\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**CLASS OF2025**

INDIANA NAVAL ACADEMY

PARENTS’ CLUB

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



***PLEBE PARENT***

***SURVIVAL GUIDE***

**WELCOME**

**ABOARD**











**CLASS OF 2025 PLEBES**

EMMA LUCCHESE - Indianapolis

**PLEBE SUMMER PURPOSE**

“The purpose of plebe summer is to prepare carefully screened civilians and military servicemen to be productive and competent midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy. Commissioned officers of the Navy and Marine Corps, assisted by the members of the Classes of 2022, 2023 and 2024, are responsible for planning and supervising this transition. During plebe summer each plebe is expected to acquire the basic military skills, professional knowledge, and character qualities required by Academy standards. Plebes must overcome many demanding challenges and thereby develop increased physical stamina, mental alertness, and self-confidence. Plebe summer is a time for personal, rapid growth. It is both competitive and tough; but it is an exciting and rewarding experience which can be enjoyed and then cherished for years to come."

**Welcome Aboard** and again, congratulations to you and your Mid on his or her appointment to the United States Naval Academy. This is the beginning of four of the most exciting years in not only their lives, but yours as well. From Induction Day through Plebe summer to Graduation Day, you will be witness to one of the most gratifying transitions a young person can go through.

The USNA Indiana Parents’ Club of Indiana was founded to help parents with questions about the Academy, know what to expect from their Midshipmen, and to offer support through the next four years. We have gathered information over the past years and have published this ―Plebe Parents Survival Guide.” It is updated yearly and presented to incoming parents at the ―Welcome Aboard Plebe Summer Picnic.”

**We are looking forward to working with you this year. Please do not hesitate to call any of us if you have any questions, or if you just need to hear some reassuring words or a kind voice letting you know that “all will be well.”**

In closing, welcome aboard the World’s Greatest Navy, and a salute to our future leaders, your sons and daughters. They are following in the footsteps of many great people: presidents, astronauts, doctors, Medal of Honor recipients, and thousands of men and women who gave us the right to say…

WELCOME ABOARD 2025!

**2021/2022 OFFICERS**

**Presidents**

**Vice Presidents**

Shelley Bowman (Sean ’21)

2061 S Rembrandt Cove, Martinsville, IN 46151

(317) 840-6294 – hockeymom8rocks@yahoo.com

Lisa Webb (Wesley ’22)

1618 S Greenfield Ct, Bloomington, IN 47401

(812) 320-4309 – thewebbs@hotmail.com

**Secretaries**

George & Cheryl Huizinga (Griffin ’23)

374 Southwind Lane

Greenwood, IN 46142

(317) 339-2501

nationalmrs2005@comcast.net

**Treasurers**

Dean & Tammy Owen (Chloe ‘21)

2837 Sleeping Ridge Way

Indianapolis, IN 46217

(317) 431-4254

[tammyjoowen@gmail.com](mailto:tammyjoowen@gmail.com) – tammy@chloeworld.com

**Past Presidents**

Graham and Sherri Torr (Jarrod ‘21)

746 Walkabout Cir N

Carmel, IN 46032

(616) 443-0366

[shezmk@yahoo.com](mailto:shezmk@yahoo.com)

grahamtorr@outlook.com

**All-Academy Ball Co-Chairpersons 2021**

Cheryl Huizinga \* Tammy Owen \* Mary Lucchese

**USNA Parents’ Club Of Indiana History**

Recent generations of the USNA Indiana Parents’ Club of Indiana are not absolutely certain of the start-up year of our club, but it appears that one of the first meetings was November 1987. In the past two decades we have built an active group that we are quite proud of. We host a variety of informative, supportive, and fun events for our members. Every year before I-day, we hold the Summer Plebe Picnic, where new parents and incoming plebes are given the opportunity to meet with veteran parents and their Mids. We invite Midshipmen to attend. It is a great place to ask questions, swap stories, make friends, and even view a few photos of what’s to come.

As a club, we are proud to offer ourselves as support to new families and their Plebes as they embark on their journey at the USNA. We also help new members prepare for Parent’s Weekend with our tips and stories.

Throughout the year, we hold several other club meetings and events. For instance, we meet in January to hold our ―Dark Ages meeting and to pack care packages for our Midshipmen. Additionally, we sometimes organize a club event for the Navy/local university football games. We nearly always gather together to watch the Navy v. Air Force football game, and of course, for the Army/Navy game in mid-December.

The All-Academy (West Point, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine and USNA) Ball is held in December in Indianapolis. **USNA** will host the 2021 ball, so plan on attending (and helping with ☺) this wonderful event.

Our club is blessed with gifted volunteers who construct our USNA website, social network pages and a Plebe Parent Handbook, as well as many other behind the scenes tasks. Through all we do, we want to share important information and pictures that help parents feel connected to the Academy.

**USNA Parents’ Club of Indiana is a very important part of the experience of USNA for the parents of midshipman from Indiana – we talk, laugh and cry together for four years, but make friendships to last a lifetime.**

**AREA CODE 410**

Main Operator (Information) ................293-1000

Main Office (Bancroft) ...........................293-5001

Academic Dean’s Office .........................293-1583

Action Information Line .........................293-3109

(week’s activities)

Admissions Office ……………….……293-4361

Alumni Association ................................263-4000

Athletic Association (Tickets) …..1-800-US4-NAVY

Band........................................................293-3282

Benefits ..................................................293-2802

Candidate Guidance ...............................293-4361

1-800-638-9156

Chaplain’s Office ....................................293-1100

Commandant’s Office ............................293-7005

Counseling Center ..................................293-4897

Credit Union Navy Federal .....................757-0700

Emergency-Police ................................. 293-3333

Non-Emergency Office .......................... 293-5760

Library Nimitz …………………………293-2420

Mid Store ....................................293-2392 / 2393

Museum ……………………………….293-2108

Music Activities...................................... 293-2884

NavyLodge……………………………...757-7900

Officer’s Club ..........................................293-2611

Pass & ID Office…………………………293-4015

Public Affairs ...........................................293-2291

Registrar’s Office……………………..…293-6383

Security Office ........................................293-3333

Sponsor Program ....................................293-5358

Sports Results (Fan Phone) ................... 267-NAVY

Superintendent’s Office ......................... 293-1500

Tickets Non-Athletic Events……….……293-TIXS

USAA Insurance Co…………………800-531-8111

USNA Store (express mail orders & operator)

**PLEBE YEAR HIGHLIGHTS**

(with the numerous changes this year, this schedule may change)

**INDUCTION DAYS – July 1, 2021**

Induction Day Ceremony – will be closed to all guests, including family, friends, media, etc.

Tour the academy and visit Mid Store – not sure the yard will be open

Parent Brief – not sure if this will happen

**PLEBE PARENT WEEKEND— No info posted yet**

Superintendent’s Welcome w/highlight video

Plebe formal parade - visit your Mid’s room (only opportunity) - YP Tours - Off Yard visit with your Mid

**NAVY/AIR FORCE GAME – September 11, 2021**

This may be 2/C Parent’s Weekend. Due to the remembrance of 9-11, expect high traffic if you’re traveling to the game. Get tickets early.

**NAVY/NOTRE DAME – November 6, 2021**

At Notre Dame, look for tailgate information and viewing party info.

**ARMY/NAVY GAME – December 11, 2021**

Mids are required to attend. Try to go to one if you can. Will be in NYC this year. Look for tickets on the Army Navy Ticket Exchange Facebook group

**FINALS WEEK**— **December 14-21, 2021**

December before holiday leave - A good time to send a care package

**WINTER HOLIDAY LEAVE**—December - Most Mids can come home - All Academy Ball- December 23

**DARK AGES AT THE ACADEMY** –Winter Months - Send more care packages and visit your Mid if possible

**SPRING BREAK—March 14-18, 2021 -** Most Mids can come home.

**FINALS WEEK - May 6 - 13, 2021 -** Send another care package

**SEA TRIALS – May**, Prior to Herndon Climb

**HERNDON CLIMB** –May 23rd, Kickoff to commissioning week - PLEBES NO MORE

**SUMMER TRAINING BLOCKS** –May thru August depending on individual Mid’s schedule

**SUMMER LEAVE** –May thru August depending on individual Mid’s training block schedule

**BRIGADE REFORMS**—Middle of August



**UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY**

**Oath of Office**

“Having been appointed a Midshipman in the United States Navy, do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that you will support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God?"

The Honor Concept

**Midshipmen are persons of integrity:** They stand for that which is right.

They tell the truth and ensure that the full truth is known.

**They Do Not Lie.**

They embrace fairness in all actions.

They ensure that assistance received from any source is authorized and properly documented.

**They Do Not Cheat.**

They respect the property of others and ensure that others are able to benefit from the use of their own property.

**They Do Not Steal.**

**Honor Treatise of the Brigade of Midshipmen**

“As a Brigade we cherish the diverse backgrounds and talents of every Midshipman, yet recognize the common thread that unites us: the trust and confidence of the American people. They have appointed us to defend our country by developing our minds, our bodies, and most especially, our moral character.

