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## **Announcing New Etiquette Classes in Colorado Springs Area**

Recently a morning news program reported that MIT is now offering etiquette classes for their self-proclaimed nerds to learn appropriate manners. Four years ago, the United States Air Force Academy put an etiquette training program into place for cadets. Statistics show two very powerful indications: 79 percent of job applicants do not get a job offer due to perceived lack of appropriate social skills. Similar studies conducted by Harvard University, Stanford Research Institute and the Carnegie Foundation indicate that over 85 percent of one's career success is directly connected to one's social skills.

Social Survival Skills founder, Heather Buchman, states, "Giving children the skills they need to be comfortable and confident in their ability to handle life's social activities early in life just helps them be more confident and successful people forever." As a parent herself of two young boys, she has seen firsthand the need for an etiquette teaching program that is current to the things today's kids, teens and adults are dealing with. "Teaching a young girl that she should wear white gloves teaches her that she should only consider manners when she is in very particular situations, that she will likely only be in one or two times in her life, if that!" Buchman continues, "Our program is about teaching kids and young adults how to navigate the world they live in now, with teaching methodologies that are fun—not stuffy."

Ms. Buchman has been teaching optional classes for Air Force Academy cadets since 2007. As a parent, she saw the need to develop a similar far more expanded program outside of the academy. Other parents began asking Heather if she would consider developing a program for kids, tweens and teens. The natural progression for Social Survival Skills was to add programs for young adults as well as classes to specifically address business etiquette.

Classes are being offered at Sundance Mountain Lodge in Monument, Colorado, for kids, tweens and teens. Adult classes are being offered at Tri-Lakes Business Incubator, also in Monument. Full class details and schedules are available on the Social Survival Skills website, [socialsurvivalskills.net](http://socialsurvivalskills.net).

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