

Congressman

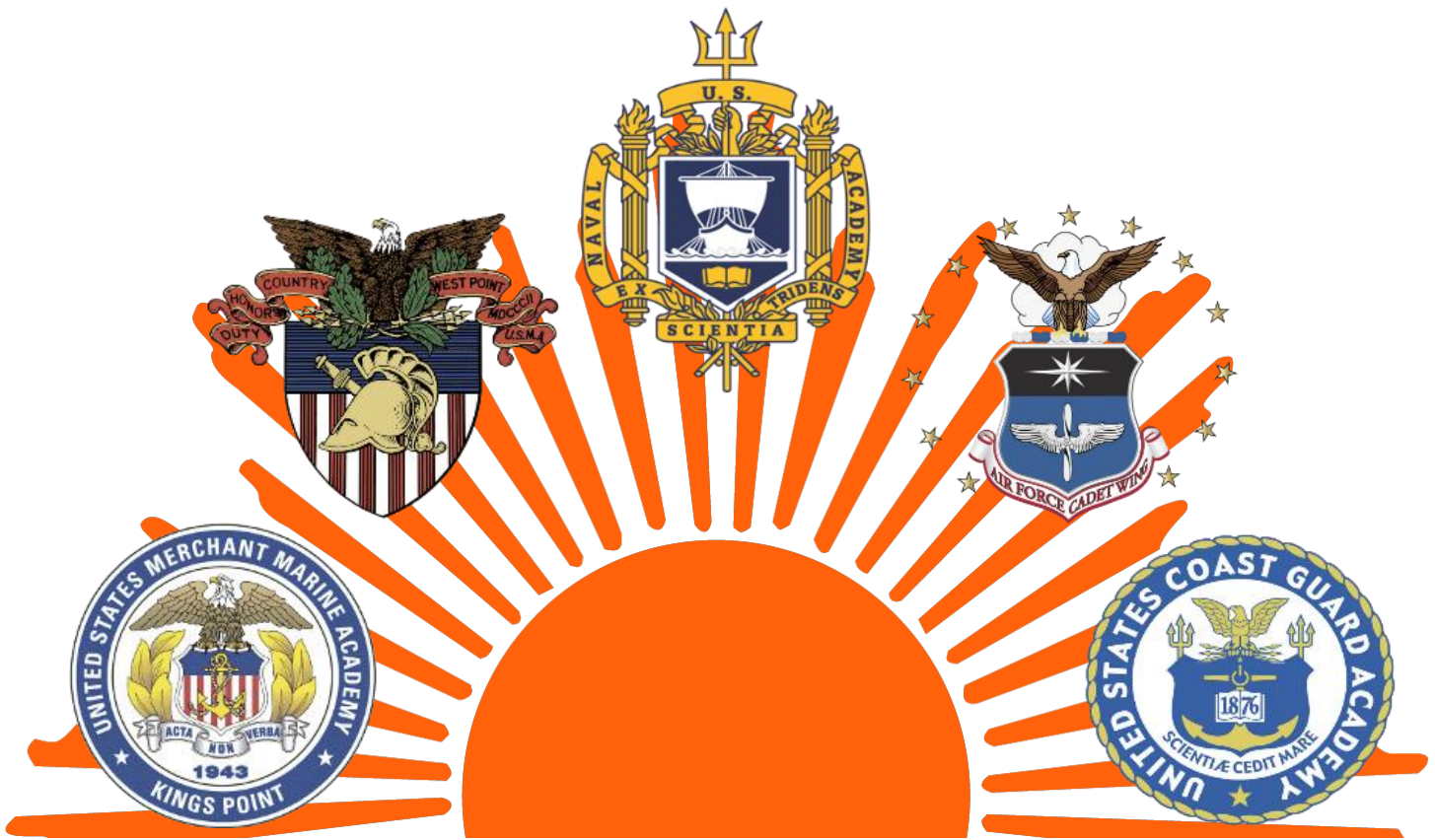
David Schweikert

Arizona 1st Congressional District



United States Service Academies

Congressional Nomination Application Packet



Contents:

- U.S. Service Academy Guidelines
- Nomination and appointment process information
- Frequently Asked Questions

DEADLINE

September 25, 2026



Congressman David Schweikert

Arizona 1st Congressional District

U.S. Service Academy Guidelines

Note: The following Information is of a general nature. For more specific information, you are advised to visit each academy's website as well as the catalogs for each academy.