It is our responsibility to develop a selfless sense of duty that demands excellence both of ourselves and of those with whom we serve. We must honor our loyalties without compromising our ultimate obligation to the truth. Our leadership must set a standard that reflects loyalty to our goals and the courage to stand accountable for all our actions, both those that lead to success and to those that end in failure. We will never settle for achieving merely what is expected of us but will strive for a standard of excellence that reflects the dedication and courage of those who have gone before us. When we attain our goal, we espouse leadership by example, a leadership that

**NAVY BLUE AND GOLD**

Now colleges,

from sea to sea,

may sing of colors true,

but who has better right than we,

to hoist a symbol hue.

For sailors brave,

in battle fair,

since fighting days of old,

have proved a sailors right to wear the Navy Blue and Gold.

ETERNAL FATHER, STRONG TO SAVE —

**THE “NAVY HYMN”**

Eternal Father, strong to save,

Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,

Who bidd’st the mighty ocean deep

Its own appointed limits keep;

Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,

For those in peril on the sea!

Eternal Father, grant, we pray,

To all Marines, both night and day,

The courage, honor, strength, and skill, Their land to serve, thy law fulfill;

Be thou the shield forevermore

From every peril to the Corps.



You will find over the next four years that life at the Academy is ever changing. We cannot say definitely what the rules for Plebe liberty, yard security, etc. will be — either this summer or during the academic year “ac year”. As always, YOUR MID IS YOUR BEST SOURCE OF INFORMATION. He or she is expected to know all this stuff!

You will be receiving a letter from your Plebe's Company Officer, who will give you his email and phone numbers and invite you to call with any problems or concerns (maybe). Do not overuse the advantage of the invitation. It is not good form, and will not be good for your Plebe. As the Supe (Superintendent) told us during his brief – it is time to land the helicopter.

Just a word of warning……

**SURVIVAL TIPS FOR PLEBES**

Plebe is short for plebeian, from the Latin word meaning ―a member of the lower class or common people and lowly it is. But with determination and self-discipline, you will meet the challenges of being a lowly Plebe one day at a time, with the help of your classmates.

If you are not already in **excellent physical condition,** start getting that way now! Do the workouts prescribed in the initial packet from the Academy. They are the exact workouts you will perform in PEP, the morning exercise period. Plebe summer will be very demanding and the hot, humid days of running and physical exercise will take their toll. You should now be running at least three mile stretches and probably longer to get prepared for distance running this summer. In addition to getting in shape physically, candidates should begin acclimating their bodies to their new time schedule, 05:30-22:30 hours (5:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m.) well in advance of I-Day. You will not be allowed to lie down on your bed during the day until taps at night, so you should make sure that you are in great shape so you can survive all the marching, running, and chopping without a nap! All male candidates get a regulation **haircut** on I-Day. If your hair is a little shorter now, it won’t be such a shock to your parents when they see you that evening.

Take a minimum of **“civies.”** Anything not authorized will be put into storage along with the civilian clothes you arrived in. T-shirt, cargo shorts and tennis shoes are recommended. Do not expect to wear your civilian clothes again until Thanksgiving Leave. The academy issues most, if not all, necessities, but you will receive a list of what to bring. You may bring some of your favorite snapshots. Plebes do rate (are permitted) pictures, but only on the corkboard at your desk.

Plebes will be issued Goldbond powder. Some of the Mids develop body rashes from a combination of the chemicals in the fabrics of the new uniforms and the very humid conditions in Annapolis. For most, once the uniforms are laundered, this is no longer a problem. Athlete’s foot is a common ailment, however, and you may go through 2 or 3 cans of medicated powder before you finish the summer.

**Calculators** are required to take placement tests. You’ll receive suggestions for the specific type in the material that will be provided for you from the Academy. **Computers** will be issued to each new Plebe before the start of the academic year. **Printers** may be part of the package provided, but if not, can be purchased for a good price at the mid store or your parents could bring your printer to you Plebe Parent Weekend.

Consider Plebe summer a challenge. You will be challenged physically and mentally. **Do not fall behind**. Do what you are told to do and **do not make excuses** if you make a mistake. Stay positive and realize it all has a purpose. You may not realize the purpose until the year is over, however.

***... candidates should begin acclimating their bodies to their new schedule... 05:30-22:30 hrs...***

***...everything has a purpose, which you may not see ,til your Youngster year...***

**Organize your time.** Never allow 15 minutes to go by without doing something constructive. If nothing else is pressing immediately — clean your room. You can never get it clean enough to pass inspection without some hits anyway.

If you are not a specialist in some **sport,** now may be the time to try something that you may have never had the opportunity to participate in before; i.e., rugby, lacrosse, squash, or crew. You will also get an opportunity to enter the boxing ring in competition, though not until your second year.

Thoroughly digest the **regulations** governing the USNA and pay particular attention to the Plebe Indoctrination System, as it is vital that you study and know your rates when asked.

A small amount of **money** is always nice to have. Many incidentals, such as cleaning supplies, will need to be purchased. A major credit card for the unexpected is good back up. **Cell phones** and chargers should be placed in a separate plastic bag on I-Day. Your detailers will keep them and hand them back out for your summer calls. Cell service in Bancroft is spotty at best, and will vary greatly depending where you live in the building. Consider using Facebook messenger or other IM sources through your computer when in your room, and when such use is permitted during the AC Year. **Email (**after plebe summer) is a great way to stay in touch with family and friends. Self address postcards, ask friends to send you their address. \*\*\*

Learn to pay attention to small **details** and everything else will follow. For example, always look at yourself quickly in the mirror before you leave your room, and glance back at the room to see if it is shipshape.

You will be learning countless things this summer. Some of it, maybe most of it, will seem trivial and meaningless. You will be memorizing hundreds of names, addresses, sayings, songs, cadences, and monuments. Recognize that there is going to be a tremendous amount of mental stress and that you are **learning to perform under pressure.** They want to see how you think and react quickly under pressure. You’ll have your turn to be the trainer in a couple of years, and that is challenging, too. Keep in mind that as a Midshipman, you are in training as a future naval officer. You must learn to think clearly under pressure and react quickly; the lives of many may depend on your ability to do so. You also need to practice proper **study and learning habits** to survive the first academic semester. Expect stiff competition from everyone. Get accustomed to being ―average! Everyone there is just like you: they were outstanding in their high school, they are every bit as motivated and talented as you are. Be friendly and helpful; you are making the best friends you will have for the rest of your life. You NEED each other to survive this experience.

Try to keep a **sense of humor**, but be careful not to let it show at inappropriate times. Remember that the ultimate purpose of this type of training is the development of leadership skills so that you all can become effective members of the Navy team.

Expect to spend most of your weekends studying. Get **extra instruction (EI)** when needed. The staff is required to provide it. If you ask for extra help, you will get it. Don’t be afraid to ask and *don’t* wait until you are behind to ask for help! Remember, Admiral Dewey once said, ―”It is always easier to catch up to the pack if you are not too far behind.”

**PLEBE SUMMER BEGINS WITH INDUCTION DAY (I-DAY**) – All of this may change

It is a very L-O-N-G day of haircuts, shots, picking up clothing, learning to obey orders, to march and to make an acceptable appearance at the induction ceremony that evening in Tecumseh Court (in front of Bancroft Hall). If your Mid has survived the day, and most will, he/she will take the **oath of office** and become a Midshipman in the U.S. Navy. If possible, go to Annapolis the day before Induction Day (no matter what time your mid is to report) so that your Plebe is not exhausted for his/her first day.

If you *have* to choose between going to Annapolis for I-Day in June or Parents’ Weekend in August, no matter what, *GO TO* ***PARENTS’ WEEKEND!*** As hard as it is to put your young civilian on that plane, you really will not see him/her much on I-Day anyway. Plebes will have about 30 minutes of free time after the induction ceremony, and then Plebe Summer gets under way in earnest. It is a good idea to have a small cooler with cold drinks, or just ice water available for after the ceremony and a small sandwich or snack for your plebe. You will be glad you did! Your Mid will probably be thirsty and may have been too stressed to eat much. It is also a good idea to bring a blanket for them (and you – it is a long day for everyone) to sit on while you visit and while they have their snack. The whites need to stay white. Moms – wear minimal make-up. You will cry it off anyway and your Plebe will NOT want it on those new uniforms.

Midshipmen candidates traveling to the Academy by themselves will be met and transported to the Academy. There is usually time for them to call home when they arrive, either from the airport or from the Academy. But whether you say goodbye at the airport or the Academy, you will not see your Mid again for six weeks; so have plenty of tissues on hand. Your next contact will be by phone, but quite possibly not for three weeks. You will receive a mandatory postcard stating that your child is alive; rarely will you get more, for a while.

**Candidates will report to Alumni Hall** at various assigned times during the morning. The line can get horrendously long, but enjoy standing there with your son/daughter. These are your last leisure moments together before the kids are swallowed up by Alumni Hall. It does not matter what they wear to report. The Academy mentions slacks or skirts, but many wear shorts. Just try to be as comfortable as possible. All their civilian clothing they brought with them will be taken away and stored until Parents’ Weekend. They actually need nothing -- not even underwear!!

