



Are You Interested In The Coast Guard Auxiliary?

Here is a partial list of opportunities to serve your community when you volunteer in The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Recreational Boating Safety

Recreational Vessel Examiner

As a certified Vessel Examiner you will have the unique opportunity to work with and educate the recreational boating public. This one-on-one interaction will provide a vital opportunity to enhance a boater's knowledge, and help ensure they have a safe, fun filled day on the water.

The key to becoming a great Vessel Examiner is all in the training. It can be done by classroom instruction along with hands on training, or by self study along with some hands on training.

Recreational Boating Safety Program Visitor

Key to our dealer/partner outreach program are a cadre of trained Auxiliarists who visit you on a regular basis to drop off or restock boating safety literature displays, or to discuss upcoming special events with you. We call these members "Program Visitors", short for "Recreational Boating Safety Program Dealer/Partner Visitors", and they are our ambassadors to you.

Whether or not you run a bait shop, an insurance agency, a marina, or a branch of one of the world's largest marine chandleries, our Program Visitor is your friend in the Auxiliary, and a bridge to the United States Coast Guard. We distribute – always at no charge – the latest Federal and State boating safety brochures, booklets, and handouts. And we provide you with a distinctive literature easel to hold it.

Recruiting

Authorized Auxiliarists may work at Coast Guard recruiting offices and may wear the Coast Guard Recruiting Badge, in addition to any others. In order for Auxiliarists to qualify as a recruiter and wear this badge, they shall:

1. Meet the Commandant's weight standards.
2. Meet the Commandant's grooming and uniform appearance standards.
3. Have completed recruiter training or the recruiter PQS.
4. Be actively working for a Coast Guard recruiting office and receive a positive recommendation from the Recruiter-in-Charge (RIC).
5. The RIC of the recruiting office must forward a request to the Mission Execution Branch Chief via the RIC's enlisted recruiting supervisor.

Coast Guard Academy - Academy Partner

Auxiliarists are authorized assignment to duty to assist the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) with recruitment of cadet candidates as part of the Academy Admissions Partner Program (AAPP). Such assignment includes orientation and counseling of high school students, attendance at college fairs, and participation in the Academy Introduction Mission (AIM) each summer at USCGA. Participation in the AAPP is subject to successful completion of required program requirements as defined and recognized by the Coast Guard Academy Director of Admissions, and as established in Coast Guard Academy Admission Partner Program, Superintendent Instruction 1131.5. For the purpose of Auxiliary support, program participation also includes on-site participation as an AIM candidate, and the provision of associated on-site administrative, logistical, and health services.

Coast Guard Auxiliary

All Auxiliary members represent the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and therefore are acting as recruiters. Those Auxiliarists who take a more active role in recruiting are eligible for recognition awards.

Operations

Members who wish to participate in authorized Auxiliary surface operations must first have passed or successfully challenged the core portion of the Boating Skills and Seamanship or Fundamentals of Sailing Course, Boating Safely Course or the US Power Squadron's Public Education courses and then must qualify under the boat crew program.

There are three levels of qualification in the boat crew program:

Boat Crew

The crew member assists the coxswain with handling the boat and performing mission activities. Skills include line handling, knot tying, communications, observation, making up tows, and emergency procedures. Qualification at this level requires only minimum knowledge and experience. Attaining this qualification allows the member to serve as a crewmember on an Auxiliary boat facility while operating under Coast Guard orders.

Coxswain

The coxswain is in charge of the facility and is responsible for directing the safe navigation of the boat, the activities of the crew, and the performance of the missions. Skills of a qualified coxswain include navigation, piloting, boat handling, communication, search planning, and emergency procedures. Qualification as a Coxswain allows the member to serve as the operator of an Auxiliary boat facility while operating under Coast Guard orders.

Personal Watercraft Operator

Operates personal watercraft (PWC) on Auxiliary patrol orders. Like the coxswain, the PWC Operator is in charge of the facility, and is responsible for the safe operation and navigation of the PWC as well as carrying out the assigned mission.