The U.S. Service Academies are among the most highly respected, quality educational programs in the nation. To be admitted to an academy, you must meet stringent academic, physical, and medical requirements specified by public law. As a cadet/midshipman at the academy, you will be provided a fully funded four-year college education. By law, graduates of service academies appointed as commissioned officers in their respective service are required to serve at least five years active duty.

I. General Guidelines

Each candidate/applicant must:

- Be at least 17 years old, but have not passed their 23rd birthday (25 years for the Merchant Marine Academy);
- Be a citizen of the United States;
- Be unmarried, not pregnant or have any legal obligation to support children or dependents; and,
- Be a legal resident of the 1st congressional district.

II. Academic Qualifications

Members of Congress, as well as the President, Vice President and U.S. Senators, follow the academic requirements set forth by the academies when making a nomination. Certain requirements are specified by current public law. However, the academies look at the whole person when considering admission. Character, leadership, physical aptitude, medical fitness, goals and motivations are key components of a favorable evaluation for admission.

The following are recommended areas of preparation and academic requirements

College Preparatory Studies

Four Years: English, Mathematics (Includes: Algebra, Trigonometry, and Geometry)

Three Years: Social Science (Includes: History, Economics, and Government)

Two Years: Laboratory Science (Includes: Biology, Physics, and Chemistry)

Two Years: Foreign Language

Class Rank

Nominees must be in the top 40% of their class. However, the most successful candidates are in the top 10-20% of their class.

Standardized Testing

Although the academies do not establish minimums, candidates who score below the following will normally **NOT** be competitive:

U.S. Naval Academy
SAT 620+ Math, 630+ Verbal

West Point
SAT 600+ Math & Verbal

U.S. Air Force Academy
SAT 580+ Math, 620+ Verbal



U.S. Service Academy Guidelines

III. Extracurricular Activities, Leadership, Medical Fitness

Participation and achievement in organized athletics, student body and class government, clubs and extracurricular activities, scouting, ROTC, Boy/Girls State, church, or other community-related activities demonstrate evidence of leadership potential. The greater level of involvement/leadership, the more points are awarded in your overall admissions evaluation with the academy.

The service academies consider it more valuable to achieve distinction in a specific activity, rather than participation in several activities without any evidence of leadership.

If you have a part-time job that affects your level of involvement in school activities, the academies view your work experience as a demonstration of your leadership potential.

You must also be in good physical and mental health, pass a Department of Defense medical examination and have an adequate performance on the Physical Aptitude Exam (PAE). Only one medical exam is needed to meet the requirements of all service academies. You will be scheduled to take this examination at a military or civilian contract facility near your home. Nominees are strongly encouraged to begin this process early, especially if consultation, retesting, or corrective action is required. This process may take from six weeks to four months.

If you are a competitive candidate, you will receive instructions for taking the qualifying medical examination directly from:

The Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB)

8304 Edgerton Drive, Suite 132
U.S.A.F. Academy, CO 80840-2200
(800) 841-2706 (Toll Free Number)
(719) 333-3562 (Main Number)
Website: <https://dodmerb.tricare.osd.mil/>

IV. Communication with the Academies

The academies will start your candidate file when you complete the Pre-Candidate Questionnaire online. The questionnaire can be found on the websites of each academy. This ideally should be done during the **SPRING** of your junior year of high school. However, it can be completed up until December of the year you are applying.

The admissions office of each academy also coordinates with a nationwide network of trained Academy Liaison Officers. Once you have made initial contact with the academies, you will be able to receive assistance and guidance throughout your admissions process.

