

**UNITED STATES
SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS**

Class entering in 2009



**U.S. Senator Jim DeMint
105 North Spring Street, Suite 109
Greenville, SC 29601
864-233-5366**

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 23rd 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 Cheney).

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 17, 2008, because there must be adequate time to assess each candidate's qualifications. Your materials must be postmarked by October 17, 2008, 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. **Autobiographical Essay** You must submit an autobiographical essay with your application. This essay should be a minimum of one page in length (maximum of two pages) and you may focus on any aspect of your life. Please also answer each of the following questions in the essay:

Why are you seeking a nomination?

Why do you feel you are qualified?

Why do you want to be commissioned?

What are your long term career goals?

D. **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.

E. **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.

F. **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.

G. 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.

H. DeMint Academy Board Interview Once a completed application is submitted by the October 17, 2008 deadline, a brief in-person interview will be held with Senator DeMint's Academy Board in either 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.

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 ON THE SERVICE ACADEMIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:

***U.S. Senator Jim DeMint
Attention: Seth Blanton
105 North Spring Street, Suite 109
Greenville, SC 29601***

***Telephone: (864) 233-5366
Fax: (864) 271-8901***

2008/2009

U.S. Senator Jim DeMint
Attention: Seth Blanton
105 N. Spring Street, Suite 109
Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 233-5366
Fax: (864) 271-8901

Attach Photo

PERSONAL DATA

NOTE TO APPLICANT: This application form is furnished to act only as an aid in the selection process. Do not leave any line blank on this form; place an X on lines which are not applicable. The DEADLINE for receiving your completed application package is October 17, 2008. Please return this form to our office as soon as possible. Print or type when completing this form.

Please attach a recent photo in the upper right hand corner. (Optional)

FULL NAME: _____ Name you go by: _____

PERMANENT
ADDRESS:

TEMPORARY
ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

HOME TELEPHONE: _____ SOCIAL SECURITY #: _____

DATE of BIRTH: _____ PLACE of BIRTH: _____ MALE ___ FEMALE ___

ARE YOU A U.S. CITIZEN? _____ RESIDENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA? _____

WHO IS YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS? _____

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED: _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

LEADERSHIP DATA

EMPLOYMENT at _____ – HOURS/ WEEK

_____ During school _____ Summer

Please check all applicable:

Boy's/Girl's State or Nation	President of Student Government/Class
Jr. ROTC officer	National Honor Society/Who's Who
Boy Scout/Girl Scout	Academic Honors Club
Eagle Scout	School Band/Chorus
Key Club	Debate Club
President or Officer of Club	Church Activities:
Civil Air Patrol/Navy Sea Cadets	Yearbook/Newspaper
Community Service	Other:

ATHLETICS (indicate years participated and JV/V)

Football	Swimming
Baseball/Softball	Track/Cross Country
Basketball	Gymnastics
Hockey	Volleyball
Soccer	Other:

When approximately did you first contact the academy to let them know of your interest?

I, the undersigned, declare that the information I have provided on this application form is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SIGNATURE of APPLICANT

DATE

2008/2009

Office of Senator Jim DeMint

**U.S. SERVICE ACADEMIES RECOMMENDATION FORM FOR
SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR OR PRINCIPAL**

****NOTE TO RECOMMENDER**** The person whose name appears below is applying for admission to one of the U.S. Service Academies. As you may know, the purpose of the academies is to provide an excellent college education that leads to a career as an officer. The questions below suggest the kind of information which would be helpful in the selection process. Therefore, we want to assure you that your generous assistance in giving this appraisal is very helpful to us and greatly appreciated. This recommendation form must be received by my office no later than October 17, 2008.

Full Name of Applicant: _____

Name and Title of Recommender: _____

Name of High School: _____

School Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Applicant's Year in High School: _____

GPA: _____ Numerical Junior Class Rank _____ Out of _____

SAT Scores: Verbal _____ Math _____ OR ACT Scores: _____

Please comment on the following categories and list activities or demonstrative examples. Feel free to use additional sheets of paper to elaborate.

Leadership Characteristics:

Personality Traits:

Ability to work under pressure:

Ability to get along with others:

Motivation:

List school activities in which applicant participates:

General Comments and/or Recommendation:

Signature of Recommender

Date

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS RECOMMENDATION.

Completed packages must be submitted on or before October 17, 2008 to:

**U.S. Senator Jim DeMint
Attn: Seth Blanton
105 North Spring Street, Suite 109
Greenville, SC 29601
Phone: 864-233-5366 Fax: 864-271-8901**

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CHECK LIST FOR CANDIDATES:

Application form completed and mailed.
Essay completed and mailed.
Recommendation form completed by guidance counselor or principal mailed.
High school transcripts mailed.
ACT and/or SAT scores mailed.
Any extra material or updates that would aid us in the nominated process mailed.
Participated in DeMint Academy Board Interview.

The academies' appointment process is entirely separate from the nomination process. You must apply separately to the academy and to all of your chosen nominating sources (Sen. DeMint, Sen. Graham, your Congressman and the Vice President). Please remember, a nomination from my office is not a guarantee of an appointment to an academy. The academies make their own decisions on appointments.

In order for more South Carolina applicants to have an opportunity to be reviewed by the academies, please let us know immediately if you are nominated by another authority. Additionally, should you change your career goals and withdraw interest from an academy, please notify us. This may offer an opportunity to another qualified student.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING THE SERVICE ACADEMIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:

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Attention: Seth Blanton
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