

# Prospective Member Guide



BE PART OF THE ACTION!

*"TEAM COAST GUARD"*



**United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
1st District, Northern Region  
Flotilla 11-9 Martha's Vineyard**

**[Vineyardcgaux.org](http://Vineyardcgaux.org)**

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## USCG Auxiliary Prospective Member Guide

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Dear Prospective USCG Auxiliarist Member;

My name is Joe Berini, and I am the Staff Officer for Human Resources of Flotilla 11-9, District 1, Northern Region. Thank you for your interest in joining the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCG AUX), the largest volunteer marine safety organization in the world. It is our hope that this Guide, will help you become familiar with who we are and what we do. Please take the time to read this information and consider what the "commitment of membership" means to you. If you feel that the Auxiliary is an organization that you want to be a part of, we will assist you in becoming an active and productive member.

Please understand however, we are NOT a Yacht Club. We are a service organization composed of volunteers with an emphasis on activities that support the many and varied U.S. Coast Guard missions in which we participate. Keep in mind that although we want you to become a dedicated member, we understand that you will need to juggle your personal commitments to family, friends, home, work, and community; therefore, we allow you to proceed at your own pace and will work with you according to your availability. The packet I will provide you has all the information, forms and study materials you will need to prepare your application and take the New Member examination; if you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me **at** [joe.auxmv@gmail.com](mailto:joe.auxmv@gmail.com). At the end of this document, you will find a list of USCG and USCG Auxiliary web sites that you will find useful in providing information you will need when you become a member of the Auxiliary.

The basic steps for membership are as follows:

1. Learn about the Auxiliary, what we offer, and what you want to contribute
2. Complete the new member application, forms, and indoctrination process (including a limited personal security investigation, i.e., background check).
3. Costs associated with Auxiliary membership: Member's dues are \$63 annually. Initial uniform Operational Dress, boots, trousers and Blouse will be approximately \$200. As you get involved you will add to that. All costs associated with your work with the Auxiliary are tax deductible. Uniforms can be purchased at Joint Base Cape Cod or online at <http://shopcqx.com>

If you have any questions whatsoever, please feel free to contact me at the numbers/email shown below. Thank you again for considering membership in the USCG Auxiliary. I look forward to hearing from you again.

Semper Paratus',

*Joe Berini*

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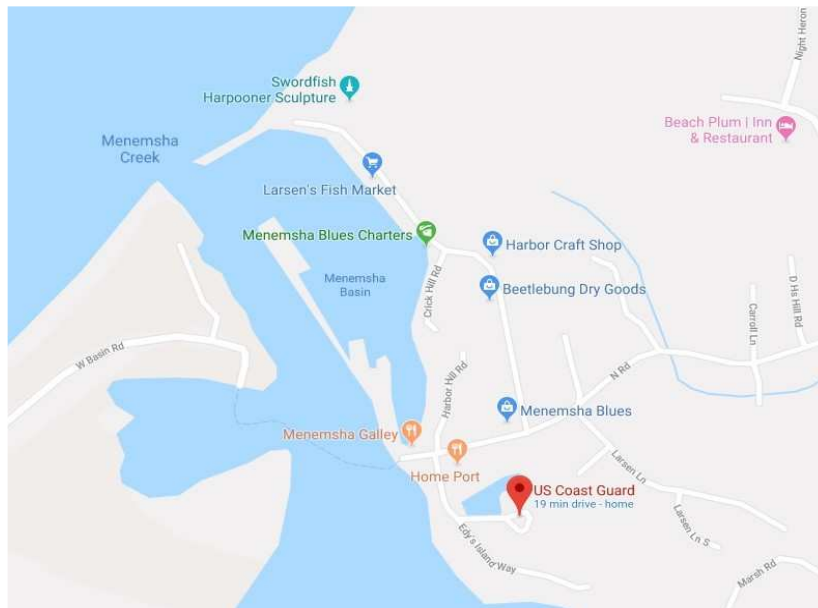
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## Flotilla 11-9 Meeting Times and Location

Flotilla 11-9 meetings are every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at 9:30 am

Our flotilla meets at USCG Station Menemsha



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## Requirements for Membership

There are two basic requirements for membership; (1) You must be a US citizen, and (2) you must be at least 17 years old. In addition to meeting the basic requirements for membership, there are other steps that you will need to complete on your way to becoming a full and active member.

