

SERVICE ACADEMY GUIDE

Mississippi Riverlands Council





A Scout's Highest Calling

Mississippi Riverlands Council Guide to U.S. Service Academies

The Scout Oath calls on us to do our 'Duty to Country.' For some Scouts, this duty calls them to a path of national service and leadership as officers in the United States Armed Forces. The U.S. Service Academies are the premier institutions for forging these future leaders, and the values they seek are the same ones you practice every day in Scouting: leadership, integrity, physical fitness, and a commitment to serving others.

This guide was created to demystify the highly competitive application process. It provides a clear, step-by-step roadmap for Scouts in the Mississippi Riverlands Council who are interested in attending one of these prestigious institutions. Your journey as a Scout has already given you a significant head start. Now, it's time to plan your next steps.



The Five U.S. Service Academies

While all academies develop leaders of character, each has a unique mission and focus. Explore their official sites to learn more.



U.S. Military Academy



Branch: Army

www.westpoint.edu



U.S. Naval Academy



Branch: Navy &
Marine Corps

www.usna.edu



U.S. Air Force Academy



Branch: Air Force
& Space Force

www.usafa.edu



U.S. Coast Guard Academy



Branch: Coast Guard

www.uscga.edu



U.S. Merchant Marine Academy



Branch: All Branches /
Maritime Industry

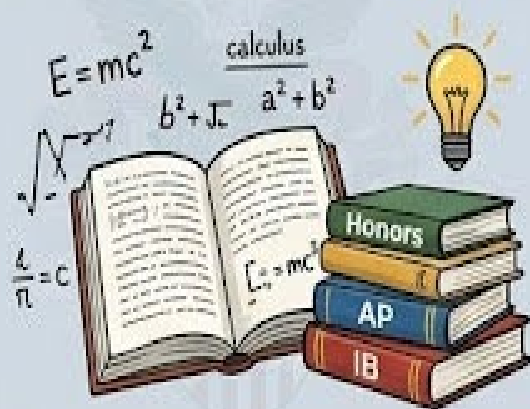
www.usmma.edu



A Four-Year Plan for Success

The journey to an academy appointment begins the moment you enter high school.

Freshman & Sophomore Year: Building Your Foundation



Academics are #1:
Take the most challenging courses available (Honors, Honors, AP, IB) in core subjects like math, science, English, and history.



Stay Active in Scouting:
Don't just attend meetings—lead! Serve in Positions of Responsibility. Strive for Eagle Scout; it is the single most respected youth award in the admissions process.



Physical Fitness:
Make physical fitness a daily habit. Get familiar with the Candidate Fitness Assessment (CFA). You should be able to pass it long before you have to take it officially.



Summer Plans:
Attend a high-adventure base or a leadership program like National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT).



A Four-Year Plan for Success

Junior Year: The Application Officially Begins



Standardized Tests:
Prepare for and take the SAT or ACT. Plan to take it multiple times to achieve your best score.

Attend an Academy Summer Program



Apply for a spot in a competitive summer seminar at West Point (USMA), the Naval Academy (USNA), or the Air Force Academy (USAFA). These are critical "looks" at you.

Critical Look



Open Your Application
In the spring of your junior year, go to the academy websites linked above and open a preliminary application. This officially puts you on their radar.

Begin Your Nomination Search



U.S. SENATOR

Find your two
U.S. Senators



U.S. SENATOR



FIND YOUR OFFICIAL SOURCE

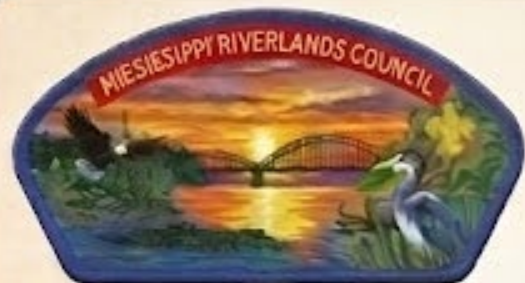
Find your local
U.S. Representative

Look into a
Vice-Presidential



Note: The U.S. Coast Guard Academy is the only academy that does not require a nomination.