Academy Admission Contact Information

U.S. Naval Academy 117 Decatur Road Annapolis, MD 21402-5019 Phone: (410) 293-1858 Website: www.usna.edu	U.S. Air Force Academy 2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 200 Colorado Springs, CO 80840-5020 Phone: (800) 443-9266 Website: www.usafa.edu
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U.S. Coast Guard Academy 31 Mohegan Avenue New London, CT 06320 Phone: (800) 883-8724 Website: www.cga.edu	U.S. Merchant Marine Academy 300 Steamboat Road King Point, NY 11024-1699 Phone: (866) 546-4778 Website: www.usmma.edu
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U.S. Military Academy
West Point Admissions
Building 606
West Point, NY 10996
Phone: (845) 938-4041
Website: www.usma.edu

NOTE: The U.S. Coast Guard Academy does **NOT** require a congressional nomination. To be considered for an appointment you must contact the academy directly.



Nomination and Application Process

Summer Seminar

The service academies hold seminar programs for high school juniors that are academically high achievers. The program is traditionally held during the summer months and consists of academic workshops, military training, physical fitness training, and intramural athletics. Application and deadline information can be located on the website of each academy. It is strongly recommended that perspective candidates consider attending each of these seminars to see if academy life is right for them. Students are required to pay registration fee and cover the costs of travel. If you have any questions about this experience, please feel free to contact Congressman Schweikert's office at (480) 946-2411 and speak to the Academy Coordinator Chelsea Lett.

V. Nomination Procedures for Arizona's 1st Congressional District

Each applicant must meet the eligibility requirements highlighted in the Academy Requirements section of this packet as well as complete a nomination file with Congressman Schweikert's office due by September 25, 2026.

A nomination file must consist of the following items:

- A completed Application for Nomination;
- Three to five letters of recommendation from non-relatives - See FAQ;
- A 500-word Personal Statement
- SAT/ACT scores: test results for one and or both can be sent directly to Congressman Schweikert from the testing service (you may enter SAT Code 0173 and ACT Code 7224);
- High School and/or College transcripts;
- A recent 4x6 or 5x7 photo

Selection Process

Applicants who have completed their file with Congressman Schweikert's office by the deadline and have been screened for meeting the minimum academy requirements will have an interview with the Committee in October.

The interview committee, consisting of former Academy Alumni from the 1st Congressional District, will interview each candidate and make recommendations.

Students will be notified of their nomination status by early November and nominations will be submitted to each academy by November 30th.

Nomination Method

Members of Congress can have a maximum of five cadets/plebes at each service academy at one time. Each year, Congressman Schweikert may nominate up to fifteen unranked competing nominees to each academy (up to ten for Merchant Marine Academy).

Academy Fair

In the Spring, Congressman Schweikert hosts an "Academy Fair" for students of Arizona's 1st Congressional district who are interested in attending one of the U.S. Service Academies. Students are introduced to the nomination and appointment process, as well as have an opportunity to listen to presentations by Academy Liaison Officers who represent the U.S. Air Force, Merchant Marine, Coast Guard, Military, and Naval Academies. There is also an opportunity to meet one-on-one with the liaison officers to ask questions and learn more about each academy.

All information for your file is to be sent to the Scottsdale office:

Congressman David Schweikert
14500 N. Northsight Blvd. Ste. 221
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Questions should be directed to Chelsea Lett, Academy Coordinator, who can be reached at (480) 946-2411 or by email at Chelsea.Lett@mail.house.gov

Please notify the Academy Coordinator of all significant developments in your academy admissions process that may affect your potential to be given a nomination from Congressman Schweikert.



Congressman David Schweikert

Arizona 1st Congressional District

Military Academy Nominations Frequently Asked Questions

As your Representative in the U.S. House of Representatives and for Arizona's 1st District, each year I have the privilege of nominating a limited number of people to four of the five service academies. The honor of attending a service academy comes with an obligation and commitment to serve in the military for a minimum of five years upon graduation.

What is a service academy?

Service academies are the "universities" of the Armed Forces. They provide four-year education and leadership training leading graduates to an officer commission in their service branch.

Three reside within the Department of Defense:

- [U.S. Military Academy at West Point](#), New York
- [U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis](#), Maryland
- [U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs](#), Colorado

One resides within the Department of Transportation:

- [U.S. Merchant Marine Academy](#) at Kings Point, New York

One resides within the Department of Homeland Security

- [U.S. Coast Guard Academy](#) at New London, Connecticut

What is a nomination?