Boat Force

An Auxiliarist may earn and wear either of these insignia (pictured above) if they complete the required training and maintain the service requirements. The Boat Force Operations insignia is a solid matte silver toned metal device with an eight point compass/compass rose, over a crossed boat hook and oar centered over stylized waves. The insignia is unique in one design which comes in two color schemes: a pewter-toned device indicating five years of service at boat force units and qualification as a boat crew member, and a silver and

gold-toned device indicating five years of service and completion of a series of Coast Guard Force leadership related requirements.

Cutterman

The Auxiliary Cutterman insignia (pictured above) is intended to identify and recognize the commitment of Coast Guard Auxiliarists currently working in the cutter fleet who have regularly dedicated their efforts in support of the cutter community. This insignia distinguishes those Auxiliarists who have achieved the requisite level of qualification, knowledge, and experience that includes both practical and proven understanding and appreciation for cutter force command, management, and operations.

Telecommunications

Members of the Auxiliary can become a fully qualified Auxiliary Telecommunications Operator. Members that hold the qualification of TCO can operate Auxiliary Radio Nets that help to augment Coast Guard operations and Search and Rescues (SAR). Another job that a TCO qualified member can perform is station watchstanding. A station watchstander once qualified, operates the units radio, maintains radio & weather logs, maintains base security, answers phones and in certain circumstances will operate a SAR case and communicate with Sector Command.

Public Affairs

Web Design

Do you know how to write HTML, CSS and PHP? Do you know CPanel? Did you ever want to learn how to make a website? Here is a way that you can help get our word out. Now a days almost everyone has a website.

External & Internal Media

Photography

The Photo Corps, part of the Department of Public Affairs, consists of members who professional or advanced amateur photographers who take high resolution digital photographs for use within the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary. Membership is open to any Auxiliarist who has the photographic equipment and skills to produce high quality images suitable for publication. Click the following link to learn more and download a two page PDF document on the Auxiliary Photo Corps.

Newsletters

Every Flotilla, Division and District has their very own publication. Have you written articles this might be a way you can help the Auxiliary and others by what you write.

Public Speaking

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Affairs (PA) mission is to communicate to various audiences information concerning the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Coast Guard Auxiliary (CGAUX). By publicizing the missions and activities of the USCG and CGAUX, the public develops a better understanding and appreciation of our efforts and the positive impact of the same on our communities, states and the nation as a whole.

One of the primary forms of communication to the public is by use of knowledgeable and motivated Auxiliary public speakers. The Auxiliary PA Speakers Bureau has the primary mission of assisting every Auxiliary District to

develop, maintain and utilize a District Speakers Bureau comprised of trained and motivated Auxiliary members available to give public speeches when tasked.

Public Affairs Specialist Certification

There are 3 Public Affairs Specialist Certification that one can receive in the Auxiliary:

Auxiliary Public Affairs Specialist 3 - AUXPA3 (Entry Level)

At this level, you should have experience in writing for the media, public appearances, static displays, digital photography, the National Safe Boating campaign and Coast Guard ranks and rates. These are the minimum skills expected of a flotilla public affairs officer.

Auxiliary Public Affairs Specialist 2 - AUXPA2 (Intermediate Level)

Requires a higher level of expertise. You are expected to demonstrate first-rate public relations skills and assist others in developing their skills. This level reflects the expected competencies of a district or division public affairs officer.

Auxiliary Public Affairs Specialist 1 - AUXPA1 (Senior Level)

At this advanced level you are qualified to assist a Coast Guard unit with their public affairs program. The competency includes knowledge of Coast Guard public affairs practices and procedures, internal communications, media and community relations, Joint Information Center (JIC) operation and related topics.

Special Events (Boat Shows, Represent CG)

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is proud to provide Auxiliary Color Guards to present the "Colors" at various public and community events, such as during the playing of the National Anthem at public sporting events, dedications and other civic events and parades. We are also able to provide Auxiliary Honor Guards for Military Honors Funerals in some geographic regions.

