

COMMISSIONING 101

2026 RESOURCE GUIDE



UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

COMMISSIONING 101

Commissioning Week is the biggest event of the year at the United States Naval Academy. It will be a memorable event for your family and your midshipman.

The Class of 2026 Commissioning Week is scheduled for the week of 15 May, with the graduation ceremony on 22 May. Commissioning Week starts with the Jewish Baccalaureate Service on Friday, Superintendent's Garden Parties, Glee Club Concert, Color Parade and Blue Angels Show, culminating with the graduation and swearing-in ceremonies.

In this resource guide, you will find information related to Commissioning Week as well as information from our sponsors and local vendors that will help in your planning for this exciting week.

Schedule and timing of events during Commissioning Week are still to be determined. Please use these important links and contacts to stay current on the schedule of events and any changes to the Commissioning Week schedule. All updates are scheduled for release in April by the Naval Academy.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES

- For the most up-to-date information regarding Commissioning Week, visit: <https://www.usna.edu/CommissioningWeek>
- For real-time updates during Commissioning Week, visit: usna.campusesp.com. Opt-in for text alerts.
- Commissioning Week information line, call: **410-293-3109**
- USNA Alumni Association and Foundation Parent page: www.usna.com/parents/commissioning101/
- USNA Parent Portal Class of 2026 Discussion Board: <https://usna.campusesp.com/discussion-boards/posts/496>
- USNA Parent and Sponsor Portal: https://usna.campusesp.com/users/sign_in:
- USNA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/USNavalAcademy>
- Tickets for Commissioning Week musical events: <http://navyperforms.showare.com>



NAVAL ACADEMY AND YARD ACCESS INFORMATION

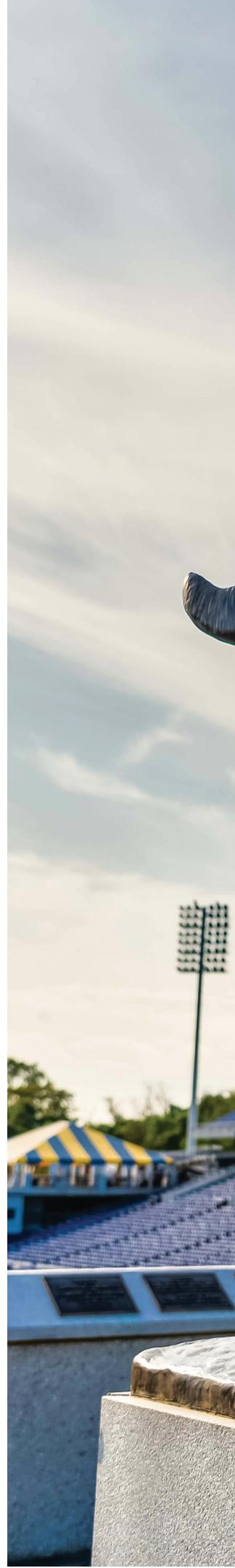
- Remember that all persons over 18 years of age must present a valid government ID (drivers license, passport, REAL ID, military ID, etc.) for entrance to the Yard. All vehicles and persons are subject to search.
- The following items are prohibited from being brought onto the Yard: weapons/knives, coolers, boxes, mace, alcohol, anything considered a threat by the screeners. Keep in mind that DoD ID card holders can move to the head of the line at USNA entrances at the discretion of the guards.
- Please see https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/ndw/installations/nsa_annapolis/om/security/Frequently_Asked_Questions.html for more detailed information on Yard access.
- Foreign Nationals are not permitted on the Yard without prior base approval. If a guest is not a U.S. citizen, the midshipman (and only the midshipman) must complete a Foreign National Access form. This form will be available to all 1/C midshipmen in their USNA portal.

DRIVING ON THE YARD

- Vehicle access and parking on the Yard is extremely limited. Drivers without Department of Defense ID cards are not permitted to drive on the Naval Academy grounds.
- Vehicle access may be further restricted to staff and residents during limited time frames in support of special Commissioning Week events; notice will be promulgated separately.
- Parking restrictions are strictly enforced in red curb zones.
- Only official vehicles may park by white curbing. The speed limit on USNA is 15 miles per hour or as posted.