Members of Congress may nominate applicants who meet the eligibility requirements established by law. A candidate may seek a nomination from the following:

- A member of the U.S. House of Representatives who represents the congressional district in which the candidate resides
- Both U.S. Senators from his or her state
- Apply directly to the Vice-President of the United States

What are the basic eligibility requirements?

Applicants must meet the following general eligibility requirements as of **July 1st** of the year of admission to an academy:

- Age: Be at least 17 years old, but not have passed the 23rd birthday
- Citizenship: Must be a U.S. citizen



Frequently Asked Questions

- Marital Status: Must be unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents
- Residence: Must reside within the 1st District of Arizona
- Skill / Fitness: Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academy
- Academics: Must meet minimum academic requirements of the Academy
- Meet deadlines for application and completing testing

Admission requirements may vary by academy. Click on the link for the academy of interest and go to *Admissions* for more information about each Academy's specific criteria.

What is the application process?

Residents who meet the eligibility requirements must complete the application for their service academy of interest. The application must be submitted directly to the academy. Applicants who seek attendance at a military academy or the Merchant Marine Academy must also be nominated. Most academies have a number of ways a candidate can be nominated. The U.S. Coast Guard Academy does not require a nomination.

Who can nominate an individual?

Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements established by law may seek a nomination from the following officials:

- A member of the U.S. House of Representatives who represents the congressional district in which the candidate resides
- Either U.S. Senators from his or her state
- The Vice-President of the United States

Some academies may offer some additional avenues for a nomination and more information can be found by visiting the academy website.

How do I apply for a nomination?

You may initiate the application process by submitting a preliminary nomination application to my District Office through the website at

<https://schweikert.house.gov/service-academy-nominations> Applications will open **May 1, 2026**.



Frequently Asked Questions

What must be included in my nomination application?

A complete nomination application consists of the following items:

- Preliminary Application
- Current Photo (4x6 or 5x7)
- High school transcript with GPA and Class rank if available
- American College Testing Program (*ACT*) results and/or College Board Scholastic Assessment Test (*SAT*) results. The ACT code for my office is 7224 and the SAT Code is 0173.
(It is recommended that you take and submit both tests)
- Typed resume with extracurricular activities
- A typed, single-spaced essay stating why you want to attend a service academy. Please limit to 500 words or less on 8 1/2 x 11 paper
- Minimum of three letters of recommendation from persons other than family members

When do I apply for a nomination?

My nomination application period opens **May 1st** this year for those candidates who will be seniors the following school year, or those who have already graduated from high school.

Please note that the application process for the U.S. Service Academies is separate from the application for a nomination through my office.

What is the deadline for submitting a nomination file?

The deadline for submitting a nomination file to my District Office is **September 25, 2026**.

What must be included in my nomination file?

A complete nomination file consists of the following items:

- Current photo (4x6 or 5x7)
- High school transcript
- American College Testing Program (ACT) results and/or College Board Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) results
- Resume of extracurricular activities
- An essay stating **WHY** you want to attend a service academy (500 words or less)
- Minimum of three letters of recommendation

What happens after I have completed my nomination file?

Applicants who submit a completed nomination file, and meet the academy guidelines, will be contacted via email and telephonically for a in-person panel interview in mid-October.



Frequently Asked Questions

What criteria are used in selecting candidates?

Nominations are based on a "whole person" evaluation. Factors include academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, leadership skills, physical aptitude, character and motivation. An in-person interview by a panel of former military officers may also be conducted to assist me with evaluation.

Are the requirements the same for all of the service academies?

No. Although many of the qualifications are similar, each academy operates under its own admissions guidelines. Visit the academy of your choice via the websites noted for each academy's particular admissions qualifications.

Will I automatically be selected by the academy after I receive a nomination?

No. You will be placed among a select group of nominees, and the academy themselves will make the final decision. If selected, you will receive an offer of admission (*an appointment*) directly from the academy.

Can I apply and receive a nomination to more than one academy?

