

# THE FORCES MARCH

The Cadet Challenge

**SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> and SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2027**

**The Cadet Challenge is open  
to all UK Cadet units**



**Can YOUR unit win  
The Cadet Challenge Trophy  
for Most Outstanding Team?**

**THE  
VETERANS  
CHARITY**

Registered Charity No.1123149

The Forces March has been hosted 11 times since 2010.

It follows the route of a legendary march undertaken by men of the newly formed 'Airborne Division' in 1942.

The Forces March begins in Ilfracombe, North Devon and passes over a highly demanding, 125-mile route finishing in Bulford, Wiltshire.

Cadets are the future of the UK Armed Forces and we also know that challenges and training are very much part of the ethos of the Cadet movement.

We are inviting Cadet units from all over the country to enter teams into THE CADET CHALLENGE, the final 2 days of The Forces March.

The challenge will begin on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2027 in the Somerset town of Somerton. The teams will set off from the Somerton Sports Club at 09:30 as part of the main column of marchers. The group will stop briefly at the town's War Memorial to pay respects to members of 'The FM Family' who are unable to be on duty. The group will then be moved by vehicles to the start point in Keinton Mandeville.

They will then make their way along the 25-mile route to the overnight camp (showers, loos and an evening meal will await them) at West Woodlands near Frome.

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, the teams will be moved by vehicles to the start point in Horningsham and will then set off on the final day, covering 25 miles to the finish in Bulford Village.

The Cadet Challenge Trophy will be presented to the team judged to be Most Outstanding among the Cadet entrants. The winning team will have their name added to the trophy and will get to display it with pride until the next march.

The challenge is not just to cover the miles. It is about training, attitude, teamwork, fundraising, determination and discipline.

Teams will be representing their unit and their respective Cadet Corps.

Each team will be expected to obtain sponsorship for The Veterans Charity as part of their entry into the challenge.



# ENTRY CONDITIONS

## **ENTRY FEES:**

### **£50 PER CADET (Instructors/support crew go free!)**

The entry fee covers administrative costs, checkpoints, catering (breakfast and evening meal on both days), medical support, GPS Tracking, safety and escort crews and medal costs. All participants will be presented with commemorative medals.

All participants are required to be at the assembly area at Somerton Sports Club by 08:00 on day 1 of the challenge (Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May). Transportation to and from the start and finish is the responsibility of the participants. (You are welcome to join us on Friday evening and camp overnight if you wish!)

You will be required to supply your own tents, bedding, clothing, footwear and additional refreshments for the march. The safety of these belongings is entirely the responsibility of the participants and their support crews. We cannot accept liability for any damage or loss to any personal belongings.

All teams are required to have their own support crew. The support vehicle used must be capable of transporting all team members and personal equipment.

Participants must be fit and healthy at the time of the event and at least 14 years of age. Any pre-existing medical condition **MUST** be disclosed to the organisers **at least 21 days prior** to the start of the event.

This is a particularly challenging event with a very demanding route which undulates throughout, and careful consideration should be given before applications are submitted. The Veterans Charity cannot be held responsible for any injury or death as a result of participation in this event.

All participants **MUST** follow the precise route set out by the organisers. Any deviation from the route will result in disqualification from the event. In the event of disqualification, entry fees will not be refunded.

Each unit is required to raise sponsorship as part of their participation in the run. The sponsorship target is £250 per team.

# FUNDRAISING

Part of your entry requirement is to raise a minimum of £250 (per team) for The Veterans Charity. ALL funds raised as a result of participation in The Cadet Challenge must be for The Veterans Charity.

## **Step 1:**

You will be required to create a fundraising page via JustGiving, for The Cadet Challenge when you register your entry. Funds raised on The Forces March must be for The Veterans Charity. You are welcome to create a single team page or have individual pages for each team member.

## **Step 2:**

Send an email to all your family, friends and contacts telling them about your participation in the march and what the money is for. Then ask them to donate what they can by visiting your page.

