



Class of 2018 crest symbolism from PPW Banquet script

Similar style attributes tie our crest to past West Point crests but this particular design expresses a variety of unique qualities. Each piece of our crest symbolizes significance to the United States Military Academy, our great free nation and its defenders, and of course, to our 2018 class.

Each West Point crest varies in certain attributes individualizing it to each graduating class, but they also contain similarities. Every crest includes the lettering “USMA,” the classes graduating year, the class motto, the Army Officer Saber, the Cadet Saber,

the American Flag, and a Bald Eagle. Similar to every other crest, 2018, our class’s graduating year, stretches across the bottom of our crest under the lettering of our institution, “USMA.” These are assembled at the bottom of the crest because they are the foundation of who we will become as officers. West Point presents each student an experience that trains, challenges, and develops him or her into a leader capable of graduating and leading our countries defenders. The banner stretching across the top incorporates our individual class motto, “With Strength We Lead,” along with the “18” on the left tail of the banner and “02” on the right tail for the year 1802, when the Academy was founded. Our motto “With Strength We Lead,” signifies how we will, not only individually, but together as a class, be successful leaders of character. We will succeed as leaders while at the Academy, and more importantly, when we graduate and become officers in the United States Army. The focal point of our crest is America’s National bird, the bald eagle, grasping the Army Officer Saber on the left and the Cadet Saber on the right. The eagle is placed in the center of our crest with its wings wrapping around the globe. This motion symbolizes how our class, like our country’s bird, will protect our nation, its people, the Constitution, and the world. Our country is centered on the globe, and the star is representative of West Point’s geographical location. Behind the Bald Eagle you will notice a sun with its rays stretching out through wisps of clouds.

This particular detailing is representative of the experience cadets encountered as they arrived at West Point on R-day this past summer.

As we new cadets marched onto the parade field to take the oath of allegiance in front of our loved ones, the weather transformed from wet and cloudy to rays of brilliant sunshine! The sun and its rays make up the background of our crest to symbolize this event. It was Brigadier General Clarke who said, “the sun came out on the class of 2018.” The number of sun rays also carries significance as 7 rays embody the 7 Army Values; loyalty, duty, respect, selfless-service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. Finally, maybe the most notable characteristic of the crest, are the wings of the eagle. The stripes are not only representative of the American flag, but six red stripes and 8 white stripes tie us to our 50th year affiliate class; the class of 1968’. There are also 18 stars visible, nine on each wing, to represent our graduating year.