ENLISTMENT GUIDE

23-24
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Welcome to our Enlistment Guide! This guide will provide resources to help you get started on the path to enlistment in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Joining the military is a serious commitment. Enlistment is typically sought after because of the benefits that the military provides to its service members and their families, but one should be prepared for the sacrifice it takes and make an informed decision that they feel confident in.

In this guide, you’ll learn about the different branches of the military, enlistment requirements, and recruitment information to help you understand if this path is right for you!
There are 6 branches in the military. Each offer a different experience so it is important to do your research on which is best suited for you.

- Air Force
- Army
- Coast Guard
- Marine Corps
- Navy
- Space Force

Click here to watch a video that breaks down each branch and what you should consider before choosing.

Check out these resources to see more about what each branch is responsible for:

- Defense.gov/About/Our-Forces
- Military Branches Explained
Did you know the Space Force is the newest military branch? It was established in 2019. Click here to learn more about the Space Force.
REQUIREMENTS

☑ Must be a U.S. Citizen or have a U.S. Permanent Resident Card

☐ Must take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)

☐ Must have a high school diploma or GED. There are fewer spots for those with a GED but those that have GED have a better chance if they have earned college credits or have a high score on the ASVAB

☑ Must complete a medical exam

☐ Age limits to enlist in active duty:
  Air Force: 17-29
  Army: 17-35
  Coast Guard: 17-31
  Marine Corps: 17-28
  Navy: 17-39
  Space Force: 17-29
The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military.
RECRUITMENT

Air Force

- Air Force: 1-800-423-USA (1-800-423-8723)
- Air Force Reserve: 1-800-257-1212
- Air National Guard: 1-800-6-864-6364

Army

- Army and Army Reserve: 1-888-550-ARMY (1-888-550-2769)
- Army National Guard: 1-800-GO-GUARD (1-800-464-8273)

Coast Guard

- Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve: Chat w/recruiter

Marine Corps

- Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserves: 1-800-MARINES (1-800-627-4637)

Navy

- Navy and Navy Reserves: 1-800-USA-NAVY (1-800-872-6289)

Space Force

- Contact the Air Force to join the Space Force: 1-800-423-USA (1-800-423-8723)

Click for more information and to connect to a local recruiting office
BOOT CAMP

Basic Training, or most commonly known as Boot Camp, is an intense training that prepares one for the physical, mental, and emotional requirements needed for service in the U.S. Armed Forces. While it is a tough experience, it provides recruits a foundation that they will carry throughout their service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Training</th>
<th>Army</th>
<th>Marine Corps</th>
<th>Navy</th>
<th>Air Force</th>
<th>Space Force</th>
<th>Coast Guard</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duration</strong></td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
<td>13 weeks</td>
<td>7.5 weeks</td>
<td>7.5 Weeks</td>
<td>8 weeks</td>
<td>0 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td>Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia</td>
<td>Marine Corp Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina</td>
<td>Great Lakes Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois</td>
<td>Joint Base San Antonio LACKLAND, San Antonio, Texas</td>
<td>Joint Base San Antonio LACKLAND, San Antonio, Texas</td>
<td>Cape May Coast Guard Training Center, Cape May, New Jersey</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Fitness Requirements</strong></td>
<td>Pull-ups or Push-ups</td>
<td>Treadmill or Radios</td>
<td>Treadmill</td>
<td>Treadmill</td>
<td>Treadmill</td>
<td>Treadmill</td>
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Click to watch what Boot Camp is like for Navy Recruits.
Joining the military can offer high school kids a unique set of benefits across various branches, each with its distinct advantages.

Here's a brief overview of the military benefits provided by each branch:

**Army:**
- **Career Opportunities:** The Army offers a wide range of career paths, from combat roles to technical and administrative positions.
- **Education Benefits:** Access to the GI Bill for college education and various training programs.
- **Leadership Development:** The Army emphasizes leadership skills, providing opportunities for personal and professional growth.

**Navy:**
- **Global Travel:** The Navy offers the chance to see the world through deployments and assignments to various international locations.
- **Technical Training:** Opportunities to gain valuable technical skills, particularly in areas like engineering and aviation.
- **Education and Training Opportunities:** Access to the GI Bill and the Navy College Program for further education.
Air Force:
- Technology and Innovation: The Air Force is at the forefront of technological advancements, offering opportunities to work with cutting-edge equipment.
- Education Benefits: Strong emphasis on education, with numerous programs and tuition assistance opportunities.
- Quality of Life: The Air Force is known for its high-quality living standards and excellent facilities.

Marine Corps:
- Discipline and Leadership: The Marine Corps places a strong emphasis on discipline, leadership, and physical fitness.
- Elite Training: Known for its rigorous training, the Marine Corps instills a sense of pride and achievement.
- Versatility: Marines are trained to be adaptable, often serving in various roles within the military.

Coast Guard:
- Humanitarian Missions: The Coast Guard often engages in search and rescue operations and humanitarian missions, providing a sense of service.
- Law Enforcement: Opportunities for careers in maritime law enforcement and border security.

Click here for 2024 Active Duty Pay

Education Benefits: Access to the GI Bill and various educational programs.

Regardless of the branch, common military benefits include healthcare coverage, housing allowances, retirement plans, and a structured career path. It’s essential for high school kids considering joining the military to research each branch thoroughly, speak with recruiters, and carefully assess their personal goals and interests before making a decision.
While not exactly a military preparation program, there are benefits to participating in a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program while in high school before enlisting in the military.

- Learn skills that you can carry into your military career such as:
  - Leadership
  - Discipline
  - Citizenship
  - Self-confidence
  - Accountability
  - Community Service
- JROTC is structured like the military and taught by retired service members, which can give you more insight on military life
- The successful completion of at least 2 years in JROTC can help you enlist at a higher rank (pay grade)
References

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIDHIDYVzFM


https://www.militaryhomesearch.com/military-branches-explained.php

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pmvS7afJg0

https://www.usa.gov/military-requirements

https://www.asvabpracticetests.com/asvab-free-online-study-guide/


https://www.todaysmilitary.com/joining-eligibility/boot-camp

https://veteran.com/high-school-jrotc/

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