## **Step 3:**

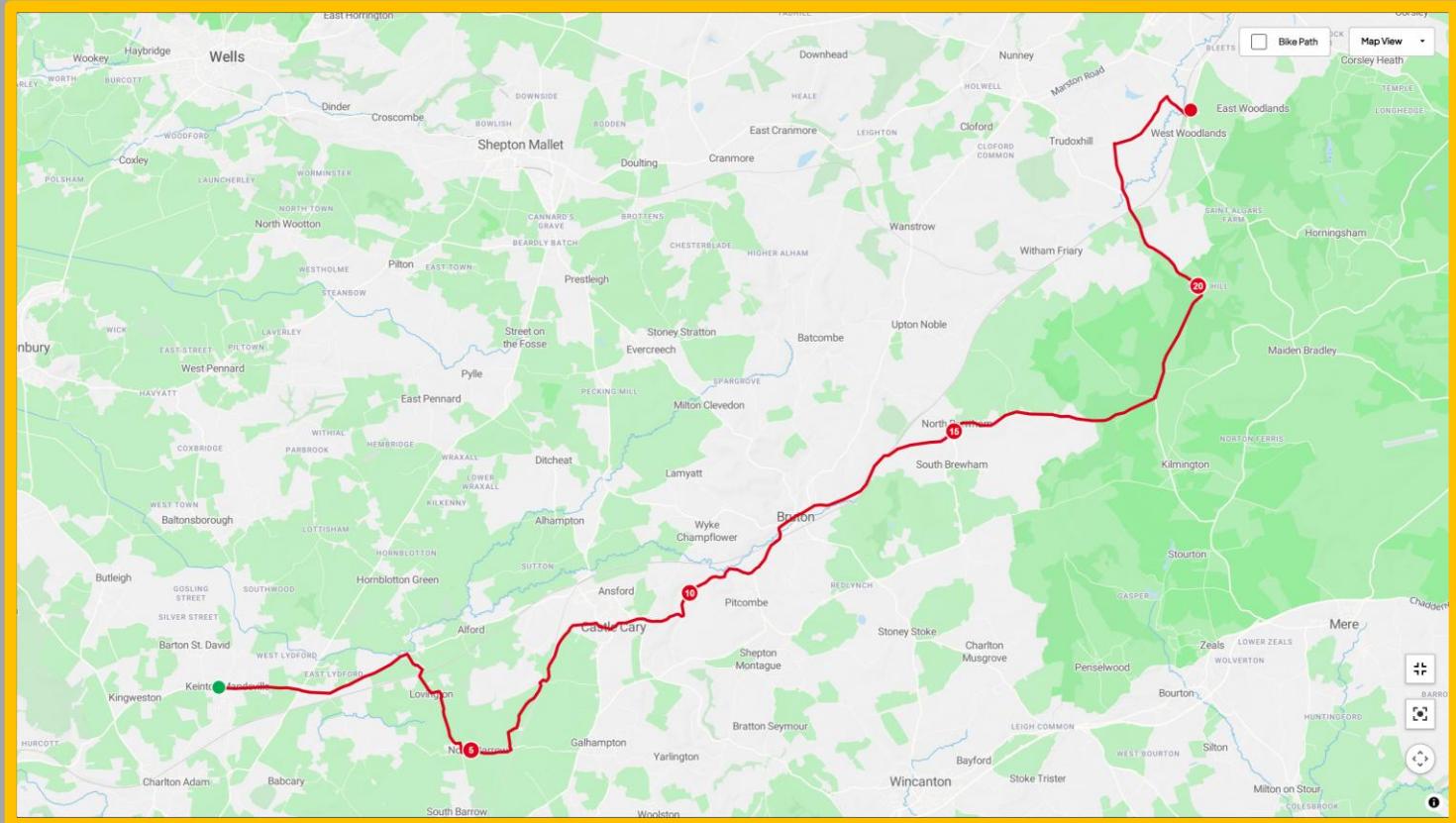
Post your page address on your social media pages and ask people to donate to help you reach your target.

