



U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the Coast Guard Family!

A hearty welcome to the cadets and families of the Class of 2026! Congratulations on your selection for an appointment – the U.S. Coast Guard Academy is one of the most selective educational institutions in our country, and your future cadet's top-notch credentials indicate wonderful potential for success. You should take great pride in this accomplishment.

Of course, the challenge is just starting. Your son or daughter will soon embark on a demanding, multi-faceted 200-week training program. But let me assure you that the education, experiences, and rewards are every bit as great as the challenges, with the ultimate goal of a U.S. Coast Guard commission that allows your child to join a long and proud line of service.

Just as your child will go through a dramatic series of changes as he/she begins Swab Summer, you as parents will also experience the transition of becoming part of the CGA family. That's where the Parents Association comes in.

The USCGA Parents Association

As members of the Parents Association, we support your cadet, as well as the entire Corps. We also support each other. It is, and continues to be, our responsibility as parents to ensure that our cadets have all of the tools needed to have an outstanding Academy experience. Thus, making sure our cadets are ready to take their place in an honored tradition of service to country.

Information Resources: Keeping parents informed on life at the Academy is one of our main efforts. Our website (www.cgaparents.org) is your best starting point for information on all aspects of cadet life. Items include tidbits for your cadet's entire four years at the Academy, from Day One information to a long-term event planning calendar that includes holidays, school schedules, leave periods, and when your cadet will graduate.

Other terrific resources are the Swab Summer and Parents Association eNewsletters, which feature articles on cadet life, information from members of the Academy's Senior Leadership Team, and plenty of pictures of your cadets. Sign up at www.cgaparents.org/welcome.

And of course, you are always welcome to contact me or any of the Parents Association leadership team. I'm available at president@cgaparents.org.

Social Media: The Parents Association has a large presence on Facebook, which can also be a great source of information concerning sports, chapter and Academy events, etc. Check out our Facebook group for parents at www.facebook.com/groups/CGA.PA. In addition, each cadet class has its own parent page which are moderated by upper class parents and provides fellowship and support in a smaller group environment. Most Academy clubs and sports teams also have social media accounts.

Financial Support: While the federal government covers the cost of tuition, room and board and most expenses for USCGA students, there are other aspects of cadet life and programs that need financial support. Many daily quality-of-life items, such as liberty transportation, furniture in the Day Rooms, copier supplies, microwaves and printers in Chase Hall, morale events plus other items are funded through the Parents Association membership dues, the Parents Gift Fund, and local chapter initiatives.

Executive Board 2021/22

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Go Bears!

We also collaborate with the Alumni Association on fundraising efforts benefitting the Corps. We raise money through fundraising events or donation requests in order to support our \$44,000 per year commitment that we have made to support CGA Cadet Activities.

Day One: Look for our table on Day One. We'll be there to answer questions as well as provide an opportunity to join the Parents Association.

Finally, and most importantly, please remember that your son/daughter has chosen an amazing journey and that you, their parents, are on it as well. The Academy provides the support, guidance and care that our swabs and cadets need to be successful. The Parents Association provides the same support, guidance and care to the parents to help you manage the changes that come with becoming a Coast Guard Academy parent.

I look forward to meeting all of you during Day One, and once again, welcome to the Coast Guard family.

Go Bears!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristine D. Barnett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kris Barnett
President
U.S. Coast Guard Academy Parents Association, Inc.