They have been divided up into companies and platoons by the computer before arriving. The candidates are divided further into squads led by upperclassmen (first class) who take them through dozens of stations. They are **issued all their gear**, from toothbrushes to uniforms; have a **physical exam**; get their **hair cut** (or shorn); and begin the indoctrination process of learning the proper way to address those who outrank them and how to salute. Alumni Hall resembles a mass-production factory on I-Day. After your Mid enters Alumni Hall, you will not see him until the ceremony in the evening. You might hang around the side of Alumni Hall, where you *might* catch a glimpse of him being issued some of his equipment. Civilians walk in the front door and future Midshipmen march out of another, where they board buses and are transported to Bancroft Hall. The candidates are dressed in partial uniform, with a bag over their shoulder, a dixie cup on their head, and a USNA T-shirt and pants that look as if two of them could fit into them. If you wait in the back of Alumni Hall, you might see him/her board the bus. After they’re bussed to their company areas and assigned rooms, they’re with the first class who will lead them through the first half of the summer (upper-class spend the other half of their summer on cruise; halfway through Plebe summer a whole new staff of trainers will arrive. Sometimes this is a relief to the Plebes and sometimes a scarier experience.). During that first day, a lot of time is devoted to the folding and refolding of clothes, and marching - a lot of marching! By this time, it is late afternoon and the candidates form up for their big swearing-in ceremony.

Mids will be allowed to keep their **personal toiletry articles**, but bear in mind, all necessary items will be issued also. Many don’t waste money on a haircut -- everyone gets a haircut on I-Day, no matter what the hair length when they report. Mids will not need an alarm clock during plebe summer. Most use their cell phone or watch after plebe summer.

**Go to T-Court early** (45-60 minutes) **for the ceremony** so you can get close enough to recognize your Mid (remember they will all look alike from afar). Your time is limited with your Mid after the ceremony. Most of them really do have that deer in the headlights look. With so much to do, so much to learn, and so many upper-class to please, it is often overwhelming. Most Plebes collapse into bed at night thinking, ―What am I doing here? That continues to be a question that arises off and on all the way to graduation. Every Mid has wondered that at one time or another. One thing that keeps them going is that they *all* think these thoughts. Company mates support each other and often become best friends for life. **Surviving the Academy is not an individual accomplishment**. Midshipmen work together as a team to overcome their individual weaknesses. What one person cannot deal with alone, a group of roommates or company mates can work out together

**SPONSOR PROGRAM**

The sponsor program’s goal is to provide each incoming midshipman the opportunity to benefit from an informal relationship with members of the Annapolis community. The sponsor program exists not only to support the incoming midshipmen, but also to provide area families an insight into the Academy and the Navy. Sponsors will get to know more about the young men and women who have chosen to serve their country. The sponsor family becomes their home away from home their plebe year. They may visit less frequently in subsequent years as they get more privileges and make more friends. Prospective sponsors must reside within 22 miles of the Naval Academy. It is recommended that each family sponsor at least two midshipmen. Active duty, retired military, and other members of the community are all eligible to become sponsors.

Sponsors have the opportunity to meet their respective midshipmen the Sunday prior to Plebe Parents’ Weekend.

Your Mid's sponsor family will give him/ her a home away from home, where Mids can go whenever they are given liberty (allowed to leave the Yard, or campus grounds). Here they can have privacy, nap, study, eat home-cooked meals, use the phone, listen to music, or just relax and watch TV. In most cases, the sponsor program leads to friendships that last long after midshipmen have graduated.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**SHOPPING**

For items that you might have forgotten, there are several shopping areas in the Parole Area of Annapolis. You can find this area if you go out West Street from the academy and then on to Riva Road or take the Parole or Jennifer Road Exit off of Rt. 50/301. You will find grocery stores as well as department stores.

Most items that your Mids need can be purchased at the fabulous Mid Store.

**VISIT ANNAPOLIS OFTEN**

Spend as many weekends in Annapolis as you can, especially in the fall and winter of Plebe year. You will learn to love it as a second home, and your Mid will appreciate the diversion. Tour the local shops, Malls, and eat at the all-you-can-eat buffets when Yard liberty allows. Dahlgren Hall is a popular meeting place for Mids and their families. The food is good when you cannot get off the Yard and there is always something to do and a place to sit in case someone is held up and you (or your Mid) have to wait.

**Send a Small American Flag**

USNA Parents’ Club of Indiana has provided a flag for your Plebe Summer picnic first care package. A flag is expected, by the upperclassmen, to display on their wall or desk as a sign of their patriotism.



* **Telephone Calls**

During Plebe Summer, Plebes do not rate the use of a phone any time they would like. Two or three weeks into the summer, your Mid will finally be able to call home for the first time. Last year, the academy set up a specific day for the important phone calls home. For the past few years Plebes have been allowed to use their cell phones to call home. The detailers keep them and return them for the phone calls, then collect them again. These calls are often hurried and may be limited in time by the detailer in charge, to give everyone a chance to get through. Mids may also call on a detailer’s phone, so answer any number that comes at the appropriate time.

Don’t ask a lot of questions. Let your Mid do the talking.

**Be supportive when he or she calls!**

They will need unconditional love every time they can manage to call home. When Mids say they have to go, they have to go. Tell them you love them and that if their detailers could do it, they can do it. Remind your Mid that the first three weeks are the hardest and, if you’re going to Parents’ Weekend, that you’ll see him or her soon. Most of all, spend time listening to your Mid. Once Plebe summer is over, your Mid will once again be able to use his/her cell phone as normal.

* **E MAIL**

After Plebe summer, your Mid will be issued a computer and an e-mail address. Plebes will want/need to keep that email for academy use, so they should be sure to keep a personal email address for family correspondence. This is a major blessing, and we wonder how parents got along without it. Once he or she has computer access, you’ll be able to communicate with him or her directly. Make sure the Parents’ Club has your home email address so we can notify you about events and late-breaking news. Just remember, your plebe has precious little time to email, and communications may be short.

* **MAIL Delivery-PLEASE NOTE**

The recommended way to deliver care packages or any other needed supplies to your mid is first class mail. Mail is delivered directly to their box and is easily available for them to pick up. During plebe summer the mail will be picked up by the detailers for your mid. The post office now offers several options of a flat rate priority mail box, any weight, any state, for about $12.00. This is a great option to send for care packages and will hold quite a bit.

**Send lots of Mail, especially Plebe Summer**

There will be no email until Mids are issued their computers after Parents’ Weekend, so you will have to rely on the post office. Generally speaking, letters take 3-5 days to get from Indiana to Annapolis.

Send notes, photographs, postcards, funny stories, newspaper articles, greeting cards, jokes,anything that will lift sagging spirits.

**New midshipman mailing addresses will be issued during Induction Day**

**MIDN “John L. Doe”**

**USNA Class of 2018**

**“X” Company, “Y” Platoon**

**Annapolis, IN 21412**

**After Plebe summer addresses will be as follows:**

**Midn (name)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - Company \_\_\_\_\_**

**P.O. Box\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Annapolis, MD 21412.**

Some Midshipmen may send their address within a day or two to parents unable to attend I-Day.

**Reminder: Mail is read with company and detailers present!**

Provide your Mid with stamps, pre-addressed envelopes and postcards. A few will be in their club care package from the summer plebe picnic. The Academy also issues stationary, envelopes and stamps.

**Care Packages**

The policy on Care packages during Plebe summer has changed from year to year. We have been asked to encourage items that will lift the spirit and to hold back on junk foods that may interfere with a balanced diet. Eventually, your Plebe will make specific requests. One universal request is powdered sports drinks with electrolytes. Others have suggested peanut butter, nuts, raisins or other dried fruits, water-packed tuna, small cans of fruit or pouches of applesauce (remember to send pop-tops when sending any cans).

NOTE: Plebes are not permitted to have soda during the summer. Whatever you send, put the first shipment in a plastic, shoe box sized, container with a tight-fitting lid to discourage critters.(There ARE mice!) You can repackage everything in zip-lock bags in order to get more into the box. The policy for your Mid’s class will be announced on I-Day; we’ll try to keep parents updated.

Once the summer is over, you can send sweets -- homemade cookies, Krispie treats, candy bars. The water in Bancroft is supposed to be hot enough to make Cup o’ Soup or hot chocolate. Many company areas have a microwave oven, but most Plebes won’t venture near it, lest they run into a testy upperclassman, so we would stay away from anything that needs cooking.

Warning: Popcorn and other crispy items wilt rapidly in Maryland’s high humidity. Power bars are good for active Mids the 3500 calories a day may not be enough!

**MIDSHIPMEN LIFE - THE NAVAL ACADEMY EXPERIENCE**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

When your sons and daughters enter the Naval Academy, they become active-duty members of the United States Navy. They are taking the first steps toward joining the greatest naval service in the world and in becoming its future leaders. The Navy has one of the proudest traditions in the nation — one that dates back over 200 years.