**First**, learn what you can about the Auxiliary.

- ○ Decide how you want to become involved **at [USCGAUX Missions](#)** and see what activities are of interest to you, and how and what you would like to contribute.
- ○ Check out the visitors and members pages at <http://cgaux.org/about.php>
- ○ Check out Flotilla Website at [Vineyardcgaux.org](http://Vineyardcgaux.org). On the left side of the website, go to New Member Information
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**Second**, complete the **Enrollment Application** which is available on the next page

**Finally**, Your enrollment application is an agreement to undergo a simple Personal Security Investigation. However, the agreement to undergo the PSI is NOT a guarantee of membership. An unfavorable PSI determination may result in your disenrollment despite any training, duties, and activities you may have already performed, or any investments of time, effort, and resources you may have expended while awaiting your PSI determination..



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### New Membership and Forms:

Item	Comments
<b>Basic Requirement 1: At least 17 years of Age</b>	<b>Be prepared to show your Driver's License as an ID that will verify your age.</b>
<b>Basic Requirement 2: US Citizen</b>	<b>Show proof of citizenship (e.g., birth certificate <u>or</u> passport). Make copy to submit with your application.</b>
<b>New Member Enrollment Application (7001)</b> <a href="http://forms.cgaux.org/forms1.php">http://forms.cgaux.org/forms1.php</a>	<b>Fill-out all pages according to specific instructions and guidance provided by the FSO-HR.</b>
<b>New Member Interview</b>	<b>FSO-HR (Personnel Services) will assist you with section on the Application Form</b>



## Prospective Member Orientation

### ***What is the Auxiliary?***

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed, civilian volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard. Created by an Act of Congress in 1939, the Auxiliary directly supports the Coast Guard in all missions, except combat missions and law enforcement actions. The Coast Guard's philosophy is to be SEMPER PARATUS (ALWAYS READY) against all threats and all hazards. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is an integral part of that philosophy and the Coast Guard Forces. While socializing is a part of the Auxiliary, it is not our primary purpose. The Auxiliary is a SERVICE ORGANIZATION, composed of men and women actively supporting Coast Guard civil functions. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary was established by Congress in 1939 as the Coast Guard volunteer, non-military component and is currently expanding its role within TEAM COAST GUARD. The Auxiliary performs many jobs for the Coast Guard. In many parts of the country, the Auxiliary provides recreational boating safety support to state and local authorities.

The Auxiliary has members in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam. We conduct safety patrols on local waterways, assist the Coast Guard with homeland security duties, teach boating safety classes, conduct free vessel safety checks for the public, as well as many other activities. You do not have to own a boat or participate in water-based operations to join the Auxiliary.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, at least 17 years old, and pass a basic background check. There are no upper age limits or height/weight standards, although for operational activities, you must be physically able to perform certain tasks. There are no minimum service hours – you can serve as little or as much as you want.

### ***What Members Can Expect from the Auxiliary***

Increase your skills. A series of courses are provided at no cost to you by the Auxiliary. These courses prepare members to actively support Auxiliary programs and activities. You will have the opportunity for personal growth by learning new skills and participating in many different activities to assist the Coast Guard. The operations that Auxiliarists perform will give you a sense of pride and accomplishment while assisting others. As an Auxiliarist, you enjoy certain honors and privileges; among them are wearing the Coast Guard Auxiliary uniform and having access to the USCG Base Exchange. Take advantage of advanced training in surface operations, leadership, or one of the many courses available through the Auxiliary and Coast Guard. As a member of the Auxiliary, there are no fees for these courses.

### ***What the Auxiliary Expects from Members***

**Dedication, fellowship, public service, professional conduct, and participation.** The Auxiliary needs dedicated people to carry on the high quality programs and missions that make the Coast Guard the premier maritime service in the world. As a member, you are expected to contribute time and resources in furthering the Auxiliary's programs and activities. Your individual service can be in one of several areas assisting the Coast Guard in its many mission areas. Attaining the active duty grooming and appearance standards should always be held as the goal for all Auxiliary members wearing the Coast Guard Uniform. Of course, fellowship is an important Auxiliary function and your participation is welcomed and encouraged.