Navigation Systems

Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities are authorized assignment to duty to support and augment the Coast Guard's navigation systems (NS) program. This includes verifying position and characteristics of private aids-to-navigation (PATON), after qualifying as an aid verifier (AV). Auxiliarists may assist and support aids-to-navigation (ATON) units in servicing Federal aids after giving proper Coast Guard training. Auxiliarists may also help the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) in updating nautical and aeronautical charts and publications.

Bridge Program

Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities are authorized assignment to duty to support and augment bridge surveys, investigate and provide information regarding waterways safety and navigation situations pertaining to the bridge program, and provide direct assistance and support to bridge program personnel.

Coast Guard Support

Health Services

As the missions and responsibilities of the Coast Guard have expanded, so has the need for Coast Guard health care personnel to not only perform their usual clinical activities, but to also be available for emergency mobilization and/or deployment. During surge operations, Auxiliarist participation may further augment the health care capabilities of existing Coast Guard clinics and potentially release active duty health care personnel for operational response or deployment. Therefore, in accordance with Coast Guard Auxiliarist Support to Coast Guard Health Care Facilities, COMDTINST 6010.2 (series), Auxiliarists who are health care professionals (i.e., Physicians (MD, DO), Dentists (DDS, DMD), Physician Assistants (PA), and Nurse Practitioners (NP)) are authorized to be utilized in the performance of Coast Guard health care activities for which they are already trained, found qualified, and licensed, registered, or certified as determined by the Director of Health and Safety (CG-11). These primary care medical and dental professionals are eligible to volunteer in Coast Guard clinics or sickbays where the Coast Guard is already providing a similar level of health care and within established guidelines and restrictions. Auxiliarists who possess other allied health care skills (e.g., Registered Nurses (RN), emergency medical services providers like EMTs, Paramedics, and First Responders) may volunteer to work in Coast Guard health care facilities in accordance with provisions of the Coast Guard Medical Manual.

Food Services

Qualified Auxiliarists are authorized assignment to duty to support and augment food service programs at Coast Guard units. Auxiliarists who perform such duties at Coast Guard units or special events shall complete the AUXFS training program to qualify and demonstrate proficiency in Coast Guard food service procedures and practices. Under the general direction and supervision of the unit Food Services Officer (FSO) and the unit Executive Officer/Executive Petty Officer (XO/XPO), and with guidance from the senior AUXFS, a qualified AUXFS may plan meals and shopping lists (AUXFS may not perform any direct purchasing with any form or type of unit funds). An AUXFS may also prepare, serve, and clean-up meals.

Clergy Support

The Auxiliary Clergy Support program supplements and supports Navy Chaplains serving with the Coast Guard by expanding Religious Ministry within the Coast Guard to better meet the needs of Coast Guard members and their families.

Coast Guard Chaplains (officers of the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps assigned to the Coast Guard) provide Religious Ministry to Coast Guard members. They play a vital role in support of overall mission execution of the Coast Guard. Due to the limited number of Coast Guard Chaplains, they may be prevented or delayed in the timely response to Religious Ministry requirements.

The Coast Guard (CG) recognizes that the CG Auxiliary is composed of many skilled volunteers, some of whom have clergy credentials. The Auxiliary Clergy Support Program expands the Religious Ministry capacity within the Coast Guard to better meet the needs of Coast Guard members.

Auxiliarists with clergy credentials must meet many of the same qualifications as members of the Navy Chaplain Corps, which are described in COMDINST 1730.5. The Chaplain of the Coast Guard (CG-00A) administers the Clergy Support Program and its associated qualification and training requirements.

Auxiliary Interpreter Corps

The Auxiliary interpreter corps program is a component of the Auxiliary International Affairs Directorate. The Auxiliary Interpreter Corps was established in 1997 to provide interpreter support to Coast Guard operational, administrative, and public affairs missions.