At the Naval Academy, your son or daughter will be developed as a leader of character to serve our country for a lifetime. The active-duty service obligation is five years after graduation, but whether your son or daughter remains in uniform for a career or selects some other field of endeavor, he or she will always be recognized as a Naval Academy graduate and a leader of character.

The demanding Naval Academy experience transforms midshipmen into leaders, and that experience includes academic, military, and physical development. A strong emphasis on moral-ethical development undergirds all activity in each developmental area.

You can be enormously proud of the accomplishments of your midshipmen. The Naval Academy is extremely selective, bringing in only the most promising young men and women. They are all bright, eager, and enthusiastic, and all demonstrate leadership potential. They are among the finest young men and women in America, and we are proud that they have chosen to come to the Naval Academy

**Tell Them How Proud You Are**

When your mid calls home, share the happy news. Tell him how great he is, how much you love him, and to hang in there! Support from home and family is a great morale booster.

By the end of May, your 4th Class will be a man/woman of honor and integrity, one who can think fast, move fast, memorize, organize, take orders, and accept responsibility with a sense of spirit and pride. You will then realize the system is there for a purpose and it works.

Be proud in knowing that your son or daughter has overcome very long odds to gain an appointment to the United States Naval Academy

**Go Nav*y! Beat Army!***

**Go *Plebes!***

**Don’t Miss -------Plebe Parents’ Weekend**

Parents’ Weekend in August is a definite ―Don’t Miss! If you haven’t already made your reservation, do it NOW! Rooms fill up fast for these big weekends. Hotels in Annapolis charge FULL rates for big USNA weekends; search outside the city limits for better bargains, especially if you need multiple rooms, multiple nights. Enjoy a USNA-hosted weekend designed especially for YOU.

You will receive a schedule of events from the Academy. Dress for the weekend is casual. Dining in King Hall, the parents’ forum, and church would rate skirts and slacks. The weather is usually quite hot and humid (all cotton clothing and sunscreen recommended). Be sure to bring rain gear and umbrellas just in case you need them.

There are always large crowds, traffic congestion, and parking problems. For the day’s activities, there might be shuttles running from the stadium to the Yard. You might want to consider parking there and taking the shuttle to the Yard — or just arrive very early. Allow plenty of time for commuting to special events, and especially for returning your mid at the end of any period of liberty.

**THERE ARE NO EXCUSES FOR TARDINESS!!!**

Registration for parents usually begins Thursday afternoon. Consult your schedule that you receive in the mail. All events and times are scheduled to change from year to year. The following information is based on schedules from prior years.

Plebes will not be free until about noon on Friday. However, if you arrive in time on Thursday, ask about drill practice. It is held at Worden Field around 1530, and if you are strategically located for march-on and march-off, you might catch a glimpse of your Mid. Yes, they all look alike, but you can always pick out your own. . .eventually.

You will want to see the noon meal formation on Tecumseh Court in front of Bancroft Hall. Mids usually have town liberty immediately following noon meal formation until midnight. They will meet you along Stribling Walk in front of Bancroft Hall by the standards bearing the first letter of your last name (same as I-Day) -- or elsewhere if you arrange for it ahead of time.

Your Mid will probably want to head straight to a fast-food restaurant. Scope these out ahead of time. Remember let your Mid take the lead and don’t make a lot of plans—wait for your Mid to tell you what he or she wants to do. On Saturday morning parents and guests may get to tour Bancroft Hall and visit your Midshipmen’s room. This is one of the few times visitors may be allowed

beyond the public areas, so do not pass up this rare opportunity.

There will be a formal dress parade around 1000, with liberty beginning after Noon Meal Formation. Liberty generally expires at midnight on both Friday and Saturday.

On Sunday, liberty will begin again for plebes at a time to be determined, but you can meet earlier in the Yard and attend chapel services together. Check your Parents’ Weekend schedule — there is usually breakfast somewhere on the Yard. You may need advance tickets. Sunday liberty has expired at 1900 in the past. Leaving your son/daughter at the end of Parents’ Weekend will be an emotional experience for everyone. Tissue time again. Expect to be very sad and down for the next few days. Visit the Thornton photo website and look for Waldo to catch a glimpse of your mid. New photos are posted all through plebe summer.

Many other activities are also available, so check the official program you receive in the mail or when you arrive. The above times have been followed in previous years and are only a guide.

**YOUR MID WILL ALWAYS KNOW WHEN HE/SHE MUST REPORT BACK!**

**Do not try to schedule anything in advance for your mid’s free time. He/she may just want to sleep. Doing nothing, staying in a hotel room watching TV, or swimming will be a treat.** You may notice a big change from the moods you used to see. Some talk nonstop about everything they are experiencing and others just try to block it out. Oftentimes, you will find that you have adopted another plebe or two (someone whose parents were unable to be there) who will certainly appreciate your kindness.

**Alumni Advice**

**“The chain of command**

**does not include**

**your mother**

**or**

**your congressman!”**

*Reprinted with permission from “The Georgia Gouge”*

**Rules and Regulations**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Liberty and Leave** Plebes may leave the Academy only while on town liberty or during leave periods. Saturdays, after football games, and Sundays on three-day week-ends have recently been liberty periods, but these rules are at the discretion of the administration, **so they may change**. All liberty and leave is dependent upon a Plebe's being in good standing.

**Yard Liberty** Plebes may escort during yard liberty on weekends and holidays and prior to 1730 on weeknights; escorting privileges are limited to parents, guardians, immediate family, close relatives, or family friends. They are authorized use of the Officer’s Club only as guest of a member, parents, or sponsors. They can invite you as a parent to a noon or evening meal in King Hall, scheduled sporting events, musical productions, etc. Plebes may spend the day with sponsors or catch a bus out to the Annapolis Mall to eat, shop or see a movie. They must stay within a 22-mile radius of the Academy.

**Weekend Liberty** Liberty with no mileage limits and no military obligations associated; i.e., taps, meal , etc. **Usually does not apply to Plebes**, but may be granted on special occasions.

**Wearing of Civilian Clothing** Plebes must remain in uniform at all times, except when in the homes of parents, guardians, or USNA approved sponsors. Plebes are not allowed to keep civilian clothes in their rooms.

**Operating and Keeping Cars** Plebes are **not allowed** to drive or keep cars at the Academy. They can ride in private autos when accompanied or driven by parents, guardians, USNA **approved s**ponsors, staff, faculty members, or when escorting to a formal dance, play, or concert in the yard.

**Social Life** The social life of a Plebe can be defined by two words, **slim** and **non-existent.** A big Saturday night for most Plebes is getting a pizza with other Plebes and going to see a movie in town, or visiting with their sponsor family, or their own, should you be lucky enough to be in town!

Intra-brigade dating (between male and female midshipmen) is not very common and dating between Plebes and upperclassmen is strictly forbidden. A few Mids are able to maintain a relationship with the girlfriend or boyfriend back home (known as The 2% Club). Maintaining this type of relationship is difficult and adds an extra burden to the life of the Mids.

**Alcohol & Drugs** As a future naval officer, a Midshipman at the Naval Academy is supposed to learn to drink in a responsible way, if at all, and to shun illegal drugs entirely. Normally, Plebes are not allowed to consume alcoholic beverages except when of legal age **and** on leave away from the Academy. An upper class Midshipman may drink moderately if he/she is the minimum legal age for drinking in the state, 21 in Maryland. The use of illegal drugs is strictly forbidden and results in expulsion from the Academy. Midshipmen are subject to random drug testing through urinalysis, consistent with Navy-wide policies and procedures.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Midshipmen’s Responsibilities**

* Midshipmen will conduct themselves properly at all times, observing the customs and traditions of the Naval Service.
* Plebes will **NOT** consume alcohol, regardless of their age. The only exception is if they are on leave and have attained the legal drinking age of 21. Upperclass Midshipmen cannot drink, including non-alcoholic beer, unless they are over 21.
* Plebes are authorized to attend Sunday worship services in the Annapolis area. They must return to the Academy immediately following the service.
* Any involvement in hazardous activities such as scuba diving, hang gliding, etc., needs approval from their Battalion Officer via their Company Officer.
* Midshipmen will not visit off limit establishments.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Plebe Year**

**When the highest become the lowest**

Your high-school valedictorian thinks he hit bottom during Plebe summer, but some feel that the Plebe year is more demanding yet. Once the Brigade returns following Parents’ Weekend, there are as many as three upperclassmen for each plebe, and the difference is very intimidating.

During the Academic Year, a typical day begins with Plebe wake-up between 0530 and 0630, usually before the upper class get up. Plebes need to read and be conversant with their newspaper articles, to memorize menus, professional topics, and a good deal more. At around 0630 they will probably have their come around of the day with a youngster or second class, who will go over professional topics. Morning quarters formation is at 0700 for the entire company; breakfast is shortly afterwards, and the first academic class starts at 0755. There are four class periods in the morning, the last one ending at 1145. After this period, they will probably have a chow call, which means standing in a prearranged spot in the company area and yelling at the top of their lungs, an example follows:

“Sir! you now have ten minutes until noon meal

formation. Noon meal formation goes outside. The

uniform for noon meal formation is winter working

blues, stripers carry swords. The menu for noon meal is:

tuna salad sandwich kit

sweet pickle chips

cheese doodles

mayonnaise, sliced tomato, lettuce, and onion

white bread

Lady Baltimore layer cake

iced tea with lemon wedges, milk

The officers of the watch are:

the Command Duty Officer is Lt. (name),

1st Company Officer;

The officer of the watch is Midshipman Lt. (name),

Brigade Assistant Operations Officer.

