



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY  
121 BLAKE ROAD  
ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND 21402-1300

16 April 2021

Dear Parents, Family, and Friends,

I know each and every one of you is eagerly anticipating information regarding the Commissioning Week festivities. I appreciate your patience as my leadership team and I developed a plan that will allow us to properly celebrate this significant milestone in your loved one's life, while also ensuring that we comply with DoD, State, and local COVID protocols. Commissioning Week is not only a celebration of a midshipman milestone, but also a recognition of the love and support our midshipmen's families and friends have provided during their four-year journey by the Bay.

From the very beginning, my goal has been to find a way to safely execute as many of our beloved Commissioning Week activities as possible; I know you have been looking forward to these events since your midshipman raised their right hand on I-Day.

In an effort to maximize guests for our graduating Firsties, while still adhering to local, state, and federal COVID-19 protocols, Commissioning Week 2021 will focus on events for the First Class and their families and guests. The number of Class of '21 family members permitted at each event will be subject to venue capacity limits in accordance with social distancing guidelines and may increase or decrease depending on the reality of COVID rates in our area as we approach Commissioning Week.

First Class midshipmen will be issued a total of six Commissioning Week wristbands, four gold and two blue. Wristbands are transferable between family members throughout the week; the COVID environment will dictate whether blue or gold bands will be required for access to the Naval Academy during Commissioning Week. In the current COVID planning environment, we anticipate that most Commissioning Week events will be "gold" events.

Families are strongly encouraged to utilize the free Park & Ride shuttle service from the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium parking lot. Detailed Yard access information will be provided at a later date, but to decrease traffic on the Yard during Commissioning Week, vehicular access will be limited to USNA personnel only (faculty, staff, and midshipmen). Those with disability tags/parking placards, however, will be allowed to access and park on the installation.

Below you will find our anticipated list of ticketed activities for Commissioning Week 2021 and our attendance guidelines:

- Superintendent's Garden Parties at the Buchanan House will be held throughout the week at designated times for each company; each Firstie will be given **four** tickets for their guests (*tickets are non-transferrable outside of their company*).



- Tuesday, May 25, 2 p.m. -- Blue Angels Rehearsal. USNA gates will close to all incoming traffic at 11 a.m. We anticipate this event will be a “gold” event (four guests).
- Wednesday, May 26, 1 p.m. -- 8th & I /Battle Color Detachment performance on Ingram Field. We anticipate this event will be a “gold” event (four guests).
- Wednesday, May 26, 2 p.m. -- Blue Angels Flight Demonstration. USNA gates will close to incoming traffic at 11 a.m. We anticipate this event will be a “gold” event (four guests).
- Thursday, May 27, 11 a.m. -- Color Parade on Worden Field. We anticipate this event will be a “gold” event (four guests). Friday, May 28, 10 a.m. -- Commissioning & Graduation Ceremony at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. First class midshipmen will be authorized up to **six** guests. *In the event of inclement weather, the event will shift to Alumni Hall, and each graduating midshipman will be authorized up to two guests.*


The Herndon Climb for the Class of 2024 will take place prior to Commissioning Week, on Saturday, May 22. The Herndon Climb will be an internal, USNA-only event and closed to external families or guests, but will be livestreamed in its entirety.

There are other smaller events during the week that we are working on fine-tuning the details and determining the potential for guest attendance based on COVID protocols. We will update our Commissioning Week website <https://www.usna.edu/CommissioningWeek/index.php> with the full schedule of events and additional information as it becomes available, so please check it regularly for updates.

For parents, families and friends of our Class of ‘22, ‘23 and ‘24 midshipmen — we look forward to when we can welcome you to the Yard once again, too. As we begin to see light at the end of the tunnel for this pandemic, I am confident that we are closer and closer to returning to a time where you are able to celebrate the midshipman milestones you have been looking forward to.

I thank each and every one of you for your unwavering support of your midshipman. We know your love and support has been essential in helping them navigate this challenging year.

Sincerely,



Sean S. Buck