

COMMISSIONING 101

2024 RESOURCE GUIDE



UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION & 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 2024 Commissioning Week is scheduled for the week of 17 May, with the graduation ceremony on 24 May. Commissioning Week starts with the second-class Ring Dance, Superintendent's Garden Parties, Glee Club Concert, Color Parade and Blue Angels Demonstration 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>
- Commissioning Week information line: 410-293-3109
- USNA Alumni Association and Foundation Parent page: www.usna.com/parents/commissioning101/
- 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, State-Issued 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 onboard 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.cnmc.navy.mil/regions/ndw/installations/nsa_annapolis/om/security/Frequently_Asked_Questions.html for more detailed information on Yard access.

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.

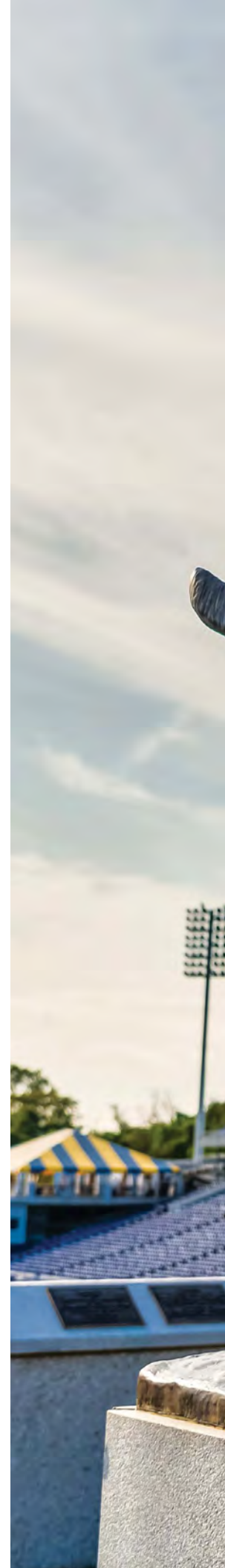
PARK AT THE STADIUM

- Parking will be provided at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. Families of 1/C midshipmen will be given one parking tag (rear view mirror type) that must be displayed for free parking at the stadium during Commissioning Week. All other visitors must pay the daily parking fee (\$5/car and \$10/RV).
- All Commissioning Week parking will be on the Blue (West) Side of the stadium, with entry and egress through Gate #5 on Taylor Avenue.
- No overnight parking is permitted.
- On graduation day (24 May), parking is free for those with graduation tickets, on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Parking gates open at 6:30 a.m.
- Stadium gates and concession stands open to guests at 7 a.m. on graduation day.



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 are usually 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.
- 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 Ackerson Tower as well. For more information contact [Kris Morgentahler](mailto:Kris.Morgentahler@usna.edu) 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. It's not a bad idea to order a couple of extra general seating tickets in case you or another family needs them.

How do midshipmen request tickets?

Ticket request forms will be distributed to the midshipmen in March. Each Company Operations Officer will have a ticket request spreadsheet for his/her respective company.

When and where are the tickets issued?

Your midshipman will pick up your graduation tickets during 1/C Distribution of Records and Tickets in Alumni Hall in May 2024.

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

For those midshipmen who cannot pick up their tickets during 1/C Distribution of Records and Tickets, they must see personnel in Room 3003 in Bancroft (across from the MWF Ticket Office) to pick up their tickets.

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

Every 1/C will receive the following tickets automatically:

- One parking pass for use at the stadium during all of Commissioning Week. That pass is not valid on graduation day, parking on graduation day is first come, first serve.
- Four bleacher seating tickets for the Color Parade.
- Six reserved seats 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.
- Each 1/C can receive the following tickets upon request:
 - General Admission tickets for the graduation at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium (amount per midshipman for general seating is still TBD).
 - Two tickets for wheelchair seating (your midshipman will also receive a ticket for a family member or friend to sit near them). Remember, USNA or NMCM Stadium does NOT provide wheelchairs.
 - Unlimited handicapped seating for those not requiring a wheelchair but perhaps using canes, walkers, crutches and/or breathing apparatuses. No accompanied ticket is issued so they will be seated alone, but will be in the same section as family/friends.

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?

If your midshipman requires additional General Admission tickets, have him/her let personnel know in Room 3003 in Bancroft. They can also ask shipmates if they have extras as there are always extras floating around.

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 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?

To pick up tickets, they must present a valid USNA ID. Tickets must be picked up in person and cannot be reserved or held by phone. Tickets cannot be picked up for other faculty and staff—everyone must pick up their own tickets in person. Available tickets are general admission on the Blue and Gold sides. To avoid long lines and delays, please know which side you prefer ahead of time. Tickets will be available in the Music and Theatre Ticket Office in Bancroft Hall.

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.



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