

The Next Step for New Members

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So you joined the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary...what is next? As a major component of the United States Coast Guard, we have a diverse amount of opportunities for our members! For a member to be on the best path in their Auxiliary journey, I find that these important steps should be taken so that the new Auxiliast is successful. Have a look below:

- 1. Take a Safe Boating Class!** This class is required for all members of the Auxiliary. It is also required for anyone that is operating a boat. Persons who complete the course earn a Boating Safety Card, which signifies that the holder has knowledge of basic boating safety concepts. The Auxiliary is well-known for holding boating safety classes, such as the **Boat America** course. To find a Boat America course near you, go to http://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/class_finder/index.php and enter your ZIP code. You will find future Boat America classes near you to attend. You can ask your fellow Auxiliarist for assistance in getting your Boating Safety Card.
- 2. Enroll in the FEMA IS-100 and IS-700 courses!** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offers the IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100 and IS-700.B: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System courses to orient professionals on emergency management concepts. Many Auxiliary programs that provide critical support to the Coast Guard (such as Surface Operations and Emergency Management) require the completion of these two courses. Get ahead of the requirements and take these FREE courses now on the FEMA EMI website:
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c&lang=en> and <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.b&lang=en>.
- 3. Buy your Uniforms!** I recommend purchasing your Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) and Tropical Blue uniform as soon as possible. If you do not have your Auxiliary Identification Card and your Member Identification Number, please ask one of your fellow Auxiliarists to accompany you to the Coast Guard Exchange (CGX). We are glad to help you get on base and pick out the right uniforms!
- 4. Once you receive your Member ID Number, complete your Basic Qualification Course II (BQC II) and Core Training!** These two important trainings take time to complete, so set some time aside to complete the course. The Training Directorate has more information on accessing these two courses: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=basic-qualification> and <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=core-training>.

- 5. Talk to fellow Auxiliarists and Discover Your Interests!** Learn more about the programs that the Auxiliary has to offer. Ask others about their experiences to see whether a program is a right fit for you. You can also visit the Human Resources Directorate's New Member page to discover the programs that Auxiliarists can partake in: <https://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=H-DEPT&category=new-members>.
- 6. Attend Flotilla Meetings and Volunteer for Events!** By remaining engaged, you will gain more value from your time with us.

Every Auxiliarist in our Flotilla wants you to succeed. I encourage you to ask questions if you have any. We cannot wait to see what you contribute to Team Coast Guard.