reminder to lead with an astute sense of character and duty during every engagement as an officer and throughout the duration of our lives.

West Point presents each cadet an experience that trains, challenges and develops him or her into a leader of character, capable of leading the defenders of the free world upon graduation. Our class motto, So Freedom Will Reign, represents our military's global pursuit of freedom and the role our class will play in securing that freedom in just a few short years. The red sash which our motto rests on symbolizes the cohesion and teamwork necessary to graduate and after commissioning work towards the goal of securing global freedom together, as one. It shows that we will succeed as leaders while at the Academy, officers in the United States Army and for the remainder of our lives. The focal point of our crest is the Bald Eagle, America's National Bird, standing behind a shield and grasping a broken chain in its talons. The shield represents our status as defenders of this great nation, while the Talons and chain represent our promise to break the chains of oppression and tyranny which hold back the free world. There are 6 talons and nine links of chain which tie our class to our 50th Year affiliate class; the class of 1969. The eagle is placed in the center of our crest with its wings wrapped around the American Flag. This motion symbolizes how our class, like our country's bird, will protect those we serve and aid as a reminder of what we are fighting for. On the American Flag there are 12 stars and one star on the shield at the bottom of the crest. These 13 stars represent the birth of our nation and the pursuit of freedom to accomplish our independence. In total, there are 19 elements of the flag representing our graduating year.