

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

To be eligible for nomination to one of the U.S. Service Academies, you must be at least 17 years old, but not have passed your 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday (as of July 1 of the year of admission to an academy). You must be a U.S. citizen, unmarried, not pregnant, and have no legal obligation to support children or other dependents.

Each United States Representative and Senator may have five cadets at each of the three service academies (Naval, Air Force, and Military) at any one time. The number of vacancies is determined by the number of cadets who either graduate or leave academies each year. Senator DeMint will be notified of available vacancies at each academy in August. Because of extreme competition for nominations, you are urged to apply to every nominating authority which your eligibility allows, (*i.e.*, your Congressman, Senators DeMint and Graham, and Vice President Biden).

Certain information is required as outlined below in order for you to be considered as an applicant. It is your responsibility to submit this information and to keep it updated. The deadline for receipt of this information is October 16, 2009, because there must be adequate time to assess each candidate's qualifications. Your materials must be postmarked by October 16, 2009, to be eligible.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

A. **Residency:** Your legal home domicile must be in South Carolina.

B. **Application Form:** The enclosed application form must be completed and returned promptly. Formal candidacy is established in my office upon receipt of the application. It is not necessary for you to send all required information at once, and please do not wait to file your application if transcripts or test scores are not immediately available.

C. **Recommendation Form:** The enclosed recommendation form must be completed by your school Guidance Counselor or Principal and returned to Senator DeMint's office. You may also submit additional recommendations.

D. **Transcript:** An official transcript of your high school record and class rank must be submitted. This transcript must show your final junior grades and numerical class rank (percentile ranks are not acceptable) If you apply before this information is available, it is your responsibility to request that your guidance counselor send an up-to-date transcript and to keep your records current.

E. **College Boards:** You must take either the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) as part of your evaluation for appointment. Information about the test can be obtained from your high school guidance counselor.

F. **Leadership and Physical Fitness:** Leadership potential and physical fitness are judged from the information provided on your application form. This information should be kept up to date. Unlike civilian colleges, the Service Academies place strong emphasis on physical training. In addition, the academies, like civilian colleges and universities, place a high premium on leadership and extra-curricular activities. Therefore, consideration must be given to each candidate's proven ability in these areas.

G. **DeMint Academy Board Interview:** Once a completed application is submitted by the October 16, 2009 deadline, a brief in-person interview will be held with Senator DeMint's Academy Board in Charleston, Columbia or Greenville.

## ***Additional Information on Service Academy Opportunities***

The Merchant Marine Academy also requires a Congressional nomination. A candidate should be at least 17, but have not attained 25 years of age as of July 1 of the year of their entry.

There are no congressional nominations to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Appointments to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy are made through a nationwide competition. Students who are interested in an appointment should contact the Academy directly, since this Academy does not participate in the Congressional nomination system. Applications should be directed to the Superintendent, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut 06320, or Coast Guard Academy Admissions Office at (860) 444-8503.

## ***BASIS FOR SELECTION***

Selections for a nomination are made competitively on the basis of a composite of academic factors, leadership potential, extracurricular activities, physical fitness and recommendations. The following are included:

1. School records, class rank and grade point average.
2. Extracurricular activities.
3. College Board Scores. Normally, a competitive candidate will have high SAT scores and will stand in the upper fifth of their class. The higher your scores and class standing, the greater will be your chances for a nomination, assuming qualification in the remaining areas of consideration.
4. Motivation. An important consideration in the selection of nominees is motivation – the candidate's desire to attend an academy. Motivation is partially judged by a candidate's diligence in completing his/her file. An incomplete file with late application materials may not be considered for a nomination. The essay is used to help measure motivational factors.
5. DeMint Academy Board Interview

## **Correspondence, Questions, or Concerns should be sent to:**

*academynominations@demint.senate.gov*

*or*

***U.S. Senator Jim DeMint  
Attention: Service Academy Nominations  
112 Custom House  
200 East Bay Street  
Charleston, SC 29401***

***Telephone: (843) 727-4525  
Fax: (843) 722-4923***