The professional topic of the week is Naval Aviation.

The major events in the yard today are:

0800 Blood drive on deck 4-0

1600 Mens’ water polo vs. Army, LeJeune Hall

1900 Company Officers’ time

You now have 10 minutes -- **SIR!**”

As the Plebe is loudly yelling this, he is typically surrounded by several second class who are just waiting for him to make an error. Following this five-minute chow call (and there *is* a ten-minute call), they chop to formation in the center of the passageway, eyes straight ahead, squaring all corners with a loud **GO NAVY, SIR!** or **BEAT ARMY, SIR!** As a result of all this yelling, don’t be alarmed at your Plebe’s hoarse voice when he calls home often referred to as the plebe hack.

All through lunch, the Plebe keeps his eyes in the boat, serves the upper class, responds to all their questions, speaks only when spoken to, and eats only one bite at a time. After taking a bite, he places the utensil on the plate and the hand goes back into the lap. Each table is set for twelve Mids in the squad. After serving seconds, the Plebe can request permission to shove off and if granted, he returns to his room.

Afternoon meal, there are two more classes, which end at 1520. Non-varsity athletes march in parades and play intramural sports during the fall and spring. Varsity athletes practice every day of the week and are exempt from marching in the parades when their sport is in season.

Evening meals are served between 1700 and 1900. Most meals are mandatory and the entire company will dine together. Evening meal is followed by a study hour at 2030. Plebe taps are 2300 and upper class taps are 2400, with a muster each night. Plebe rooms are usually inspected daily and formal inspections (white glove and black sock) are conducted approximately twice each semester.

On the weekends, Plebes may have town liberty. They may have Yard liberty from noon meal to evening meal formation on Sundays. Plebes who make the Superintendents’ List at the end of the first semester may rate one weekend liberty during the second semester. (These rules are subject to change.)

For the Plebes, the hassles continue all the way through the first and second semesters. When Navy beats Army in football, carry on is usually granted until Christmas leave. This means that many restrictions are eliminated for example, Plebes may be able to sleep when they want to, even during the day! Periodically through the academic year, rumors circulate that maybe they can have stereos or their rates will be changed, but the privileges never come until after final exams.

“Herndon is the big event for Plebes. Upperclassmen coat the 21’ monument with 200 lbs of lard and place a dixie cup cover on the top. The Plebes must work together to replace the dixie cup with a Midshipman’s cover. The successful Plebe is rewarded and tradition holds that the Mid will be the first in the class to make Admiral; it has yet to come true! But the one thing all the Plebes look forward to the most is the end of the Plebe year is when the shout

**PLEBES NO MORE!!!!** can be heard after the Herndon climb.

**General Info**

***Choosing a major that one has a passion for is very important — one that helps the Mid stay motivated...***

**ACADEMICS**

Academics are the key to a Mid’s success, especially since everything is based on merit. Studies are very demanding, and after getting A’s in high school, getting a D or failing an exam can be quite a shock. Choosing a major that one has a passion for is very important, one that helps the Mid stay motivated even while studying long hours and on weekends.

If you can validate a course during Plebe summer you will be able to move ahead or take more advanced courses. All the Mids are assigned academic counselors, who will help them select the best course offerings. Towards the end of Plebe Year, the Mids make their selections from the nineteen majors, with the help of their academic and military advisors.

Since the Naval Academy is such a concentrated four-year program, if someone falls behind academically, it is likely the Mid will be forced to resign. A minimum course load is 15 hours per semester and a 2.0 GPA is required to graduate. Some courses may be available during summer school for make-up and/or enrichment, but for some it is too little, too late. Extra instruction (EI) is available to all Mids. It is said that everyone who receives an appointment should be able to conquer the academics if they really try, and the professors and officers want to help everyone succeed. Small classes offer a definite learning advantage, but if you go to class unprepared your lack of preparedness will not go unnoticed.

**ACADEMY HONOR ROLL**

There are three honors lists.

Superintendent's List SQPR of at least 3.4 with an: A in military performance and Conduct ` A or B in physical ed. and in Physical Readiness Test. No D’s , F’s or I’s in any course

Dean’s List– SQPR of at least 3.4 with no D’s, F’s or I’s in any course

Commandant’s List– SQPR of at least 2.9

**ACADEMIC BOARDS**

A cumulative quality point average (CQPA) below 2.0 is considered unsatisfactory (UNSA) and requires a Midshipman to appear before the academic board (ACBOARD). Also an F in certain subjects or a D in mandatory summer school requires an appearance before the board, even though the Mid’s CQPA is 2.0 or above.

Any Midshipman going before the academic board is considered already officially separated from the Academy, so he/she is trying to convince the board to retain him/her.

The academic board convenes at the end of each semester and at the end of summer school. The Superintendent and the Commandant are permanent members, while the other members rotate. A Mid’s company officer appears with the Mid before the board, and he may speak for or against re-admission, as may also any other officer or faculty member.

Since it takes so long to review all the cases each semester, Mids may have to return early from Christmas break or end-of-semester break to appear before the academic board. Those who must return early for such appearances are notified by telephone.

While 2.0 remains the official limit for UNSAT, a recent regulation denies weekends to any Mid with a CQPA below a 2.0, with two D’s, or with one F.

***Any Midshipman going before the board is considered already officially separated from the Academy.***

**PHYSICAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Prior to graduation, each Mid must jump from the ten-meter tower into a pool in Lejeune Hall, while wearing the khaki uniform. This emergency training is very necessary, as it simulates an abandon-ship maneuver. If the Mid can’t do it, he won’t graduate and will be separated from the Academy.

The Obstacle (O) course and the Readiness Test (PRT) must also be completed within specific limits each semester. The PRT includes a 1.5 mile run, pushups, and plank..

A significant emphasis is placed upon all sports. As a result, general physical fitness continues to be important to the Mids throughout their lives.

***...this emergency training is very necessary, as it simulates an abandon-ship maneuver.***

**FINANCES**

Your Plebe was sent a "Permit to Report" packet; this contains the most up-to-date-information about pay, costs, extra expenses, etc. Do read it carefully! Extra help is (usually) available on the Academy website, www.usna.edu. The Commandant's office will also help.

Pay increases yearly; some expenses are deducted from each paycheck, most in the first two years. Pay will not cover everything, though, and Mids need money from home to cover club fees, donations, extras, etc.

**MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES**

Contrary to popular opinion, an education at the USNA is not free. There are many hidden costs. Even if we disregard the fact that each graduate incurs a five-year military obligation at sub-civilian pay, an Academy education is by no means free. In literature which the Academy sends out, prospective Mids are cautioned that if they have to rely solely on their Midshipman's pay, they will not be able to do many things which most other Midshipmen do. Here is a list of expenses that parents may expect to incur during their Mid’s four years at the Academy (these may change from year to year):

Entrance fee

CARE packages,

Cell phone

Travel & motels,

Subscriptions & dues,

Mid pocket money,

Class Ring ($$$$)

Car and insurance

Insurance on belongings

House rental for Commissioning Week.

Other Commissioning Week expenses

Graduation gifts

ETC., ETC, ETC……………………………

**CREDIT CARDS**

First, second, and third class mids can receive from either the Navy Federal Credit Union or the USAA (United Services Automobile Association) a VISA credit card with a $500 limit. With no annual fee and an annual interest of about 10%, these credit cards are cheaper than those from hometown banks. It might be a good idea for them to have one for the summer following their plebe year because they will travel for several weeks. This could be handy if there is something they need and do not have cash available.

**HEALTHCARE**

Only healthy civilians become Mids at the Naval Academy. Notwithstanding, Bancroft Hall is equipped with a medical and dental center that can handle most common health situations. Midshipmen diagnosed as being too sick to participate in the activities at the Naval Academy (e.g., pneumonia) are confined to their rooms. The Mid however, is called down to the medical center once a day to be seen by the medical staff. Even while the Mids are ill, they are usually given permission to attend classes, but only if they feel well enough to do so. The Mid’s roommate is responsible for bringing meals to the sick Mid. The medical staff are the ones who determine when the Mid is well enough to resume participation in all activities. More serious cases are sent to Bethesda Naval Hospital.

***Even when Mids are ill, they are usually given permission to attend classes...***

**MEDICAL CARE**

Unfortunately on rare occasions, Midshipmen become ill or injured while enrolled at the Academy. In some cases, the Mid may be separated from the Academy as a result of that injury or illness. Technically, according to the Dept. of the Navy, Mids at the Academy are not considered to be on active duty status (they are active duty reserve). Therefore, Mids are not entitled to the same paid medical care, rehabilitative services, retirement, or disability payments that are available to those on active duty. However, in the event of separation from the Academy due to illness or injury, the Midshipman may apply to the Veteran’s Administration for healthcare services. The policy of the VA is that it will provide care for the reason for which the Midshipman was separated from the Academy. The best advice is: if you have medical coverage for your Mid, KEEP IT. If you don’t have it or have allowed it to lapse, REINSTATE IT.

