

Your First Uniform

Your first Coast Guard Auxiliary uniform will be the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU). This uniform will serve you for most flotilla functions (patrols, flotilla meetings, informal public events).

Many ODU items are the same for both the active-duty Coast Guard and the Auxiliary. These items can be ordered through the Coast Guard Exchange online (<https://shopcgx.com/>). You will need to log in or create a new account. Look for a little circle icon in the upper right corner of the webpage.

If you have your Auxiliary ID card, you can go to the Coast Guard exchange at Curtis Bay. Or, if you feel like taking a long drive, the exchange at Cape May has a larger selection.

You will need the following items, available from the Coast Guard Exchange online:

ODU Logo Untucked Trousers. If your size is out of stock, the ODU Non Logo Untucked Trousers are authorized.

Untucked ODU Coat

Trouser Blousers

Riggers Belt with Buckle

ODU Auxiliary Tape

ODU Name Tape

Ball Cap

T-Shirt

Sew-On Collar Device - Member.

Member Collar Insignia (one goes on the ball cap, centered between the "U.S. COAST GUARD" and "AUXILIARY".)

Some of the above items are Auxiliary-specific items. Look carefully and you will find them under "uniforms" in the menu. Auxiliary-specific items can also be purchased from the Auxiliary Center online (<https://auxcen.com/>). You will have to sign in or create an account here too.

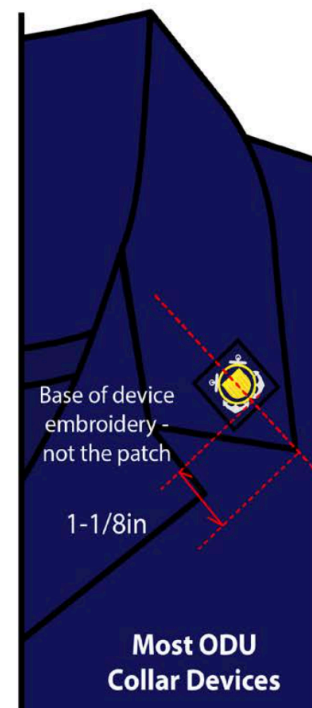
The tapes and collar devices will have to be sewn on. You can do these yourself or take them to a tailor.

Quoting the Auxiliary manual (page 10-34):
"...a sew-on name tape with Auxiliarist's last name shall be centered immediately over the right breast pocket. The embroidery or sew-on tape with the words "USCG AUXILIARY" shall be centered immediately above the left breast pocket. Such tapes shall not be shorter than nor extend beyond the width of the pocket."



Quoting the Auxiliary manual (page 10-79): "All embroidered collar insignia... shall be placed on the imaginary line bisecting the angle of the collar with the base of the insignia (not the embroidered patch) approximately 1-1/8 inches from collar point."

You will be asked to wear regular boat shoes (brown or dark blue) while on patrols or vessel inspections because boat owners don't want their decks marked up by ODU boots. Boots with black socks are required at all other times when wearing ODUs. Boots need to be black 8-inch or 10-inch safety boots. While boots and socks are available from the [Coast Guard Exchange](#), they may also be purchased commercially.



The foul weather parka and fleece foul weather liner are the prescribed outer wear with the ODU. Both are available from the [Coast Guard Exchange](#).

[Click here](#) to view an illustrated presentation of all Auxiliary uniforms.

Operational Dress Uniform (ODU)

