

Information About the CAMS/AFSC “Alternatives to the Military Booklet”

Title of 1st edition:

Great Careers and Educational Opportunities:

Explore Inside: Exciting job training for the real world, positive and rewarding career paths

Possible Titles of 2nd edition (not yet out: hopefully by 10/15/05):

Get A Life!

Explore Inside: Exciting job training for the real world, positive and rewarding career paths

Do Something GREAT With Your Life!

Experience-Skills-Learning-Self-Discipline-Honor-Pride-Adventure-Independence-Growth-Change

Background: This booklet was developed as a resource to use with young people who might consider joining the military. Most of us feel that we shouldn't advise people not to enlist, without offering realistic, meaningful alternatives at the same time. These alternatives should address the same needs that recruiters exploit: the need for interesting, useful, and meaningful skills training, the desire for personal transformation and growth, adventure, new life & learning experiences, the opportunity to develop a sense of pride in one's self, etc.

The first edition focused on three areas: “job training”, “career planning/counseling services”, and “higher education”.

In the revised 2nd edition, we are adding the new categories of “personal growth and transformation” and “youth leadership and activism opportunities”, and are highlighting the skilled trades' apprenticeship programs in a separate section. We have taken out most of the information on higher education and instead developed a separate higher ed. brochure: “Higher Education: You Can Do It!” The higher education brochure will be included in the “Alternatives” booklets, but will also be useful separately, to give to people who are interested in higher education specifically, and just need information on affording college, academic support services, etc.

How to use the booklet: When talking with people about ways to reach their goals outside the military, you have a booklet which will hopefully contain at least one resource addressing what they are looking for. The booklet is purposely designed to look mainstream, not political, “anti-anything”, or radical in any way. You can show it to any young person, parent, school staff member, without the fear that you will be perceived as promoting a particular agenda.

We hope to update the booklet 2-4 times a year with new resources. Please let us know, by emailing CAMS at www.militaryfreeschools.org, if you find something that would be appropriate for future updates to this booklet.

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