

1 What is the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary?

The Auxiliary is a volunteer service organization, composed of men and women who actively support maritime safety and security missions, as well as providing administrative and support services. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary was established by Congress in 1939, and is currently expanding its role within Coast Guard Forces. The Auxiliary is authorized to perform all missions that Congress has authorized the Coast Guard to perform, with the exception of direct law enforcement and military action.

2 What can you expect from the Auxiliary?

For one - Training! Many training courses are provided at no cost to members of the Auxiliary. These courses add to members' skills and knowledge, as well as prepare them 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 promote boating safety and assist the Coast Guard in other mission areas. You will also enjoy being part of a team that simultaneously serves your local community and your country. Auxiliary activities and missions provide a sense of pride and accomplishment that comes from learning new skills and helping others.

3 What the Auxiliary expects from you

As a member, you will be expected to participate in Auxiliary programs and activities. We are flexible – you can determine the extent of your participation, and do as little or as much as you like. Your individual service can be in one or more program areas that support the Coast Guard in its many missions. And of course, fellowship and having fun is an important Auxiliary function and your participation is encouraged.

4 Importance of professional conduct in all activities

Being an integral part of Coast Guard Forces, your actions are a direct reflection on both the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary seeks dedicated people to carry on the high quality programs and the missions which make the Coast Guard the premier maritime service in the world and the Auxiliary the premier volunteer boating safety organization.

You will receive the best possible training available. As an Auxiliarist you are eligible to receive Coast Guard and Auxiliary 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 Coast Guard Forces, you will be expected to comply with and support policies against sexual harassment, discrimination, and drug and alcohol abuse.

5 Every member can participate

Wherever your interests lie, and whatever life skills you bring to the Coast Guard Auxiliary, chances are you can find an area to participate in that will enrich your life. As an Auxiliarist you can participate in one or more programs including, but not limited to:

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| 1. Patrols | 6. Public affairs |
| 2. Chart updating | 7. Public education |
| 3. Training | 8. Vessel safety programs |
| 4. Recruiting | 9. Environmental protection |
| 5. Admin. support | 10. Search and rescue |

The flotilla is the Auxiliary's basic unit. Every Auxiliarist is a flotilla member and attends flotilla meetings. The flotilla offers an opportunity for members to take on leadership roles, and to serve in various staff officer positions.



6 Training and qualifications opportunities

Membership begins with the New Member training program. This program explains the Auxiliary and its functions, and assists you in getting started. You will be enrolled as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, which entitles you to many training opportunities for qualifications, as in:

- Vessel examiner
- Air and surface operations
- Search and rescue
- Maine safety and environmental protection
- Aids to navigation verifier
- Auxiliary leadership and administration
- Radio watchstanding
- Instructor
- Chart updating

If you desire to participate in any of these activities, you first undergo classroom training, and then receive on-the-job qualification in the specific program. This is designed to ensure both proficiency and safety. Ample opportunity to participate in the qualification training is provided by Auxiliary trainers throughout each year.

If you want to assist the Coast Guard and Auxiliary in operational programs, you may offer your facility (boat, plane, or radio) for use as an operational facility. Operational Facility owners and others wishing to participate in the operations program complete training programs similar to the active duty Coast Guard.

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The operational qualification programs consist of in-depth training, followed by a series of proficiency demonstrations, both written and practical. These validate your ability to competently carry out operational missions. At some point you may wish to take the advanced Auxiliary Operational Specialty (AUXOP) courses. These classes offer even more training and provide a fun and meaningful experience! You may take these courses at any time throughout your Auxiliary career. The six Specialty Courses areas follows:

1. **Patrols**
2. **Communications**
3. **Seamanship**
4. **Piloting/Navigation**
5. **Weather**
6. **Search And rescue**

As you can see, there is a wealth of training courses available to you at no cost.

7 Personal costs

Like many other organizations, there are personal costs involved in Auxiliary membership. These costs include:

- time devoted to participation in Auxiliary missions
- modest annual membership dues which need to be kept current for membership,
- costs involved for Auxiliary social functions,
- uniforms and attachments needed in administrative and public service activities,
- the purchase of proper safety equipment for use on Auxiliary patrols

Like many things in life, you get out of the Coast Guard Auxiliary what you put into it. And with the Auxiliary, oftentimes, you get much more in return!

Are you right for the Auxiliary? And is the Auxiliary right for you?

The Auxiliary is looking for a diverse group of dedicated people who are interested in assisting the Coast Guard as Auxiliary members in support of recreational boating safety and in performing a variety of other missions.

Facility ownership (boat, airplane, radio) is not required to become an Auxiliarist. However, Prospective Members must be U.S. Citizens, at least 17 years old, and be able to pass a basic background check.

We need you to contribute your time and effort. Your professional and leadership skills, as well as your life experiences are useful to the Coast Guard and Auxiliary.

One of the Auxiliary's trademarks is good old-fashioned hospitality and fun. You'll find a special camaraderie among Auxiliarists during outings, training sessions, patrols, and classes.

Our organization supports diversity. We welcome members of all ages, skills, races, genders, religions, economic and ethnic backgrounds.

Look us over, ask us questions, and if you would like to be among the 30,000 plus Auxiliarists in the Coast Guard family, or would like to have more information, contact your local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla or visit us at www.cgaux.org.

Become a Better Boater

*We invite you to come aboard
and be a part of
Coast Guard forces*

**United States
Coast Guard Auxiliary**

Prospective Member Information Booklet



Acquire New Skills

***Chart your Own Course
for the Future***

***Join the U.S. Coast Guard
Auxiliary***

www.cgaux.org

or call 1-877-875-6296
