

Naval Academy Parent Club



Serving USNA families and their midshipmen for more than 20 years

Guidelines and Recommendations for U.S. Naval Academy Parent Clubs

Parent Club Mission:

The primary mission of a Naval Academy Parent Club is to create an enabling environment that offers community support with timely and accurate information to all current parents and guardians of Naval Academy midshipmen to help them create the greatest experiences associated with being a parent of a U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen.

Key Ingredients to a 'Model' Parent Club:

Naval Academy Parent Clubs are encouraged to coordinate efforts with other USNA entities in their area (state) to include U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Chapter(s) and other Naval Academy Parent Clubs in their area to foster a sense of community for joint events and united support for the Naval Academy and the US Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation.

Naval Academy Parent Clubs are encouraged to develop a strong working relationship with USNA Blue and Gold area coordinators and officers to offer information, guidance and support for potential candidates for USNA and their families. USNA Parent Clubs play a critical role in support of USNA Admission outreach events across the country. Additionally, new families are "welcomed aboard" at new parent and candidate welcome aboard events prior to I-Day each summer.

Naval Academy Parent Clubs should encourage alumni or "fleet" parents to remain involved. We find the strongest Clubs have a place for alumni parents to serve as Mentors to help current Midshipmen Parents deal with the plethora of emotions and planning associated with life in Bancroft Hall and after service assignment and fleet introduction.

A Naval Academy Parent Club will work to maintain open communications with the USNA Alumni Association parent club coordinator to request and to share official information and updates the Naval Academy and Alumni Association and Foundation.

Governance recommendations:

- A Naval Academy parent club will maintain a leadership 'board of directors' of current midshipmen parents and have a set of approved by-laws to govern Parent Club activities.
- A Naval Academy Parent Club will maintain a succession plan for Parent Club board leadership, actively engaging new plebe parents to join the board to sustain parent club leadership year to year.
 - Ex. a plebe parent is brought in as secretary or committee chairman and is actively promoted year to year, reaching the position of president during their MIDS 2/C second semester and transition into fall of first class year. President will turn over leadership in January of 1/C year to become president emeritus, acting in an advisory capacity for sitting president and allowing 1/C parents to focus/ plan for commissioning week.

- The Parent Club coordinator recommends all leadership positions be held for only 1 year including the past president/ emeritus position and all parent club board positions be held by current parents of midshipmen at USNA.
- A Naval Academy parent club may engage in fundraising to support parent club activities and events that support USNA midshipmen and their families. As a word of caution - small amounts of fund raising is allowed by each state but be aware that each state differs with respect to total amounts raised. Parent Club's may find that it may be in their best interest to file for 501c3 status through their state agencies. Clubs should contact their state tax authorities to ensure compliance with local and state regulations.
 - Guidelines for 501 c 3 process can be provided by the Alumni Association
- Parent Club leadership should be reachable and responsive to the needs of the local Midshipman families. Web support can be provided thru the Alumni Association.