## **Step 4:**

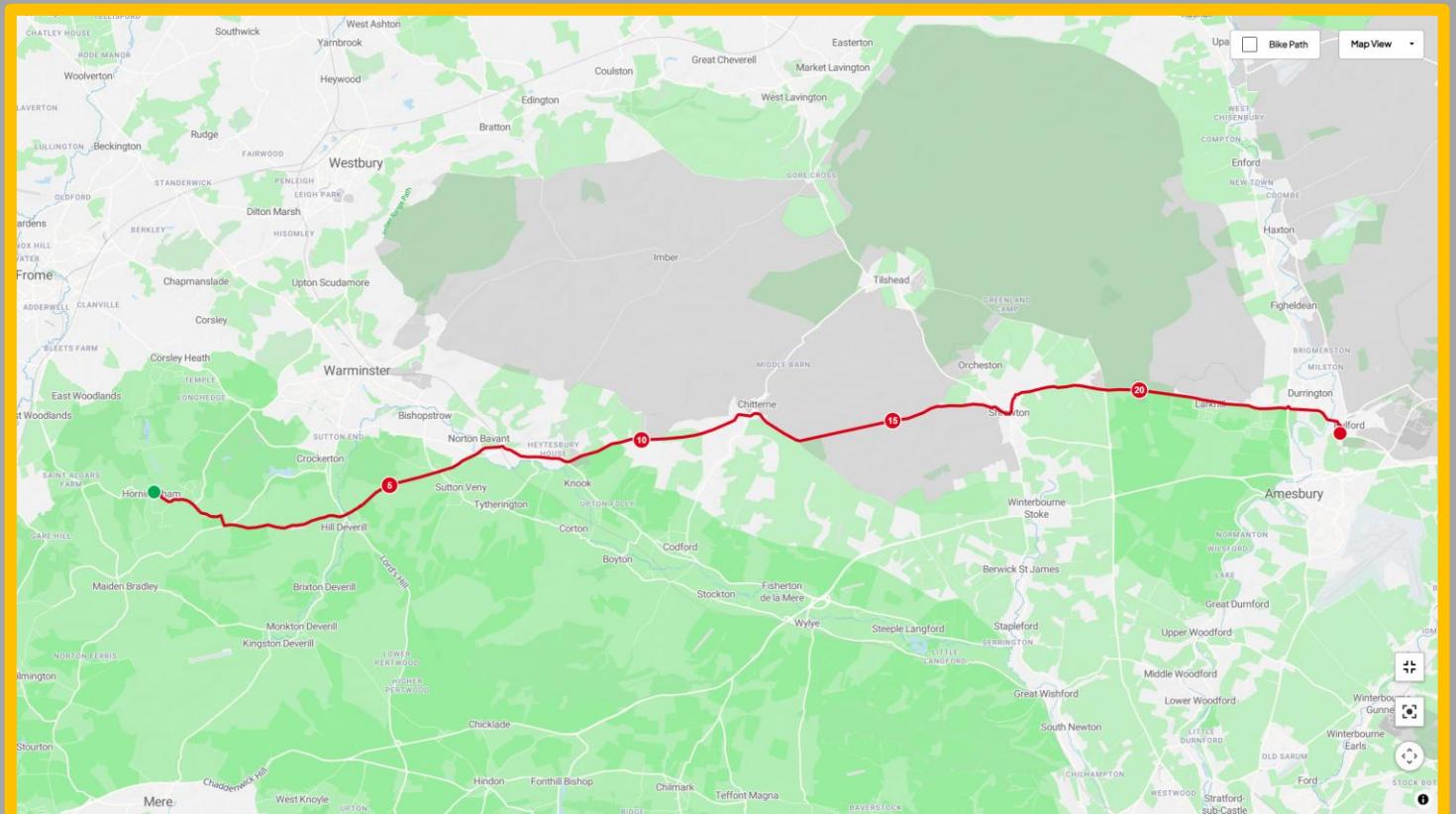
Ask your colleagues at work and family/friends to sponsor you. Sponsorship forms can be requested via an email to [contact@veteranscharity.org.uk](mailto:contact@veteranscharity.org.uk) - You can even ask a local pub or shop to display a sponsorship form for you or create additional fundraising events as a unit.



## Keinton Mandeville to West Woodlands: Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May – 24.2 miles



## Horningsham to Bulford: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – 24.1 miles



## **Team building:**

**Teams can consist of anything more than 4 people. All participants must be fit and healthy and able to take on the challenge without risk of serious health implications.**

**All cadet teams MUST have at least one Adult Cadet Instructor with them in addition to a support crew and vehicle. Please follow ratio guidelines set out by your respective Force/Corps.**

**Parental/Guardian consent will be needed for each Cadet taking part in the challenge.**

**The support teams are responsible for the safe keeping of their team's equipment at all times.**

**Support crew members are not required to pay an entry fee.**

**If you have any questions relating to the challenge or your entry, please contact a member of the team on 01271 371001 or email [contact@veteranscharity.org.uk](mailto:contact@veteranscharity.org.uk)**

**Entries for The Cadet Challenge are limited to 20 teams for safety reasons so please register your interest early to avoid disappointment.**

**We hope to see you in April 2027!**

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