Ombudsman

The Coast Guard Ombudsman Program is intended to improve communication between the Coast Guard command and the Coast Guard family members. Coast Guard ombudsmen are communication links, provide information and referral resources, and act as advocates for family members.

It has been reported there are 767 United States Coast Guard commands, and that 269 of these units do not have a designated ombudsman. There are a variety of factors, not the least of which, is that many of these are very small units. It is perhaps the very nature of these smaller units that will ultimately provide the best opportunity for Auxiliary augmentation in ombudsman assignments.

An ombudsman is appointed by the commanding officer. Command ombudsmen are volunteers and spouses of services members within the command, and may be filled by a Coast Guard Auxiliarist.

Marine Safety & Environmental Protection

Those Auxiliarists who wish to work more closely with the Active Duty Coast Guard members can qualify for Assistant and Examiner positions in Marine Safety and Environmental Protection. Auxiliary members will be required to complete a PQS (Personnel Qualification Standard) and have local base approval to participate in these Missions.

Those Auxiliarists who complete the required course of study, required number of PQS completions, and time served, may qualify for the Trident Device.

- Auxiliary Specific Qualification:
- Administrative & Management Specialist
- Prevention Outreach Specialist
- Auxiliary Assistant Qualification
- Barge Inspector
- Container Inspector
- Contingency Planner
- Facility Inspector
- Hull Inspector
- Foreign Freight Vessel Examiner
- Foreign Passenger Vessel Examiner
- K-Boat Inspector
- Suspension & Revocation Investigator
- Life Raft Inspector
- Waterways Management Representative
- Machiner Inspector - Steam
- T-Boat Inspector
- Machinery Inspector
- Pollution Responder
- Marine Casualty Investigator
- Maritime Enforcement Investigator
- Port State Control Dispatcher
- Auxiliary Examiner Qualification
- Uninspected Passenger Vessel
- Uninspected Towing Vessel
- Commercial Fishing Vessel

Instructors:

Instructor Certification

As an instructor in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, you will have an influence on many other people. What is less apparent is the degree to which you will influence your students. It is possible to influence attitude and self-efficacy, and it is possible to cause people with mediocre skills to excel. The importance of how we behave toward others cannot be overestimated.

A facilitator or Instructor trainer applies training techniques such as principals of learning, motivation, communication, and instructional methods, among others. Grasping and practicing with these techniques will help the beginning instructor in their new responsibilities.

Besides the techniques mentioned above, an effective instructor would possess:

- Content Expertise
- Experience
- A professional appearance
- Organizational skills
- Professionalism

Member Training

Member Training includes all training provided in and by the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary for Auxiliary members. It spans the following directorates: Response, Prevention, Vessel Examination, Public Education, RBS Outreach, Public Affairs, and Training. It includes AUXOP courses, Certification Courses, Public Education Courses, Mandatory Workshops, and Mandated Training. Training sources include Manuals, Power Points, Personal Qualification Guides (PQS), Exams or password protected on-line websites. It is often not clear where to look to find the training material you need or even to know what training is available and what pre-requisites are needed.

Public Education Courses

The mission of the Education Department of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary is two fold: to provide exceptional boating safety education to the American public with the aim of reducing loss of life, personal injury and property damage to recreational boaters; and to deliver the highest possible quality training, resources and timely materials in support of our flotilla instructors and public education staff officers at every level who are furnishing such boating safety education.

Join the US Coast Guard Auxiliary

Be part of the action and save lives -- Since the recreational boating population in the United States is growing rapidly, the Coast Guard Auxiliary needs a few good men and women like you. As an Auxiliarist, you have the opportunity to select and participate in one or more of the Auxiliary's major programs. Either through on- water Operations, the Auxiliary's Public Education Program, Courtesy Examination Program, Radio Watch stander, Coast Guard Recruiting, Marine Environmental Protection or Coast Guard Administration.

Increase your skills -- The Auxiliary and the Coast Guard provide specialized training on all aspects of boating, as well as leadership and administration. Auxiliarists receive valuable training in seamanship and related skills,

and enjoy the sense of confidence of knowing that they are better and safer boaters.