A Four-Year Plan for Success

Senior Year: Finalizing Your Packet

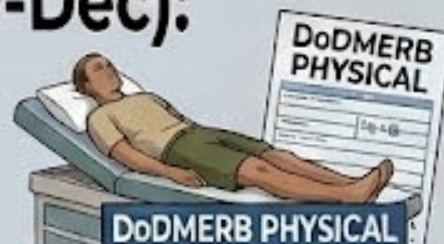


Early Fall (Aug-Oct):

Finalize and submit all nomination applications before their deadlines. Request letters of recommendation. Give your recommenders (teachers, Scoutmaster) plenty of advance notice. Complete and submit your official academy applications online. Prepare for and conduct Eagle Board of Review—be professional, confident, know your “why”.



Late Fall (Nov-Dec):



Schedule and take your official Candidate Fitness Assessment (CFA) with a qualified proctor (e.g., a P.E. teacher or JROTC instructor). Schedule and complete your medical physical through DoDMERB (start as soon as authorized).



Winter/Spring (Jan-May):



Receive notification of nominations and, ultimately, appointments (offers of admission).



Accept and Prepare:

Accept your appointment and prepare for your journey!

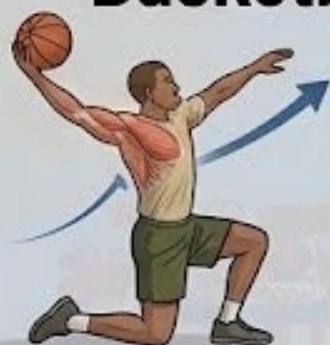




Key Evaluations: What They Measure

The Candidate Fitness Assessment (CFA)

Basketball Throw



Description:
A kneeling, backward-overhead throw to overhead throw to measure upper-body power.

Cadence Pull-ups (or Flexed-Arm Hang)



Description:
Pull-ups performed at a specific cadence to measure upper-body strength.

40-Yard Shuttle Run



Description:
A sprint-and-turn drill to measure agility and speed.

Abdominal Crunches



Description:
Maximum number of crunches in two minutes.

Push-ups



Description: Maximum number of push-ups in two minutes.

1-Mile Run



Description:
A timed run to measure aerobic endurance.

You can find videos and scoring standards for the CFA on each academy's admissions website.



Next Steps



Actionable "To-Do List":



'Official Websites'



(Juniors) Open Preliminary Application



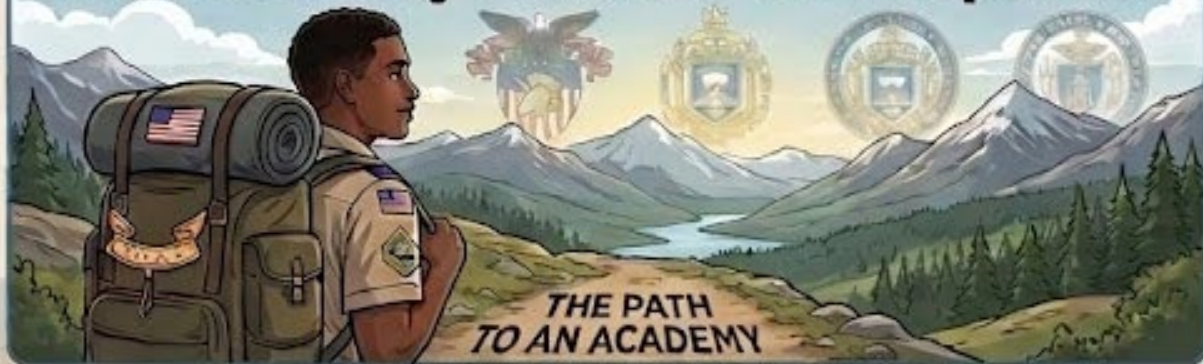
(All) Identify Reps & Senators



Theme of Service & Leadership



Your Journey Ahead: "Be Prepared"



Final Inspiration & Quote