***"Best advice"***

***If you have medical insurance for your Mid,***

***KEEP IT.***

***If you don't, GET IT.***

***If it's lapsed, REINSTATE IT!***

**LEAVE AND TRANSPORTATION**

SATO Leisure Travel Office, located on the Academy grounds, is easily accessible to Midshipmen. The phone number is (410) 280-9755. Seeing that this is not a high priority for most Mids, it will likely be easier to book the flights yourself. The staff at the travel office is well aware of the Mids’ schedules and will assist you in making the proper arrangements. Southwest Airlines has reasonable flight rates, with no problems canceling, for any reason.

Midshipmen should allow themselves enough time to travel during holiday leave periods and should factor in probable delays. This is where the travel office can be very helpful. Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) Airport is the most convenient for flights into and out of the Annapolis area. Dulles Airport and Washington National Airport are two other local area airports, though not as convenient as BWI.

**SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Summer School** - is available after each year, whether it is used for those who want to get ahead of their matrix or those who are required to retake a course.

**Special Cruises** - Instead of taking a regular 3/C or 1/C cruise, Mids can take foreign-exchange cruises with other Navy’s around the world. There are also yawl cruises, in which Mids sail to Bermuda and up and down the east coast.

**Airborne Training** - Mids go through airborne training at the Academy in the spring and are then screened for Airborne School at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Here they go through an intense three-week course, culminating in five static-line jumps before receiving their coveted jump wings. (Currently not funded.)

**Mini-Buds School** - After a screener on the Yard, a few selected individuals go to the physically demanding school in Coronado, CA, which is a training school for the elite Navy Seal Team.

**Scuba School** - After a screening process at the Academy, Mids are able to go to a rigorous scuba school and receive military qualification as a scuba diver.

**MILITARY TRAVEL**

The cheapest way for a Mid to travel is through Space Available or MAC flights flown by the Air Force and Navy. These free flights are offered to all active-duty and reserve personnel of the armed forces on a space-available basis. There are two bases relatively close to the Academy: Andrews AFB, southeast of Washington DC, and Dover, Delaware, about an hour and a half away. The downside to space available flights is that sometimes (rarely) one might have to wait several days to catch a flight! Therefore, these flights are only recommended when one has plenty of time. Dover is the best to travel to Europe and California (Travis AFB in Sacramento). Andrews has both Air Force and Navy Space Available Terminals and they have several daily flights to many of the larger military bases around the country. If one doesn’t mind waiting and possibly sleeping in chairs (unless rooms are available at the BOQ), space available flights can save hundreds of dollars. It’s a great way to get home and a good way to travel to foreign destinations while on leave. Mids must travel in uniform on military flights and minimal luggage is allowed, as weight is limited on various aircraft.

**THE BRIGADE**

Congress determines the number of Midshipmen allowed at the Academy each year. It is always around 4,400, counting the Plebes. The Brigade is divided into two regiments, six battalions, and thirty companies.

Approximately 40 Mids from each of the four classes make up a Company. The First Class (1/C or Firsties) lead the company and report directly to the company officer. The company officer is usually a lieutenant in the Navy or a major in the Marine Corps. The Second Class (2/C) are in charge of Fourth Class (4/C or Plebe) development. The Third Class (3/C or Youngsters) help the Plebes learn their rates and are usually much more supportive than the Second Class. The 2/C are not known for their Plebe compassion. The Plebes are learning about the Navy, how to perform under pressure and making the transformation from high-school students into future military officers.

Since the Academy recognizes that most Mids originally aren’t sure of their best career choice, they do not have a service commitment until they start their Second-Class year. Each Mid will be committing him or herself to serving as an officer, for five years after graduation or after earning naval aviator wings.

**PARADES AND FORMATION**

Formations are held twice each day before meals. Formations are outside when weather permits and conclude with everyone marching into Bancroft Hall.

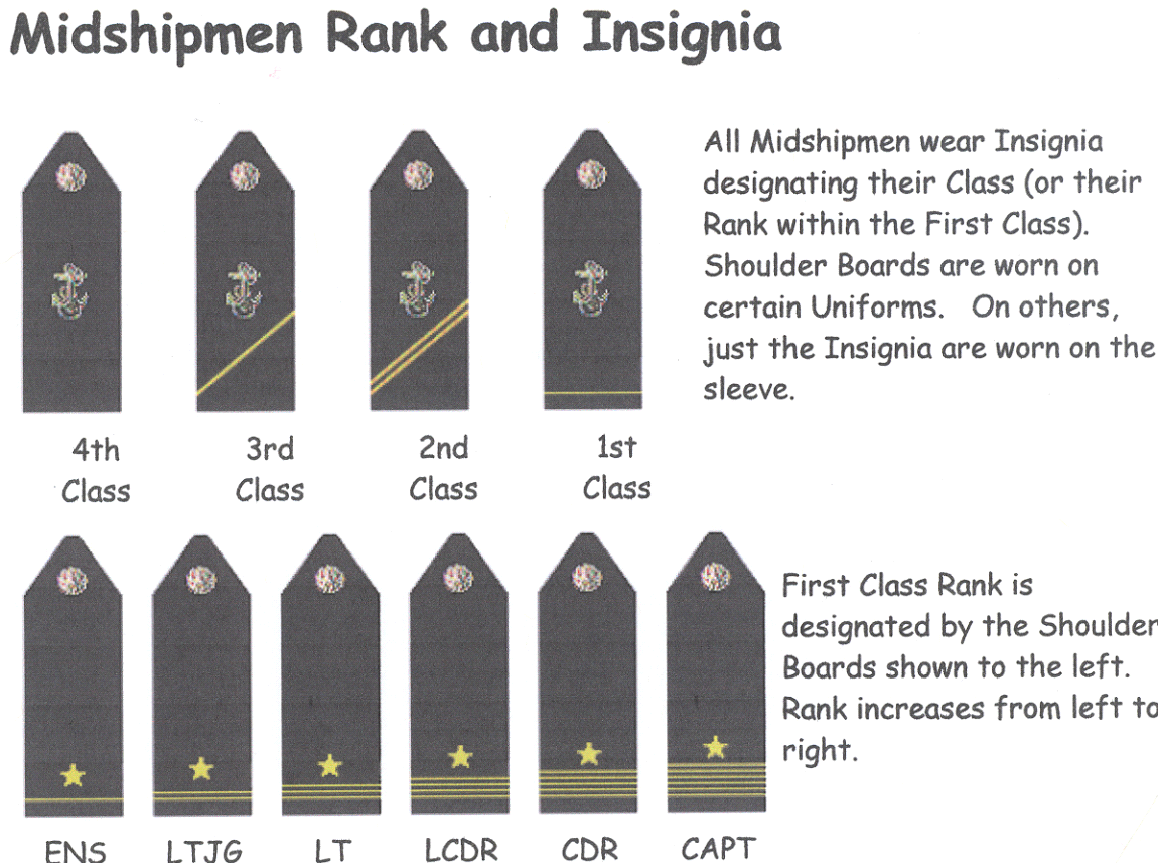
During the fall and spring seasons, Parades take place on Worden Field every Wednesday afternoon. Moreover, the Brigade marches on before every home football game and at the Army/Navy game, wherever it is played. The Dedication Parade takes place before Herndon and the Color Parade the day before graduation, during Commissioning Week.

**COLOR COMPANY**

A Color Company is determined each year and all thirty companies participate in a point-system competition, which continues throughout the year, until commissioning. Points are accumulated for performance in academics, sports, parades, and military activities. The winner becomes what is called the Color Company. With this honor, there is added responsibility and certain privileges that are awarded and are recognized during Commissioning Week. At the Color Parade during Commissioning Week, when the results of the year-long competition are announced, a friend or fiancée, designated Color Honoree, of the winning company’s Company Commander, transfers the flag from the old Color Company to the new company.

**KNOW YOUR SHOULDER BOARDS**

As you wander The Yard on I-Day, be prepared to recognize all the different shoulder boards that you will see. You will be impressed by the numbers of upperclassmen that you see at the Academy, they will all be involved in the training of your Plebe.



Don't give up the ship!

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

There are many activities available to the Midshipmen. Every Mid should be able to find something of interest. The activities range from scuba diving to photography and rock band to chapel choirs to volunteering. While many activities are geared to academic interests, others are just for fun. If a Mid can’t find something of interest, he can get some people together and start a group. ECA’s are a necessary break from the Academy routine. These activities help Mids develop talents, explore interests, and serve the community.

During the first semester of 2/C year, approximately fifteen competitively selected Mids participate in an exchange program with their counterparts at the three other service academies. They continue their regular schooling in their new setting — while maintaining Navy loyalty, of course.

During Plebe year, the Alumni Association contacts families to request a monetary pledge, payable over a four-year period, to help defray the cost of some programs like the ones listed above. They recommend $250.00 a quarter for a total of $4,000.00 over the next four years; however, whatever the family can afford is much appreciated.

