



# UTAH NATIONAL GUARD

## 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Freedom Academy

31 July – 05 August 2016

[freedomacademyutah@gmail.com](mailto:freedomacademyutah@gmail.com)



The Utah National Guard and the Honorary Colonels Corps have sponsored the annual Freedom Academy since 1961. The purpose of Freedom Academy is to teach our young leaders the importance of all aspects of freedom—that freedom come with a price and every American citizen’s has a responsibility to ensure freedom is there for future generations. We focus on the freedoms of self-determination, liberty, due process of law, movement, thought, religion, expression, assemble, and association.

Over the past 55 years, more than 3,500 “delegates” have been part of this historic accomplishment. When Freedom Academy started in 1961, four delegates attended that inaugural year; in 2015, there were 110 delegates from 60 high schools.



There are over 180 public, charter and private high schools throughout the State of Utah. Each year Freedom Academy invites one student-body officer from each high school junior class. There are a number of schools, more so in the outlying areas of the state, where students run for student government because they know this will ensure the opportunity to attend Freedom Academy the following year. As the Utah National Guard is the host for this program, they have also allowed its members to invite family members, neighbors or friends, who meet the criteria of a student leader, to attend.



There have been numerous individuals who have donated their personal time to share their experiences with these young leaders of America. Mr. Scott Anderson has been a main stay as one of the keynote speakers for more than 18 years. Former Senator, Astronaut, and Air Force Brigadier General Jake Garn also shares his experiences each year. Others include Mr. Mike Schlappi, Mr. Thurl Bailey, Mr. Lavar Christensen, Vocalocity and countless numbers of Soldiers and Airmen sharing their deployment stories about freedom.



During our 55-year history, there have been a number of sponsors that have donated goods and/or services contributing to the success of the program. The Honorary Colonels Corps of Utah is a major contributor. The Wangelin family (whose son attended Freedom Academy, joined the National Guard and later passed away) donated a substantial amount of money to Freedom Academy in their son’s name, Coca-Cola, Wilkinson’s Trophy, Sam’s Club, Associated Food Stores, Macey’s, Hostess, Zions Bank, Nicholas and Company, Costco, and the men and women of the Utah Army and Air National Guard are all contributors.



Freedom Academy is free of charge and it not a recruiting event. Highlights throughout the week include:

- Several leadership and motivational speakers
- State Prison tour - includes discussion with a prisoner panel
- State Capitol tour - meet Governor, Speaker of the House, and Senate President
- Tour of the Federal Court system
- Tour of Channel 2 News Station
- Tour of Utah National Guard Air and Army Base, shooting range, and rappelling
- Flag retirement ceremony, speech contest, and talent show
- Delegates challenged to take the “lessons learned” back to their respective schools and hold a Freedom Week during the 2016-17 school year.

Points of Contact: LTC John Darrington, Director  
[John.l.darrington.mil@mail.mil](mailto:John.l.darrington.mil@mail.mil)

Maj Bruce Lewis, Deputy Director  
[bruce.j.lewis.mil@mail.mil](mailto:bruce.j.lewis.mil@mail.mil)

January 2016