NAVY-MARINE CORPS MEMORIAL STADIUM

- The Gold Side is the side closest to Rowe Blvd.; the Blue Side is the side with the Blue Angels plane where the midshipmen normally sit during a football game. Odd companies sit on the Blue side, even companies on the Gold side. The Blue Side has gates A, B, C and D. The Gold Side has gates M, N, O and P.
- Wheelchair accessible seating can be accessed by utilizing the ramps located adjacent to Sections 8 and 25. (See more details in the FAQ's section)
- The following items are PROHIBITED from entering through the gates: weapons/ knives of any type to include ceremonial swords, bags larger than a typical purse (i.e. duffle bags, back packs, large camera bags, etc.), any item deemed to be dangerous or inappropriate (mace, umbrellas, bottles, coolers, alcoholic beverages, folding chairs, camera tripods, noise makers, large strollers, pets, etc.). Individuals shall be allowed entrance only after disposing or securing prohibited items. Screeners will not hold items, the owner must dispose of them or secure them in their vehicle.
- Clear bag policy has been implemented for the stadium. Approved items include: clear tote no larger than 12" x 12" x 6", a 1-gallon clear plastic bag, small clutch purse, medically necessary/diaper bags, seat cushions. No other bags are allowed. See Navysports.com "Fan Zone" for more information.
- Umbrella strollers and wheelchairs are allowed into the stadium after they have been visually swept. Cameras and cell phones are acceptable.
- There are stadium terrace level suites available overlooking the field with a capacity of 24-30 people. You can put your name on a list, and you will be called if any become available. Call the stadium at 410-293-8712 to inquire about the cost. For additional information, visit: <http://www.navysports.com/facilities/facilities-rentals.html>.
- There are seating options inside Akerson Tower as well. For more information contact Kris Morgentahler at the Naval Academy Athletic Association at whitacre@usna.edu closer to graduation if you are interested in this seating option.





TICKET INFORMATION AND FAQ

Please review this information. Please understand that it is the responsibility of your midshipman to request tickets and to pick up the tickets at the appointed time. Parents and family cannot request tickets nor be involved in the process. It is a midshipman responsibility.

What is the cost of graduation tickets?

The tickets are free. They must be requested in advance.

How do midshipmen request tickets?

Each company will provide six tickets to each 1/C MIDN for seating in their company area. Additional tickets will be available in the General Seating area (not in the company area) on the USNA Parent and Sponsor Portal at usna.campusesp.com. Log into the portal to get updates on when to order additional tickets.

When and where are the tickets issued?

Your midshipman will pick up their graduation tickets in early May 2026.

What if the midshipman was unable to pick up the tickets on the day his/her company was assigned to do so?

They can request that their Company Officer or Senior Enlisted Leader pick up the tickets.

How many graduation tickets and parking passes does each 1/C midshipman receive?

Every 1/C will receive the following tickets automatically:

- Six first-come, first-serve tickets in Company Seating Area for graduation (areas are in the stands closest to the stage).
- Four seating tickets for indoor graduation (used only in case of inclement weather).
- Four tickets for the Superintendent's Garden Party.
- General Admission tickets for the graduation at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium (can be obtained on the USNA Parent and Sponsor portal for free).
- Wheelchair and Accessibility Seating. Consistent with ADA directives, wheelchair seating is available at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium for the graduation ceremony. Select seating for those who use wheelchairs is available in Sections 2-8 on the Blue Side and above Sections 25-31 on the Gold Side on a first-come, first-serve basis. This seating is accessible via the ramps opposite the stage. Additional seating is available in Rows 20, 21, 22 of Sections 2, 3, 4, 5 on the Blue Side and 28, 29, 30 and 31 on the Gold Side. Access to these seats requires transit of no or few stairs and is recommended for guests with limited mobility and are not in wheelchairs. To maximize the amount of available seating, one escort is permitted per guest requiring access.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Please obey the instructions of the ushers and security personnel in respect to handicapped seating so there is sufficient seating for all who require it.*





The midshipman has additional guests coming, but didn't find out until just before ticket pick-up and did not request tickets for them in advance. What can be done for them?