**YOUNGSTER YEAR**

After Plebe year, during which they got way too much attention (just ask them ☺), Youngsters suddenly feel ignored. And indeed they are, because Youngsters have a less demanding role at the Academy. The First Class run the Brigade; the Second Class trains the Plebes, and the Fourth Class struggles to learn the ropes. But the Third Class members have fewer responsibilities and get a chance to focus on academics.

Parents can help their Mid fight these Youngster “blahs” by continuing to send frequent CARE packages and mail from home, just as in Plebe year. Parents should also encourage their Youngsters to take advantage of this lull in responsibility to concentrate on academics and to get their grades up.

**YOUNGSTER CRUISE**

Probably the most exciting part of Youngster year is the Youngster cruise, which takes place in the summer following Plebe year. (Each summer belongs to the academic year that follows, not precedes it, just as Plebe summer is part of Plebe year.)

Youngster summer consists of a fleet cruise and a training block at the Academy. The Academy training is typically a Yard Patrol (YP) cruise or administering Summer Seminar. Their summer leave varies according to the scheduling of each of these blocks.

**ANNAPOLIS AREA LODGING**

(Just a few to consider)

**Best Western Loews Annapolis Hotel**

2520 Riva Road 126 West Street

(410) 224-2800 412 / 263-7777

(within walking distance to USNA)

**Comfort Inn Marriott Annapolis Waterfront**

76 Old Mill Bottom Road North 80 Compromise Street

(410) 757-8500 888 / 773-0786

(within walking distance to USNA)

**Country Inn and Suites**

2600 Housely Road **Radisson Hotel**

(410) 571-6700 210 Holiday Court

(410) 224-3150

**Courtyard by Marriott**

2559 Riva Road **Residence Inn by Marriott**

(410) 266-1555 170 Admiral Cochran Drive

(410) 573-0300

**Hampton Inn**

124 Womack Drive **Super 8 Motel**

(410) 571-0200 74 Old Mill Bottom Road North

(410) 757-2222

**Historic Inns of Annapolis**

58 State Circle

(410) 263-2641

(within walking distance to USNA)

**U. S. NAVAL ACADEMY CHAPEL**

**(410) 293-1100**

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Catholic** | **Protestant** | **Jewish (Friday)** |
| **9:00 a.m.** | **11:00 a.m.** | **7:15 p.m.** |

There are several other services for Catholics and Protestants, as well as Muslim, Eastern Orthodox and Christian Scientist services available for the Mids.

**BED AND BREAKFAST ACCOMMODATIONS**

**Ark & Dove College House Suites**

149 Prince George Street One College Ave

(410) 268-6277 (410) 263-6124

**Doll’s House Flag House Inn**

161 Green Street 26 Randall St

(410) 263-9750 (410) 280-2721

**Gatehouse Georgian House**

249 Hanover Street 170 Duke of Gloucester St

(410) 280-0024 (410) 263-5618

**Gibson’s Lodgings Inn at Hornpoint**

110 Prince George Street 100 Chesapeake Ave

(410) 268-5555 (410) 268-1126

**Scotlaur Inn**

165 Main Street

(410) 268-5665



**The Prayer of a Midshipman**

Almighty God, whose way is in the sea, whose paths are in the great waters,

Whose command is over all and whose love never faileth: Let me be aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and in deed, and helping me so to live that I can stand unashamed and unafraid Before my shipmates, my loved ones and Thee.

Protect those in whose love I live. Give me the will to do my best and to accept my share of responsibilities with a strong heart and cheerful mind. Make me considerate of those entrusted to my leadership and faithful to the duties my country has entrusted to me.

Let my uniform remind me daily of the traditions of the service of which I am a part.

If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; If I am tempted, make me strong to resist;

If I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again. Guide me with the light of truth and give me strength to faithfully serve Thee, now and always.

Amen

**ANNAPOLIS AREA CHURCHES**

(Please call the church of your choice for service hours.)

**AME CHRISTIAN SCIENCE APOSTOLIC**

Mt. Moriah Ame Church Antioch Apostolic

2204 Bay Ridge Avenue 1535 Ritchie Highway

(410) 263-8562 (410) 757-5000

**BAPTIST CATHOLIC**

Heritage Baptist Church St. Mary’s

1740 Forest Drive 109 Duke of Gloucester St

(410) 267-0848 (410) 263-2396

**CHARISMATIC CHRISTIAN SCIENCE**

Annapolis Christian Fellowship First Church of Christ Scientist

923 Windsor Road Maryland & Prince George Streets

(410) 268-5589 (410) 263-2580

**EASTERN ORTHODOX EPISCOPAL**

St. Constantine & St. Helen St. Anne’s Church

4 Constitution Avenue 199 Duke of Gloucester St

(410) 263-2550 (410) 267-9333

**JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES JEWISH**

Jehovah’s Witnesses of Annapolis Kneseth Israel Congregation

65 Tarragon Lane 1125 Spa Road

(410) 266-8067 (410) 263-3924

**LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMON) LUTHERAN (LCMS)**

Church of Jesus Christ St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

1875 Ritchie Highway 31 Rowe Blvd

(410) 263-2550 (410) 268-2400

**METHODIST NAZARENE**

Asbury United Methodist Church of the Nazarene

87 West Street 1308 Bay Ridge Ave

(410) 268-9500 (410) 263-2183

**PRESBYTERIAN PRESBYTERIAN**

Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Annapolis First Presbyterian Church

710 Ridgely Avenue 144 Conduit St

(410) 266-8090 (410) 267-8705

**SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST UNITARIAN**

Beacon Light Seventh Day Adventist Church Unitarian Church of A.A. Count

1943 Drew Street 333 Dubois Rd

(410) 268-8436 (410) 266-8044

**ANNAPOLIS AREA RESTAURANTS**

**Adam’s Rib Buddy’s Crabs and Ribs**

589 Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard 100 Main St

Severna Park (410) 626-1100

(410) 647-5757

**Café Normandie Cantler’s Riverside Inn**

185 Main Street 458 Forest Beach Rd

(410) 263-3382 (410) 757-1311

**Chart House Chick & Ruth’s Deli**

300 2nd Street 165 Main St

(410) 268-7166 (410) 269-6737

**The Corinthian Fred’s Tiffany Room**

Loews Annapolis Hotel 2348 Solomon’s Island Rd

126 West Street (410) 841-6890

(410) 295-3232

**Fuddruckers Griffins**

175 Jennifer Road 22 Market Space

(410) 266-8030 (410) 268-2576

**Harry Browne’s Iron Rooster**

66 State Circle 12 Market Space

(410) 263-4332 (410) 990-1600

**LaPiccola Roma Lewnes Steak House**

200 Main Street 401 4th St

(410) 268-7898 (410) 263-1617

**McGarvey’s Saloon and Oyster Bar Maria’s Sicilian Ristorante**

8 Market Space 12 Market Space

(410) 263-5700 (410) 268-2112

**Middleton Tavern Northwoods**

2 Market Space 609 Melvin Ave

(410) 263-3323 (410) 268-2609

**O’Leary’s Ram’s Head Tavern**

310 3rd Street 33 West Street

(410) 263-0884 (410) 268-4545

**Riordan’s Saloon Treaty of Paris - Maryland Inn**

26 Market Space 16 Church Circle

(410) 263-5449 (410) 216-6240

***These are just a few of the favorite spots to dine. There are many more great restaurants in Annapolis and surrounding areas. HINT: Try and make reservations whenever possible.***

**CARE PACKAGES DELIVERED**

**FRESH TO BANCROFT HALL**

Care packages from home are very important to our Mids. However, if time is running short, or you are just not into that baking thing, there are several alternatives you might like to consider.

***The Cookie Factory*** — Calvary United Methodist Church — (410) 268-1776

Youth will bake chocolate chip cookies and deliver them to the Academy at the cost of about $2.50 per dozen. Deliveries are made eight times during the academic year on a Saturday afternoon.

***Sandi’s Flower Shop*** — (888) 474-3597

[Theshop@sandisflowershop.com](mailto:Theshop@sandisflowershop.com) Family owned business – USNA Mid Mom. Deliver to the Academy daily. Located right outside Gate 3 at 260 King George Street.

***Drydock Restaurant*** — (410) 293-2434

Located in Dahlgren Hall. You can purchase gift certificates for your Mid. Open to the public 7 days a week from 8 am to 10pm. During summer months, hours may vary.

***Yum Yum Club***————- (800) 805-2339

Family Business run by USNA Sponsors Carter and Wayne Rardon. Delivered to the Yard.

***Graul’s Market***————-(888) 289-1477 or (410) 974-0737

Tailgate specials, survival kit, non-food packages, great cakes and custom packages delivered to the yard.

