

## Summer Leadership and Character Development Academy

As a branch, the Marine Corps stresses the importance of developing strong leaders with moral character to help fight for our Nation's freedom and give back to the community when that duty is over. Nurturing these qualities in today's youth is another way to ensure that the Corps is giving quality citizens back to the community.

The Summer Leadership and Character Development Academy is designed to do just that. Selected High School juniors from across the country are invited to attend the week-long academy held in Quantico, Virginia over the summer. During the evolution, students are challenged to strengthen their confidence and leadership skills with physical training and scenario-based reaction courses.

Veronica Ruvolo, a student at Alvarado High School, plans to use this opportunity to strengthen herself as a leader.

"This is an amazing opportunity for me to learn more ways to improve my own leadership abilities," said Ruvolo. "I'm excited to get to see Quantico and go through a little bit of what Marines go through at OCS. I want to be able to take away lessons and hopefully some personal relationships that will help me when I transition into the military after college."

This year despite the fact that Ruvolo doesn't plan on enlisting she has spent time with the Marines at Recruiting Station Mansfield working on her physical fitness and absorbing leadership lessons.

"Gunnery Sargent Jennings introduced me to this program and thought it would be beneficial for my personal and professional development," she said. "I plan on going to Texas A.M when I graduate and then I hope to join the Marine Corps as an Officer with the occupation of Military Police. I hope that this week in Quantico will help be develop new leadership technics that I will be able to utilize through the rest of my life, I'm very grateful to the Marine Corp for this opportunity."

SLCDA is designed to build upon foundational experiences such as these found in school, sports and other activities.

If you are interested in applying or nominating a student for next year's academy, applications can be completed beginning January 2020 at <https://slcda.marines.com>