



TALKING ABOUT JOINING THE ARMY A DISCUSSION GUIDE

Is your son or daughter thinking of joining the Army? As a parent, this can bring up a lot of emotions. This is natural; after all, signing on is a big decision in which you will want to take part. This guide is meant to help you make the best decision together.



U.S. ARMY

ARMY STRONG®



TIPS TO HELP YOU IN YOUR DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

TIP 1 – TAKE A STEP BACK

It's a good idea to take some time to process your thoughts and feelings about your daughter or son joining the Army. This will allow you to keep an open mind and focus on the best decision for them.

TIP 2 – GET THE FACTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- The Army offers career opportunities in a wide range of areas – with over 150 jobs in law enforcement, engineering, medicine, law, arts & media, technology and more.
- Soldiers participate in a variety of leadership training courses and get expert on-the-job training, putting them on the fast track to success both in Army careers and related civilian careers.
- Deployment is an opportunity to broaden one's horizons by going overseas. A common misperception is that deployment always means combat, when, in fact, units are often deployed to noncombat regions. It is also important to note not all Soldiers get deployed.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

- The Army provides a well-rounded education beyond the traditional college diploma –including leadership training and other experiences that help Soldiers find career opportunities others don't get.
- There are various scholarships, grants and education benefits the Army offers Soldiers to help them pay for a college education or pay off existing student loans.
- Soldiers participating in the Education Career Stabilization program are able to attend college and earn their degree without the risk of deployment.

BENEFITS

- Soldiers enjoy a dynamic lifestyle that affords them the time to pursue hobbies and spend time with their families, while continually strengthening themselves through ongoing training.
- Soldiers and their families get comprehensive health care coverage that comes at little or no cost.
- Soldiers on active duty receive 30 days of vacation along with weekends, national holidays and unlimited sick days.
- The Army provides low-cost life insurance regardless of a Soldier's age.
- The Army offers Soldiers, families and retirees a strong network of support and recreational services that enhance lives, build resiliency and promote a sense of balance.

TIP 3 – HEAR FROM PARENTS WHO HAVE BEEN THROUGH IT

It may help you to hear from parents who have been through this process. Go to www.goarmy.com/parents/real-life-stories to see some parents' stories.

TIP 4 – HAVE AN OPEN DIALOGUE

USE THESE THOUGHT STARTERS TO HELP YOU HAVE A PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSION WITH YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER.

1. What do you hope to get out of the Army?
2. What is the main reason you are thinking of joining?
3. What are your long-term goals and how will the Army help you achieve them?
4. Have you thought about what you want to do in the Army?
5. What talents do you hope to strengthen in the Army?
6. Have you thought about going to college before or after the Army?
7. What would you like to be in the Army Reserve or on active duty?

TIP 5 – TALK TO A RECRUITER

Talking to a recruiter is a great way to get questions you have about the Army answered. They are here to help you make the best decision for your family. Recruiters can also help you determine the right timetable for enlistment and tailor an Army experience that meets your child's goals and needs.

You can talk to a recruiter online at www.goarmy.com/parents or call 1-800-USA-ARMY, ext. 181.