Yes. It is **STRONGLY** recommended that you apply to more than one academy. It is important to educate yourself on what all the academies have to offer in order to make the best decision for your career goals. It is not uncommon for a student to initially be interested in one academy and end up finding that another would better suit his/her goals.

Congressman Schweikert can nominate a candidate to more than one academy. It is rare that a candidate is given a principal nomination to one academy and a competing alternate nomination to another.

I am taking the SAT/ACT test again after the file deadline? Will I still be able to Submit new scores?

Yes, you are encouraged to take the SAT/ACT test(s) as many times as you can. The only requirement is that the **NEW** scores be sent to the district office before the Academy Interview committee is scheduled to meet **LATE** October. Please call the district office for details at (480) 946-2411.



Frequently Asked Questions

Who do I ask to write a letter of recommendation?

Since the academies hold to the “whole person” concept, it is important to ask individuals who have watched you develop in all aspects of your life. Therefore, it would not be to your benefit to submit five letters from only teachers and do not forget to include people whom you may have worked with in your extracurricular activities/past jobs. Some suggestions are:

- Coaches
- Pastor/Priest
- Past Employers
- School Counselor
- School Administrators

The format and content should resemble a standard letter of recommendation. It is not necessary that the letter be sealed but it does require a signature and can be sent to the district office by the applicant or the person writing the recommendation letter.

Does the information in my file at the Congressman’s office get forwarded to the Service Academy of my choice?

No. The nomination file at the Congressman’s office is only used to make a congressional nomination.

Your service academy(s) application is reviewed and maintained separately by the service academy, and it is the responsibility of the candidate to forward all necessary information and documentation upon request to the Admissions office.

What is a Competing nomination?

When a competing nomination is submitted, the academy decides if that person will be admitted. If you have an excellent academic and extracurricular activity record, you have a good chance of gaining admission with a competing nomination. Each year roughly 100 of the best-qualified competing nominees are offered admission to the academies.

When will I know if I have been offered an appointment by an academy?

Academies will begin notifying candidates of their admission status in the spring. Most offers of appointment are generally sent out by May.

Further Questions:

If you have any further questions, please contact the District Office at 480-946-2411 or online at <http://schweikert.house.gov/service-academy-nominations/>

UNITED STATES ACADEMY NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS – OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE
DAVID SCHWEIKERT (AZ01)

It is recommended that you check off items as they are completed.

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|--------------------------|---|
| ☐ | One preliminary application (online https://schweikert.house.gov/) |
| ☐ | Headshot attached to preliminary application (4x6 or 5x7) |
| ☐ | One personal statement outlining why you wish to attend one of the United States Service Academies. **This statement must be typed (single-spaced) and on one sheet of 8 ½ x 11 paper, not to exceed 500 words. |
| ☐ | typed resume, and/or a list of extra-curricular activities |
| ☐ | Three letters of recommendation, excluding relatives of any kind. |
| ☐ | Official high school/college transcript(s). Transcripts must include class rank and GPA. |
| ☐ | SAT and ACT test scores – Rep. Schweikert’s SAT code is 0173, and his ACT code is 7224. Scores can be official or a photocopy as they will be verified by the office. **Service Academies highly recommend that both the SAT and ACT be taken in order to display the applicant’s full potential. |

All the information above should be mailed to:

Congressman David Schweikert
Attn: Academy Nominations
14500 N. Northsight Blvd. Ste 221
Scottsdale, Arizona 85260

Please note:

FILES MUST BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

- **Apply to the U.S. Service Academies that you are interested in attending while completing your nomination packet for the Congressman.**
- Due to the competitive nature of the selection process, the Academy Selection Committee will not take any incomplete files into consideration.
- Late SAT/ACT test scores will be accepted after the aforementioned deadline and on the day of interviews only, provided the applicant has given prior notice to the Congressman. Again, providing SAT/ACT scores is mandatory and failure to provide these scores will result in a non-consideration.
- If you have any further questions regarding overall qualifications (e.g. minimum SAT/ACT scores, age, Congressional District residency), please contact the District Office by telephone at (480) 946-2411 or by e-mail at Schweikert.Academy@mail.house.gov