Support the Coast Guard -- Auxiliarists provide direct operational and administrative support to many local Coast Guard units. You can wear the Coast Guard Auxiliary uniform and become part of Team Coast Guard. When you qualify through training, you can take part in Search and Rescue operations, stand radio watch at the Coast Guard Station, work with the Marine Safety Office on pollution matters or work in the Recruiting Office.

Enjoy fun and fellowship -- Enjoy fellowship the good company of other Auxiliarists at meetings and training sessions, on patrols and other missions, and at ceremonies and social events. One of the Auxiliary's trademarks is good old-fashioned hospitality. You'll find a special camaraderie among Auxiliarists that's hard to beat.

Who can be a member?

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is a civilian organization of volunteers. Membership is open to citizens of the United States, it's territories and possessions, who are 17 years of age and older, and have not been convicted of a felony. Facility ownership (radio station, boat, or aircraft) is desirable but not mandatory.

Those individuals with special training or experience in any Auxiliary program area also are desirable for Auxiliary membership. The same is true for any individual who has specific skills helpful to the organization.

Auxiliary membership is also open to all or former members of any uniformed services and their service components.

Members are people who have an interest in serving the boating community, and their country through the various Missions of the Auxiliary.

What are the benefits of membership?

Service to the Community -- Particularly since the tragic events of September 11th 2001, Auxiliary personnel have been of great help to the Coast Guard by taking care of many of the non-military/non-law enforcement missions of the Coast Guard. This helps free the Coast Guard to focus more assets on Homeland Security and anti-terrorist activities in addition to their other law enforcement and military missions. Since that day, Coast Guard personnel have been putting in many long days and hours to fulfill their core missions with the added burden of anti-terrorism efforts. This often leaves little time for their personal lives. Auxiliary personnel will often work some of the support functions (such as Radio Watch Stander at shore side Coast Guard facilities), freeing Coast Guard personnel to have time with their families.

Training -- As a member of the Auxiliary, you have direct access to all Auxiliary Public Education training programs in addition to many U.S. Coast Guard training programs not offered to the general public.

Fellowship -- This is the heart of the Auxiliary. Our membership is a wonderful group of friends, that have a similar goal. We have a great time promoting boating safety. We want to keep our pristine waters safe and fun for everyone, including ourselves. We enjoy our social activities but the Auxiliary is not a social organization. Rather we are a SERVICE ORGANIZATION providing needed support to the Coast Guard and the Boating Public.

How much time will it take?

That's really up to you. While active participation is expected, how much time you spend on Auxiliary related activities is up to you! There are a variety of classes, social activities, and missions that take time and

commitment. Which activities you support or attend depends on your areas of interest and your own personal availability.

How much does it cost to be a member?

Annual Dues vary between Flotilla's, but are generally in the range of \$65, you will also need to purchase some uniform items. Your area of interest may incur additional costs for additional required equipment. A minimum uniform will cost you approximately \$100, and if you choose to participate in the Boat Crew programs, additional personal equipment costs run another \$100 or so.

Many of these expenses are Tax Deductible.

Recap of opportunities to serve

- Boat Crew
- Computer Services
- Coxswain
- Member Training
- Public Education
- Operations
- Communications
- Vessel Examiners
- Member Resources
- Aid to Navigation
- Public Affairs
- Career Counselor
- Publications
- Finance
- Information Systems
- Secretary/Records
- Recreational Boating Safety

In exchange for all the benefits offered members, the Auxiliary expects the member to be active in their chosen mission area.

You are bound to find a place where your skills, experience, and interests can be of service!

Need a location closer to home? [Click Here to locate a flotilla near you.](#)

Please take the time to read about the [history](#) of the Auxiliary, [benefits](#) of joining, the [missions](#) we are involved in, [awards and recognition](#), and the pride in wearing of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary uniform. [Eligibility](#)