**GO NAVY—BEAT ARMY!**

**SUGGESTED READING**

**TRIDENT**—A weekly publication, the TRIDENT is the Naval Academy and Annapolis complex weekly military newspaper. Published 44 weeks each year, it is filled with information about the Academy, stories about Midshipmen, Navy athletics, academics and much more. Although free of charge on the Academy grounds and in the Annapolis area, you may order a subscription and have it delivered to your home. Subscription rates are $28.00 / year for 3rd class mailing and $80.00 / year for 1st class mailing. To order, send your name, address and daytime telephone number, along with a check (if using Visa or MasterCard, send your account number, expiration date and signature) to: Trident Subscription Office, Comprint Military Publications, 9030 Comprint Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

**BRIEF POINTS**, An almanac for Parents and Friends of the USNA Midshipmen

By Ross MacKenzie

Award winning journalist Ross MacKenzie has written this handy little reference for relatives and friends of the Naval Academy Midshipmen. As the father of two Midshipmen, he knows the questions most commonly asked and answers them in a relaxed style that both informs and entertains. The book’s title recalls the Midshipman’s own manual, Reef Points extending its concept for those wanting practical information about the Academy, the Navy and Annapolis. Assuming the reader has little or no knowledge of the subject, this guide serves as a useful introduction to Academy life, allowing families to share productively in the Midshipman experience. A brief history of the Academy, a midshipman profile, academics, athletics, and military training are among the topics discussed. A glossary defines a multiplicity of naval acronyms, terms and slang unfamiliar to most outsiders.

**THE INSIDERS’ GUIDE TO ANNAPOLIS AND CHESAPEAKE BAY**—A quarterly publication and free of charge, you’ll find helpful information on activities and events in the Annapolis and Chesapeake Bay area. Each issue includes a full calendar of events; visitor, restaurant, lodging, entertainment and shopping information; as well as various articles to include The United States Naval Academy.

**The Insiders’ Guide to Annapolis**

**and Chesapeake Bay**

512 Sixth Street

Annapolis, MD 21403

301 / 263-6300

***\*\*\*\*\*\*Ship, Shipmate, Self\*\*\*\*\*\****

A NOTE TO PLEBE PARENTS

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

We want to know: what is your Mid’s Plebe summer company? Is he or she a prior enlisted? NAPSter? Likely varsity athlete? Does he or she have special aptitudes or accomplishments that will influence his or her career at USNA (such as: pilot’s license, HS crew team, etc.)? Once into Plebe summer, if he/she shares with you any funny/amazing/inspiring story that can be shared with the membership, send it along. (We will print only your name and your Mid’s name, and **that only with permission**.)

*Everyone* compares Plebe summer and the following year to a roller-coaster ride; that’s because it’s the best comparison! We are here to help take the fear out of the free-falls and to help you breathe during the ride. We know it’s scary, but we also know that, for your Mid *and for you*, there’s a wonderful sense of accomplishment and mastery by the time Herndon rolls around. And, if my son is anyone to go by (and I think he is), more of it than you probably think possible, is fun!

So please don’t be shy about sharing news. Look at it this way: in this company, how could anyone accuse you of bragging? And the more we all know you and your Mid, the better able we are to share and to support.

Best of luck to the Class of 2024!

*Go Navy!*

***To Be A Good Naval Academy Mother:***

is to know **FEAR**—there is so much that is mystery at USNA

is to know **PRIDE**—that one so young will aspire to such noble calling

is to know **UNCERTAINTY**—why hasn’t he/she called

is to know **GRATITUDE**—that a sponsor family will take him/her in and trust him so well

is to know **JOY**—he/she likes it and is doing well

is to know **DESPAIR**—he/she is on restriction

is to know **FRIENDSHIP**—other **USNA** families who share your feelings and see you through

is to know **FAITH**—there is someone other than you working in your child’s life

is to know **AGONY**—his/her friend was separated

is to know **THRILL**—catching a glimpse of him/her in parade or march on

is to know **PERSERVERANCE**—the Dark Ages can’t last forever

is to know **SUPPORT**—his/her roommate’s mother, whom you never met, writes regularly

is to know **ANGER**—why does he/she have watch on the day you can visit?

is to know **PATRIOTISM**—spend an hour in Memorial Hall and read all the names marked

***A Midshipmen’s Mom***

**A MESSAGE TO PLEBE PARENTS**

Question: How do you spell relief?

Answer: With an acceptance letter from the Naval Academy.

However, a few months later the acceptances from other colleges came to beckon our son towards brick and ivy, midnight pizza, girls, and parties. Let’s face it, a traditional college would be a reprieve of four more years before being yanked out of adolescence. We told him the decision was his. We wanted to be honest about that. Were we? It was clear that ambivalence set up housekeeping in us and in him. Plebe year was not conducive to exorcism. Having survived plebe summer, in September he let us know about other Mids who were sending for transfer applications. He wasn’t sure if he would because it would let you and Dad down. Don’t do it for us, we said. You are the one that has to go to class there every day, not us. Is it worth it to you? We certainly knew that he could stay and finish USNA only if he wanted to.

Plebe year continued with mixed emotions. He see-sawed between: Yes, it was superior in most ways to anything he could get at a regular school. No, he didn’t like it, and why should he be subjected to the indignities of dining in King Hall. Yes, the studies were OK, some professors were very good. No, he didn’t have time to study and he couldn’t understand one professor. Yes, he could handle the harassment, he’s got his act together.

No, it was too much intimidation, why bother? Yes, upper class perks and responsibilities were something to look forward to. No, upper class years are too far away, it doesn’t help to think of that.

His dilemma made us question our wisdom: Had he felt obligated to choose the Academy? How much did we give direction, how much was his free choice? Were we honest or did we rationalize? This is great preparation for life, but would we have wanted to do it ourselves? Had he finished childhood, was he ready? Can he take it or should we tell him to come home? Is he getting overwhelmed by military life? Will he be subjected to a dangerous life? Was he being intellectually stimulated? Sure, insane moments I knew that other schools could have negative aspects and I would feel just as ambivalent. My husband was more sanguine than I and felt that the Naval Academy would give him an edge over graduates of other colleges. A degree from even one of the highly selective colleges is not always considered functional until more specialized training is obtained. We were persuaded that USNA was a far better experience than anything else we could offer him. So I maintained a cautious, up-beat stance during plebe year, which belied my inner quandary.

As the year progressed, balance was restored by the knowledge that other parents had similar reservations. When we visited Annapolis, we met others and quizzed them relentlessly. Gradually I came to realize that they had gone through a similar period of self-doubt. For the mids, self- doubt is probably the name of plebe year. It is a year of challenging their confidence. Sometimes a plebe comes to the conclusion that the Naval Academy is not for him/her. The decision of whether to stay or leave is a difficult one. We know that dedication in the face of the confines of circumstance is not easy unless it is what you have chosen to do. Neither is it easy to transfer, i.e., to obtain applications, letters, etc., while trying to perform daily as a plebe.

Furthermore there is another dimension that comes into play. Our Mids (female and male) had become part of a brotherhood, would be part of it even if they left for another college. The experience could not be erased. Our son said he would match the difficulty of plebe summer to any difficulty later. An exaggeration? Possibly, but it was said with the satisfaction of feeling powerful in having overcome adversity. It was also the beginning of sharing in a covenant with those who have participated in an extraordinary event.

Certainly the experience has drawn us into a unique fellowship as parents. Upperclassmen parents tell Plebe parents, it gets better. It does. Just the other day my second classman told me, ―Ya know, the regimentation doesn’t bother me anymore. It’s the academics that are really getting to me. Hey that sounds like normal complaining about junior year, doesn’t it? It was a way of saying he’s OK, he knows he won’t be misconstrued, he knows we understand. - Signed: Adrienne Powell, Western Pa Naval Academy Parents’ Association , December 1988

**Websites/Social Media**

**Websites:**

**http://indianausnaparents.org**– our own club web site

**USNAparents.com** - This site lists up-to-date information directly from the Naval Academy. Please check out this site!

**USNA.edu** – official site – refer to for academic calendars and other important dates

**USNA.com** – Foundation website

**Navysports.com** – for schedules, scores and tickets

**Apps:**

**USNA** – iOS/Android

**Navy Sports** – iOS/Android

**Facebook:**

US Naval Academy

USNA Parents Club of Indiana

USNA Mid Moms (and Dads)

USNA Chaplains

USNA Class of 2024

USNA 2024 BLB Parents

USNA Lucky Bag (Yearbook page)

Navy Athletics

US Naval Academy Association and Foundation

My Life is Mid

Company page (once you know your Mid’s company, for example 26 Co. Rough Riders)

**Instagram:**

Navy Athletics

usnacommandant - Dant Daily-daily briefings from the Dant since the COVID pandemic

academyinsider - Academy Insider - ‘17 grad, lots of info

usnavalacademy - United States Naval Academy

usnaalumni - USNA Alumni Association

**Flickr:**

United States Naval Academy

**Twitter:**

@usnaparent @usna\_adaa @usnaalumni

@navybluegold @navytimes @navalacademy

@mylifeismid @navyvideo @navyathletics

@navyhistorynews

**You Tube**

Do a search for USNA Spirit Spots. So much fun! Usually, new “spots” are posted the week leading up to big games; Air Force, Notre Dame and, of course, Army

GO NAVY!

BEAT ARMY!!!!