

CHARTING YOUR COURSE

CHARTING YOUR COURSE FOR SERVICE in the UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Introduction

Congratulations on becoming a United States Coast Guard Auxiliary member! We are both pleased and proud to have you aboard.. This new member page is dedicated to you and is designed as a quick reference to supplement your personal orientation with your Flotilla Commander, Vice Flotilla Commander or Personnel Officer, the information package and the NEW MEMBER AUXILIARY MANUAL you recently received from your Personnel Officer. Your New Member Manual is the first of many manuals and publications you will receive or obtain as an Auxiliary member. It is very important to thoroughly read your manuals and keep them updated.

As you know, the Auxiliary is the volunteer civilian, non-military component of the United States Coast Guard. The purpose of the Coast Guard Auxiliary is to assist the Coast Guard in any of its missions except where prohibited by Federal statute ([Title 17 U.S.C. Chapter 23 et seq](#)), such as in direct law enforcement and military actions. We are a diverse group of nearly 30,000 members dedicated to safer recreational boating on the waters of the United States. Our love of the water, knowledge of boating, our specialty training, and willingness to serve our fellow boaters binds us together to promote safe boating. During the past 12 months, the Auxiliary has donated 1,730,000 hours of their time to benefit boating safety, conducted nearly 140,000 vessel safety checks of boats and 10,000 personal water crafts, spent over 80,000 hours teaching boating safety, sailing and navigation courses, and made 34,000 marine dealer visits to distribute boating safety materials.

RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY:

(PE) Public Education - we teach various boating safety courses to the public.

(VE) Vessel Safety Checks - we conduct annual safety equipment checks of recreational boats and public vessels.

(PV) Program Visitor - we make regular visits to local marine dealers and marinas and provide updated information and print publications.

MEMBER SERVICES:

- (FN)** Finance
- (IS)** Information Services
- (MA)** Materials
- (PS)** Personnel
- (MT)** Member Training
- (PA)** Public Affairs
- (PB)** Publications
- (SR)** Secretary

COAST GUARD AND STATE SUPPORT:

(OP) Operations - we assist in boat parades, regatta patrols, special events, and search and rescue operations.

(AN) Aids To Navigation - we verify position of private aids to navigation, service Federal aids to navigation and assist the National Ocean Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers updating charts.

(CM) Communications - we train to assist both the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard in radio communications and in some areas we have the opportunity to serve as a watchstander.

(MS) Marine Safety & Environmental Protection - we are given training by the Coast Guard to assist them in pollution control, on-scene public safety, and emergency response and extraction of dangerous or hazardous materials.

(AV) Aviation - for Auxiliarists who are qualified and licensed as aviation pilots, we routinely provide air support as observers and may assist in search and rescue missions by providing visual coordinates to Auxiliary operational facilities

(OPFAC) to help locate boaters and assist other vessels in distress.

Fellowship: We get together for family fun and socialization which is an essential ingredient in making any volunteer organization successful. Fellowship with other Auxiliarists and members of the Coast Guard makes Team Coast Guard work and binds the entire organization together.

Benefits of Membership

The benefits of Auxiliary membership are both tangible and intangible. You will proudly wear the uniform and insignia and fly the Auxiliary ensign while participating in the activities involved in the Auxiliary's missions of recreational boating safety and support of the United States Coast Guard.

By acceptance of membership in this organization, you are doing so as a volunteer, however, there are certain responsibilities and obligations we all have pledged to conduct or participate to the very best of our abilities and as time and circumstances permit.

Dues

Your membership dues are important part of your organization's budgets. Each year your dues are divided into four parts for your Flotilla, Division, District and National which are incorporated into our budgets for the year. Our dues help to support Auxiliary activities at all organization levels and are tax deductible. Each year you will receive a notice when dues are payable and you make your payment directly to your Flotilla Finance Officer (FSO-FN).

Member Number

You will or have been given an official Member Number (Employee Identification Number, EIN) which will appear on your Coast Guard Membership Card when issued. Your status, activities, training, test scores and other accomplishments will be recorded in the Auxiliary Information System (AUXDATA) using that number. Upon receipt of your official Membership Card please check to be certain your name and number is correct

Uniforms

The Auxiliary uniform is a very important symbol of your membership and should be worn with pride. It

is similar to the Coast Guard uniform and should be worn on any mission where you represent the Auxiliary or the Coast Guard. Each member is responsible for purchasing their own uniforms appropriate to the activities in which they participate and its general care.



AUTHORIZED COAST GUARD AUXILIARY UNIFORM INSIGNIA



As a new member, you should purchase the Tropical Blue Uniform. This basic uniform, both summer and winter versions, can be worn for most Auxiliary activities. If involved in operations or with the active duty units you should purchase the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU). Check with your FSO-PS for other uniforms you may need to consider. Other uniforms, like the Winter Dress Blue, Undress Blue Long and all other options of uniform selection is outlined in detail in Chapter 10 - Uniforms in your new Auxiliary Manual.

Your FSO-PS can help you order your uniform from the Coast Guard Uniform Distribution Center and your Flotilla Staff Officer - Materials (FSO-MA) can order the proper insignia and devices needed to make your uniform complete. In general, you might be expected to pay about \$100200 for the entire basic set of uniforms.

