

United States Coast Guard Academy

Fourth Class Cadet Sponsor Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING A SPONSOR?

Sponsors must be at least 28 years old and live within 25 miles of the Coast Guard Academy in order to be considered (exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis). Active duty military must have a rank/rate of E-7 or O-3 and above.

Following Coast Guard Academy policy, all adults who volunteer to mentor, teach, coach or sponsor cadets, whether on or off Coast Guard Academy grounds, may be asked to provide information (name, birth date and social security number) needed to conduct a background check. In order that we may conduct these background checks, you may be asked to provide the following information for every person over the age of 21 residing in your home. This includes your spouse, adult children, and/or relatives living in your home.

Q2 HOW DO I APPLY TO BE A SPONSOR?

If you meet the basic eligibility requirements, we recommend that you read the rest of the FAQs, to obtain further information about the program. To officially register as a sponsor, you must submit an application and attend an informational and training meeting this summer. If you would like an application, please email Erika Lund at Erika.L.Lund@uscga.edu or call 860-701-6119.

Q3 WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AND WHAT IS MY ROLE AS A SPONSOR?

During the first year at the Academy, the Fourth Class cadets experience a drastic transition from a civilian to a military way of life. The Sponsor Program provides cadets with families who help provide support, friendship, and learning beyond the Academy environment.

The Program is designed for cadets to enjoy the comforts of a home away from home. It is structured to provide cadets with exposure to the local area and when possible, to the unique military environment. This helps make the cadets' integration into the military community an easier and more effective process.

Families provide a unique and relaxed learning environment that the Academy cannot provide. The time commitment and contact between your family and the cadet are individual choices.

To help facilitate better relations and prevent misunderstandings or uneasiness, inform your cadet of your rules and ensure that these rules are enforced. You should not tolerate any behavior you would not tolerate from your own family members. Do not be afraid to

correct your cadet with regard to house rules. Also ensure proper respect is given and don't be afraid to inform them if it is not.

Q4 WHAT ARE MY CADET'S RESPONSIBILITIES?

“WHO LIVES HERE REVERES HONOR, HONORS DUTY.” These words form the foundation of the honor concept instilled in all cadets. This concept is a fundamental value system to which the cadets must adhere to at all times. It is taught to each cadet the minute they enter the Academy. Cadets are taught not to lie, steal, cheat, or attempt to deceive. Violations of the honor concept results in disciplinary action or even disenrollment. The honor concept teaches cadets the importance of responsibility, trust, and integrity.

All Cadets are expected to act as mature adults and future Coast Guard officers at all times. Only the highest standards of personal behavior, etiquette and accountability are acceptable. Cadets are aware of the regulations to which they are subject. Cadets should not put sponsors in a situation that would put any pressure to compromise these regulations. (For more details about regulations, you will receive a program description along with your application packet.)

Cadets are encouraged to involve their sponsor families in activities at the Coast Guard Academy including: competitive sport games, musical performances, and other extracurricular activities. Sponsors are updated with newsletters and schedules throughout the school year.

Q5 WHEN DO THE CADETS HAVE LIBERTY? WHEN CAN THEY VISIT MY HOME?

Generally, depending on the cadet's activity participation, you can expect cadets to visit you on the weekends. Fourth Class Liberty during the school year is: on normal Saturdays from 1200-0100 (Noon to 1 am) Sunday and on normal Sundays from 0800-1800 (8 am to 6 pm). Cadets may be available to stay overnight on holidays and long weekends (from Friday afternoon to Sunday night).

Q6 DO I SPONSOR CADETS ONLY THROUGH THEIR FOURTH CLASS YEARS OR CAN I SPONSOR THEM UNTIL THEY GRADUATE?

The program is designed for Fourth Class Cadets, however any cadet may be assigned a sponsor family if they request one. Many families continue their relationship with their cadet(s) until graduation and beyond.

Q7 WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY CADET BECOMES SICK OR INJURED WHILE VISITING MY HOME? If the illness or injury is life threatening, call 911 or take the Cadet to a civilian hospital to get them the appropriate medical attention as soon as possible. If the illness or injury is not life threatening, or if questions arise as to what is the appropriate procedure, contact the Academy Clinic (there is a Watchstander there 24/7). The clinic can triage over the phone to give guidance as to whether or not they can provide services. The clinic can be reached by calling: 860-444-8402. The Cadet maybe directed to report to the clinic or given other instructions regarding a time and place for further care.

Q8 WHAT ARE THE RULES REGARDING TRANSPORTATION OF FOURTH CLASS CADETS?

USE OF AUTOMOBILES: All cadets may drive automobiles providing they have a valid driver's license and comply with the motor vehicle laws of the state or country in which the automobile is operated. Underclass cadets are prohibited from owning or maintaining an automobile, unless it's at their parents or legal guardian's actual home residence. Cadets may not own and store a car at your home for any reason. All cadets may rent an automobile with the approval of their Company Officer, however, they may not own or operate any motorcycles, trail bikes, mopeds, motor scooters, terrain vehicles or other two-wheeled motorized vehicles. It is your prerogative whether or not your cadet may use your vehicle(s). It is not expected and should be considered a privilege.

The CGA does provide transportation to and from the Hartford and Providence airports for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring Break leave. This transportation information is provided to the cadets well in advance to enable them to make their travel arrangements in advance as well. Sponsors will be given this information by the Sponsor Family Program.

Q9 CAN MY CADET CONSUME ALCOHOL IN MY HOME?

The Coast Guard Academy's policy is simple: Cadets are not allowed to consume any alcohol unless they are at least 21 years of age. It is imperative that sponsors support the cadet-training program and the Connecticut State law, which prohibits the consumption of intoxicating beverages in a private residence. If your cadet is at least 21 years of age, legally they are allowed to drink and should act responsibly. Always provide and encourage non-alcoholic alternatives.

Q10 WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH MY CADET?

If a problem arises with a cadet, please contact the Academy's Sponsor Family Program Coordinator, Carey McNeil. Please be explicit with regard to the problem. Carey can be reached at careyanne.L.mcneil@uscg.mil or call 860-444-8281.

Q11 WHEN IS THE DEADLINE FOR MY APPLICATION?

Applications will be accepted March through mid August.