Tickets beyond the six allocated for the company area are not issued centrally. Any additional tickets for the company area would need to be arranged within the company, as some midshipmen may not require all six tickets and may choose to share or exchange them with company mates. For additional tickets in the General Admission area log onto the USNA Parent and Sponsor Portal at usna.campusesp.com.

The midshipman has an Admiral or SES (or civilian equivalent) as a guest for graduation. Do they need to indicate that on their ticket request?

Yes, that information should be relayed to Protocol by the midshipman to ensure that the proper people are notified and arrangements for special seating will be made as required/desired.

The midshipman has a guest who is bringing their baby/toddler. If they are sitting in the reserved section, do they require a separate ticket if they sit on a lap during the ceremony?

No, a separate ticket is not required.

My midshipman has a faculty/staff member who wishes to see him/her graduate, but they are not part of the official faculty/staff procession. Does he/she order tickets for them or do they get their own?

Additional tickets can be found in the USNA Parent and Sponsor Portal.

Is the USNA graduation open to the general public?

No, it is open to only midshipmen and the invited guests of midshipmen, faculty and staff.

Aside from the outdoor graduation ceremony, what other tickets will my midshipman receive for events during Commissioning Week?

Each midshipman will receive four tickets for the Superintendent's Garden Party. Midshipmen (1/C) do not require a ticket to attend this event themselves. In addition, each midshipman will receive four tickets for the indoor graduation ceremony.



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A man in a military uniform is shown from the waist up, looking down at a clipboard he is holding. He is standing in front of a large circular porthole on a ship's hull, which looks out onto a bright blue sky and ocean. The man is wearing a camouflage uniform with an American flag patch on his right shoulder. The background is the interior of a ship's cabin, with a white wall and a porthole. The overall tone is professional and focused.

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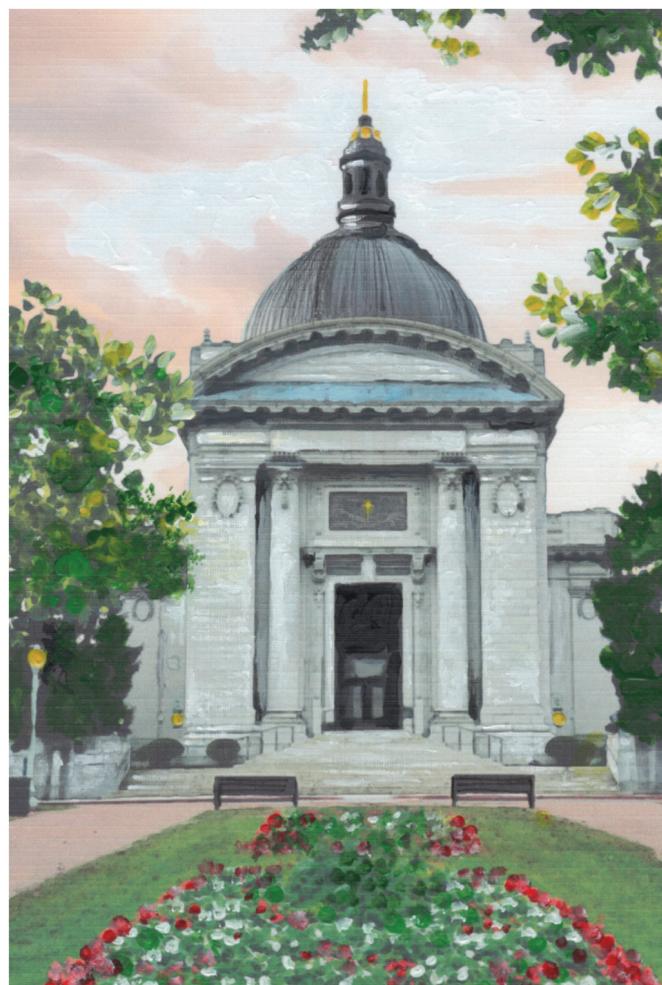
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- An invitation for six to Sip, Sip, Soirée, a champagne send-off at the Fluegel Alumni Center
- An invitation for two to the Capstone Reception



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