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY AWARDS IN ORDER OF PRECEDEN

	COAST GUARD AUXILIARY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD			COAST GUARD AUXILIAR HUMANITARIAN SERVICE
	PLAQUE OF MERIT			COAST GUARD SPECIAL OPERATIONS SERVICE RI
	COAST GUARD AUXILIARY MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD			COAST GUARD RECRUIT SERVICE RIBBON
	AWARD OF OPERATIONAL MERIT			SPECIALTY TRAINING RIE
	AWARD OF ADMINISTRATIVE MERIT			OPERATIONS PROGRAM RIBBON
	AWARD OF MERIT			EXAMINER PROGRAM RIBBON
	CG SUSTAINED AUXILIARY SERVICE AWARD			INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM RIBBON
	SECRETARY'S OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD			AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP SERVICE RIBBON
	COAST GUARD UNIT COMMENDATION			FLOTILLA MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
	COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION			*AMOS MEMBER RESOUR AWARD
	COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS TEAM COMMENDATION			*AMOS VESSEL EXAMINA AWARD
	*CG AUXILIARY GROUP ACTION AWARD			*AMOS PUBLIC EDUCATIC AWARD
	COAST GUARD BICENTENNIAL UNIT COMMENDATION			*AMOS OPERATIONS AWA

* DISCONTINUED IN 1995



5/16" (Gold Star) DENOTES EACH SUBSEQUENT AWARD OF THE SAME MERITORIOUS UNIT OR UNIT AWARD.



3/16" (Bronze Star) DENOTES ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND MULTIPLE AWARDS.



5/16" (Silver Star) WORN IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE GOLD STAR, IN LIEU OF FIVE GOLD STARS.



3/16" (Silver Star) WORN IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE BRONZE STAR BUT EACH SILVER STAR IS WORN IN LIEU OF FIVE BRONZE STARS.



SILVER — DENOTES PERFORMANCE OPERATIONAL CONDITION CENTERED ON RIBBON

DISCONTINUED AWARDS MAY BE WORN IN CONDITION.

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Meetings

Your attendance at Flotilla meetings is a very important part of your membership. Attending these meetings will keep you up-to-date on all of the Flotilla's activities, functions, training, fellowship, and will enable you to meet and interact with other members in your Flotilla and Division. Exercising your right to vote at these meetings and assisting in the development of your Flotilla organization is just one of the many benefits you receive. In addition to meetings with your Flotilla, there are frequent Flotilla staff meetings with Flotilla Staff Officers as well as Division meetings. All members are welcome to attend these meetings. Division meetings will give you a broader perspective of the Auxiliary's activities and missions as a whole. Your FC and VFC attend Division meetings to represent your Flotilla.

Organizational Structure

The Auxiliary is the non-military, volunteer arm of TEAM COAST GUARD, working alongside active duty Coast Guard, Coast Guard civilians, and the Reserve. The structure of the Auxiliary, unlike the military, is what makes our organization unique. Although we have rules and regulations and must abide by certain Federal, State and other agency laws, our internal organization is structured and administered by set policies. Only the Coast Guard Commandant and the National Board make policies, the rest carry out those policies. Within the parameters of these policies, Districts may create their own policy manuals. The members at the Division and Flotilla levels decide, by vote, within which areas and at

what level the Flotilla will participate. Before we embark on a complete diagram of the organization as a whole, it might be better to first take a look at your Flotilla organization. A Flotilla, by definition, is "a small fleet of ships." For our purposes, a Flotilla is the basic organization in the Auxiliary, which includes members who own or operate boats, who are actively involved in the Auxiliary's missions of recreational boating safety and support of the United States Coast Guard.

Flotilla Organization

A Flotilla is made up of members who elect a Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander, who in turn, appoint Flotilla Staff Officers to carry out certain missions and activities of the Auxiliary. All members, no matter what level their elected or appointed positions are, belong to a Flotilla. For more information, see Chapter 4 - Auxiliary Organizational Structure in your Auxiliary Manual or Flotilla Procedures Manual, COMDTINST M16791.5.



Training

As a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary you will have the opportunity to receive training in a number of areas of your choice.

There are specific requirements and training that must be completed in order to participate in various activities and missions of the Auxiliary. For example, in order to participate in safety patrols, you must complete Crew Status training as a Coxswain or Crew. Other helpful training for patrols would include Specialty Courses in AUXPAT (Auxiliary Patrol), AUXCOM (Auxiliary Communications), AUXSEA (Auxiliary Seamanship), and possibly even AUXSCE (Auxiliary Search & Rescue Coordination and Execution) and AUXNAV (Auxiliary advanced navigation).. Each year, your status must be maintained by conducting specific amount of hours on patrols as either a Coxswain or as a member of Crew.

Members interested in conducting Vessel Safety Checks (formerly known as Vessel Examinations) would study the VE manual and pass an open book exam. Your status in this area would be to perform

certain number of vessel safety checks each year.

To participate in the Auxiliary's public education, a member would probably begin by assisting an instructor with teaching a Boating Skills & Seamanship course or a Boating Safely course for starters and then speak with your Flotilla Staff Officer of Member Training, your Vice Flotilla Commander or Flotilla Commander. Manuals for all these activities (and others) are at the link shown below.

[On Line manuals](#)

Diversity

The entire membership of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is made of a wide variety of individuals from all walks of life. Diversity.....is the uniqueness of all individuals, which encompasses different personal attributes, values and organizational roles. The diversity of our membership forms a mosaic of people who bring a variety of backgrounds, styles, perceptions, values and beliefs as assets to the Auxiliary. Managing Diversity.....is the process of creating and maintaining a positive environment where the capabilities, differences and similarities of all members are recognized, understood and valued. Through this process, all members may fully participate in achieving their full potential and maximizing their contributions to the Auxiliary.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is making every effort to be certain that our organization recognizes the importance of diversity and each individual members' unique personal background and their contributions to the Auxiliary.