

Commissioning Week Notes

Thanks to Lorrie Golom for her help compiling this information.
Thanks to other USNA Parents' Clubs for their contributions! ☺

Lorrie Golom's notes

- * Rent houses near each other
- * Plan parties accordingly/together with other mids
- * Make sure you have a bed for your mid
- * Ask what is important to your mid
- * Some people have caterers set up while at graduation event
- * Be prepared for an emotional roller coaster
- * "Save the date" note to family & friends; hotels book 1 year in advance
- * Official announcements & invitations are online and available in early March; a mailing will also be sent out.
- * Order saber for mid
- * Take "fix it" box – duct tape, pins
- * Remember to pick up silver dollars for mid to hand out for 1st salute
- * Have set place to meet in stadium immediately after conclusion of ceremony. One suggestion is to pick a battle sign to meet under. Remember, the gridlines are not visible during graduation.

Notes from the Driscoll family

House rental right on Magothy River, great view, giant deck & screened porch. Good spot for large party.

Owners have been renting it out for CW for over 10 years so the house has plenty of cookware, etc.

Owners: Blaine & Maryann Bates
207 Mill Harbor Dr.
Arnold, MD 21012
410-647-1641

Catering: used Palette Pleasers. They supplied 2 parties that week, excellent servers as well as the food. 410-263-6941

House rentals

Whole house rentals:

<http://www.visitannapolis.org/sleep/whole-house-rentals/index.aspx>

Vacation Rentals by Owner

<http://www.vrbo.com/vacation-rentals/usa/maryland/annapolis>

Annapolis Event Lodging

<http://annapolis.eventlodging.net/index.html>

USNA.com Home Rental Listing

<http://www.usna.com/Page.aspx?&pid=1031&srcid=415>

Annapolis B&B

<http://www.annapolisbandb.com>

USNA-Rent

Ted Mussinven has 200 listings for houses. Contact is made directly with landlords.

<http://www.usna-rent.com/>

649 Shore Acres Road

Arnold, MD 21012

410-757-5121 cell: 202-341-4230

tedcmuss@gmail.com

Annapolis Accommodations

Lyn Backe lyn@stayannapolis.com real estate agent; no contact with landlords

<http://www.stayannapolis.com/>

41 Maryland Ave.

Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 263-3262 / 1 800-715-1000

Fax: 410-263-1703

Long & Foster Real Estate, Annapolis-Eastport

Suzanne Kremins

<http://www.lfvacations.com/>

320 Sixth Street

Annapolis, MD 21403

410-260-2800/2802

Fax: 410-295-1516

67 East Street

Kerry & Johannes Hoffman, private owners, investment property

Annapolis Historic District

410-956-1714

<http://www.67eaststreet.com/>

Camping**Capital KOA Campgrounds**

768 Cecil Avenue N.

Millersville, MD 21108

Phone:410-923-2771

Fax:410-923-3709

www.koakampgrounds.com/where/md/20139.htm

capitolkoacampground@att.net

KandJHoffman@comcast.net

97 Market Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

410-263-3381

psteinba@earthlink.net

Leisure Management LLC

617 Ridgely Ave. Annapolis, MD 21401

410.224.3257

<http://www.leisuremanagementllc.com/index.htm>

Primrose Cottage

829 Windsor Road

Cumberland, MD 21502

Phone:301-876-5717

Mh@atlanticbb.net

Watergate Village Apartments & Marina

655 Americana Drive

Annapolis, MD 21403

Phone:410-263-2361

Fax:410-263-8503

www.bernsteinmgmt.com/res_md_watergate.asp

Historic Inns of Annapolis 3 different inns in Annapolis

58 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

410-263-2641 410 216 6327

Fax: 410-268-3613

aliquidry@remingtonhotels.com

Cherry Hill Park

9800 Cherry Hill Road

College Park, MD 20740-1210

Phone:301-937-0722

Fax:301-937-3110

Website: www.cherryhillpark.com

Email: DCCamping@aol.com

Caterers

Catering by the Bay

Nadine Smith
<http://www.cateringbythebay.com/>
108 W. Central Ave.
Edgewater, MD 21037
410-798-5569

Bayside Bull

www.baysidebull.com
108 Central Ave W
Edgewater, MD 21037-2616
(410) 956-6009

Paradiso Fine Catering

P.O. Box 2025
Annapolis, MD 21404
www.paradisocatering.com

410-570-4340

Company's Coming Catering

Christina
909 Bay Ridge Ave
Annapolis, MD 21403-3029
www.cccateringevents.com
410-268-7656

