

Adopt an Airman WYO

Cheyenne, Wyoming



The Cheyenne, Wyoming community has been supporting the military since the very beginning. Since 1867 to be exact when Fort D. A. Russell and Cheyenne were founded. Today, that tradition continues with the Airmen assigned to F.E. Warren AFB.

The *Adopt an Airman* program allows community “hosts” to connect with one or more Airmen who are assigned to the base on their first assignment and provide a “home away from home” and builds resiliency and relationships through shared community engagement.

YOU make it what YOU want!

The program is designed to simply allow the HOST to include the AIRMEN in their normal activities. Family dinner on Saturday evening ... invite your Airman. Hiking at Curt Gowdy on the weekend ... invite your Airman. Maybe you just decide to hang out & watch the game or play cards. It’s up to you; make it what you want!

A subcommittee of the [Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee](#) coordinates the program in conjunction with the [90th Missile Wing](#).

You can download the applications at these links: [Host Application](#)
[Airman Application](#)

To submit an application, or to ask questions and learn more about the program, please email:

adoptanairmanWYO@gmail.com



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A Little More Detail

PHILOSOPHY

The Adopt an Airman program fosters **supportive relationships** between Cheyenne community members and Airmen who are just starting their Air Force careers. **First-term Airmen** enrolled in the program are not only new to the Air Force, but many are far away from home, family, and friends for the first time. In addition to the Airmen themselves adjusting to these **life changes**, some are newly married, so their spouses are also experiencing the strains of these significant transitions. Adjusting to the demands of being in the military and living in a new town far away from family can be stressful and lonely. By providing a **home-away-from-home**, members of our community can establish meaningful friendships which will bolster Airmen resiliency.

In addition to helping an Airman feel at home “outside the gate,” you as a host will benefit from an **increased understanding** of military life and a joy in knowing that you are making a **positive difference** in the lives of these young Airmen. By providing a home-cooked meal or an adventure in Cheyenne or surrounding area, a listening ear or a sound piece of advice, we hope that you will develop a **friendship** that will last even beyond these Airmen’s first assignment here in Cheyenne.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The program has two main participants. **Airmen** assigned to F. E. Warren AFB on their first Air Force assignment, called “First Term Airmen” and **hosts** from the Cheyenne and surrounding area. While most of the Airmen in the program are single, some are married and participate as a couple. Just like the Airmen, we have all types of hosts—single, couples, and families.

While military veterans, retirees and members of the Wyoming National Guard may apply as hosts, a common question is “I’m active-duty military and stationed at Warren AFB; can I be a host to an Airman?” Because the program is designed to get the Airmen out into the community and build new relationships, and to steer clear of any potential inappropriate superior/subordinate relationships, the answer to that question is unfortunately “no.”

APPLICATION & MATCHING

The committee does their best to match hosts with Airmen with the same characteristics, interests, and hobbies. To do that, every participant (host and Airman) completes an application that includes a questionnaire designed to identify those key factors. If an Airman already knows of a host they’d prefer, they can request them “by name” on the application and hosts can do the same for Airmen.

NOTE: Hosts who do not have access to F. E. Warren AFB are asked for information on the application to secure them that access. As part of that check (a check that has already been completed for those who already have access), the base Security Forces will run their normal National Crime Information Center (NCIC) check

After submitting an application, the Airman or host applying will receive a phone call from a member of the committee to discuss the application in a little more detail. This brief interview is very helpful and is often the primary factor in matching! Once matched, the host and Airman are notified of the other’s contact information, and they are encouraged to meet as the first step in the new relationship. If desired, the Adopt an Airman committee members are always available to help with that first meeting.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The next steps are up to the host and Airman. Here are some typical questions and answers:

“Is there an expectation of meeting on a specific schedule?”

No ... as your relationship develops, you’ll find what works for you!

“Are we as hosts expected to create ‘events’ for our Airman?”

No ... the idea is to simply incorporate the Airman into your existing activities ... but if you want to, sure!

“Does the program ever host events for participants (hosts/Airmen)?”

Yes! These events/socials provide a great opportunity to meet others in the program, to share ideas and concerns, and to interact with committee members and base leaders.

“If my host invites me over to their house but I already have plans, do I have to cancel those?”

No ... this is where COMMUNICATION becomes vitally important. Just talk with your hosts & let them know you have a conflict!

“How do I contact my Airman/host?”

You will be provided both a phone number and email address. We suggest communication be one of your first discussions. Text messages may be best, but many Airman (and hosts) may work in an environment that they aren’t always able to reply.

“I’d like to bring my roommate to my hosts house; can I?”

That’s a question for you to ask your host! Again, good communication is invaluable!

“How long does this last?”

The idea is to create an initial relationship between the host & Airmen. Like any relationship, we anticipate it will develop and evolve. Some may drift apart & not see each other often while others may interact often. Airmen will likely move on to a new base (called a Permanent Change of Station or PCS) after 3-4 years and we also know hosts may have changes in their lives too.

“I’m a host for an Airman but would like more. Can I be matched again?”

Absolutely! We have many hosts with multiple Airmen (either matched by the committee or introduced by their already matched Airmen).

... and then here’s the question that will likely be in everyone’s mind as they consider the program ...

“What if the match doesn’t work?”

As thorough as the committee tries to be in the matching process, we know that every match might not work. If the host OR the Airman feel like it’s not good ... and especially if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe ... just contact a committee member to get rematched.

The program’s purpose is to build GOOD relationships ... if it’s not good, from any perspective, we will address it!

IS THIS FOR ME?

The Adopt an Airman program provides unique and rewarding opportunities for both Airmen and community hosts. It is your opportunity to build a new relationship and learn more about the amazing community we call home!

Whether you are a new Airman assigned to F. E. Warren AFB or a caring member of our community already living in and around Cheyenne, **this is the program for you!**

ARE THERE OTHER WAYS I CAN HELP?

Whether you sign up to be a host or Airman in the program, there are definitely other ways you can help!

Share with your friends & neighbors ... we are ALWAYS looking to expand the program!

Invite the Adopt an Airman program committee to speak at your work/social organization.

Put up a poster highlighting the program (available on request).

DONATE ... through the Cheyenne Chamber Foundation ... funds support our program events.

HOW DO I GET EVEN MORE INFO?

Do you want to learn more? Email the committee at: adoptanairmanWYO@gmail.com

Additional information, stories, videos, & pictures can be found on the program's social media feeds:



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/adoptanairmanwyo>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/adoptanairmanwyo/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/an_wyo

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNkoYpNTaO6cFgg2NkADGBw>