

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
High School Principals
Public Information Officers
School Counseling Personnel

FROM: Derek Phillips
Director of Communications

DATE: April 29, 2025

RE: Military Honor Cord Ceremony Information

The South Carolina Department of Education is pleased to recognize high school seniors who will be entering the military or attending a military service academy with a red, white, and blue honor cord to be worn during graduation ceremonies. Thank you for participating in this program to honor the commitment these students are making to serve our country.

In addition to wearing these honor cords at individual graduation ceremonies, eligible students are invited to attend a statewide recognition ceremony where state, education, and military leaders will publicly recognize them for their commitment.

Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Solomon Center at Fort Jackson, 6510 Strom Thurmond Blvd, Columbia, SC 29207

Dress Attire

Cap and gown preferred.

Parking Information

Fort Jackson has several gates that provide access to the installation. On the day of the Honor Cord Ceremony, you may use any of the gate. Gate 2 is recommended as it leads straight onto Strom Thurmond Blvd, where the Solomon Center (site of the Honor Cord Ceremony) is located. The Solomon Center is approximately one mile east of Gate 2. Please be careful when using GPS navigation apps as these may lead you into an area of the post you are not authorized to access.

Locations of Fort Jackson Access Gates

Gate 1: Located on Fort Jackson Blvd. by taking Exit 10 on I-77.

Open: 5:00 am to 5:30 pm

Gate 2: Located on Forest Drive, take Exit 12 on I-77.

Address: 4120 Moseby St, Columbia, SC 29207

Open: 24hrs a day, 7 days a week

Gate 4: Located on Boyden Arbor Rd. accessed by taking Percival Rd. From the south on I-77 take exit 13. From the North on I-77 take exit 15.

Address: 6271 Boyden Arbor Rd, Columbia, SC 29223

Open 5:00 am – 5:00 pm

To be allowed on the installation visitors must have the following identification and paperwork. All IDs must be a physical ID. Digital IDs are not authorized for use to access the installation.

Driving Personal Vehicle

Driver of vehicle must have valid driver's license

Current, non-expired, vehicle registration

Current, non-expired, proof of insurance

Driving Rental Car

Driver of vehicle must have valid driver's license

Rental agreement

Current, non-expired, proof of insurance either personal or from rental company

Taxi or Ride Share

Confirm with company or ride share driver that they have approval to access Fort Jackson
All requirements for passengers below apply to people arriving in a taxi.

For all passengers

Passengers 18 years or older must have valid Government Issued ID.

Passengers 17 years old or younger do not have to have an ID.

Suspended or expired IDs do not qualify as valid IDs.

Foreign Nationals are required to present a valid Passport.

**There are no exceptions to the ID requirements. The only form of ID accepted from a foreign government is a passport. A Canadian or Mexican license will not be accepted. Elderly guests who no longer have a driver's license or passport must have another form of government issued, photo ID to access the installation.

Denial of access to the Installation

There are several reasons you may be denied access. If you fail to present the proper documentation and Identification, are found to be in possession of a prohibited item or are found to have a felony conviction or outstanding warrant, you will be barred from accessing the installation. Additionally, no weapons of any kind are permitted on Fort Jackson, valid concealed carry permits do NOT apply on military installations.

For a detailed list of what may prevent you from being granted access please visit the Gate Information and Access Control page on our website.

<https://home.army.mil/jackson/my-fort/visitor-information/family-day-and-graduation-visitors-guide>