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## ***Importance of Professional Conduct in all Activities***

Being a part of TEAM COAST GUARD, your actions are a direct reflection on both the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary. You will receive the best possible training available, since as an Auxiliarist you are eligible to receive Coast Guard and Auxiliary mission orders. In conducting these missions, you will be interacting with the public as well as other Coast Guard and Auxiliary members. As with all members of TEAM COAST GUARD, you will be expected to comply with and support policies mandating the avoidance of sexual harassment, discrimination, drug, and alcohol abuse. You will be expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner while participating in public service aimed at assisting the recreational boating public and the Coast Guard.

## ***Every Member is Expected to Participate in Some Program***

The Auxiliary's primary function is to assist the Coast Guard in its missions of serving the public. As an Auxiliarist, you are expected to aid your Flotilla in one or more of the following programs:

- Patrols
- Chart-Updating
- Training
- Recruiting
- Public Affairs
- Public Education
- Vessel Examinations

If you desire to participate in any of these activities, you must first undergo training and qualification in the specific program. These qualifications are designed to ensure that you are proficient in your specialty and satisfy the requirements of the Coast Guard. Many opportunities to participate in the various trainings are provided by Auxiliary trainers throughout the year. If you have a vessel and want to use it to assist the Coast Guard and Auxiliary in operational programs, you must offer it for use as an operational facility. Operational facility owners wishing to participate in on-the-water activities must complete a Boat Crew Qualification program. The Boat Crew Qualification program consists of in-depth seamanship and boat handling training followed by a series of proficiency tests, both written and hands-on. These tests validate your ability to competently carry out operational missions as a crewmember or coxswain.

## ***Organization of the Flotilla***

The flotilla is led by two Officers: the Flotilla Commander (FC), and the Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC). The Auxiliary differs from the Coast Guard since our leaders are elected by the flotilla members. Additionally, various flotilla staff officers (FSO) are appointed by the Flotilla Commander to manage the flotilla's activities.

**New Member Sponsor:** Assists the prospective New Member with the application process; once approved for membership the Sponsor will assist with the initial orientation of the new member into the Flotilla processes.



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**New Member Coach:** Assists the New Member to become familiar with the USCG Auxiliary generally, and provides in-depth advice and assistance with respect to the operations of the Flotilla and its programs.

### **Flotilla Staff Officers:**

**Navigation Systems (FSO-NS):** Update charts. Plan chart patrols.

**Communications (FSO-CM):** Radio facility inspections. Radio support of Coast Guard Auxiliary patrols.

**Communication Services (FSO-CS):** Designs and maintains Flotilla's web site and reports information posted on the Auxiliary website.

**Member Training Officer (FSO-MT):** Organize training sessions for all Auxiliary program qualifications and specialty courses.

**Operations Officer (FSO-OP):** Schedules and organizes on-water patrols and Coast Guard support missions.

**Marine Safety Officer (FSO-MS):** Supervises flotilla programs associated with marine environmental awareness.

**Education Officer (FSO-PE):** Organize courses and schedule instructors for adult and children's public boating classes.

**Human Resources Officer (FSO-HR):** Oversee Member Resources, recruiting, retention, and fellowship activities.

**Vessel Examinations Officer (FSO-VE):** Organize Vessel Safety Check program and facility inspections.

**Finance Officer (FSO-FN):** Oversees Flotilla Budget, records expenditures, and collects dues.

**Information and Services (FSO-IS):** AUXDATA reporting, official activity records. Notify member when certification is in arrears. Over sees volunteer hours recording.

**Materials Systems (FSO-MA):** Responsible for procurement of materials including stationery, forms and publications.

**Public Affairs Officer (FSO-PA):** Publicity, posters, public speaking, safety booths.

**Publications Officer (FSO-PB):** Flotilla newsletter and materials for other Auxiliary publications.

**Program Visitor (FSO-PV):** Distribute safety material to marine dealers.

**Secretary/Records (FSO-SR):** Record and publish minutes; maintain records.