Back Creek Catering

<http://backcreekq.com/>
Menu@Annapolis-Catering.com
410-263-7231

Ken's Creative Kitchen

www.kenscreativekitchen.com
410-268-3222

Event/Party Hosting Sites

USNA Alumni House

247 King George St.
Annapolis, MD 21402
410-295-4000
www.usna.com click on *Events* tab

The Blue Heron Pavilion at

Quietwaters Park (county park)
1 enclosed pavilion/center plus 4 large &
2 small outdoor pavilions
<http://www.aacounty.org/RecParks/parks/quietwaters/index.cfm>
600 Quiet Waters Park Road
Annapolis, MD 21403
410-222-1777

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Philip Merrill Environmental Center,
private beach out front
443-482-2001
6 Herndon Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21403
cgorri@cbf.org
<http://www.cbf.org/merrillcenterevent>

Historic Baldwin Hall

1358 Millersville Road
Millersville, MD 21108
manager@baldwinhall.org
<http://www.baldwinhall.org/Baldwinhall/index.php>

Historic London Town & Gardens

410-222-1919 ext. 203
events@historiclondontown.org

Governor Calvert House part of

Historic Inns of Annapolis
410-263-2641

St. John's College has a boat house for parties

60 College Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-263-2371
www.sjca.edu click on
Events/Facilities rentals

Belair Mansion

Pam Williams
12207 Tulip Grove Dr.
Bowie, MD 20715
301-809-3089

Oakland Manor

<http://www.historic-oakland.com/>
info@historic-oakland.com
5430 Vantage Point Road
Columbia, MD 21044
410-730-4801

Charles Carroll House

<http://www.charlescarrollhouse.com/history.shtml>
107 Duke of Gloucester St.
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-269-1737
info@charlescarrollhouse.com

USNA Golf Club at Greenbury Point

Naval Academy Catering
Barbara Duvall
410-293-2897

Hotels

<http://www.visitannapolis.org/sleep/hotels/index.aspx>

Other accommodations: <http://www.visitannapolis.org/sleep/alternative-lodging/index.aspx>

Wheelchair Rentals

- Weems Creek Pharmacy	410-266-1177	\$30/week
- Advanced Home Oxygen Supplies	410-841-5540	\$45/week
- Annapolis Healthcare Supplies	410-295-7300	\$50/week
- Roberts Home Medical	410-267-7588	\$55/week

CW Events

Commissioning Week is always held the week prior to Memorial Day; graduation is always the Friday preceding Memorial Day.

Blue Angels rehearsal on Tuesday, show on Wednesday – expect extensive traffic delays.

Glee Club concert

Graduation Ball on Wednesday night. Check with your mid if they will be going (includes family as well).

Many **sponsor families** have a traditional day of the week already set for their party, especially if they are long-time sponsor parents, so it's a good idea to check with them early in the process.

Each Mid will receive 4 Tickets to the **Color Parade** for bleacher seating -- however, there is always plenty of standing room on the parade grounds.

Additional tickets issued include tickets to the **Superintendent's Garden Party**; tickets are usually only available for 4 family members. Each battalion will have a designated

time/date for the Supe's Garden party.

Schedule: USNA will have complete schedule of events for Commissioning Week. Check back often since some times/locations/events will change:
http://www.usna.edu/PAO/pressreleases/2009/2009_CommWkSchOfEvents_022409_pre ssqual.pdf
They will also list dress guidelines for each event.

Professional Photography: A professional photographer will take a picture of every single mid as she/he gets degree and commission, and these will be closer-up than any picture you can take from the stands. The names are called VERY close together, so pay attention!

Tickets:

On the field: Graduates with distinction/big donors/other VIPs
Everyone entering the stadium on commissioning day MUST have a ticket. Graduating Midshipmen must pre-order tickets. Each Mid can request up to six (6) tickets in the company seating area (lower or upper level seating closer to the stage). Each Mid can also request an unlimited number of additional tickets for the general seating area. Company-area seating is on a "first-come, first served" basis within the section and are not assigned seats.

In the unlikely event the graduation ceremony is held indoors in Alumni Hall due to inclement weather, only four (4) tickets will be given to each Midshipman. Graduation will be televised on local television and simulcast on streaming video on the USNA web site. Indoor seating is limited and it is very difficult to obtain additional tickets.

Mids are given 6 "assigned seats" and will be in your son/daughter's company area which is changed every year to be fair to all companies. Those company seats will be in the upper and lower decks closest to the podium on both sides. The 2/C, 3/C, and 4/C mids will sit on the same benches on the Blue (West) side where they sit for football games.

Determination of the graduation site will be made early Friday morning (graduation day) and posted on the USNA website or by calling 410-293-1000. Due to the limited seating in Alumni Hall, an outdoor ceremony is usually desired and attendees should be prepared for a variety of weather conditions.

The tickets will be distributed directly to graduating Midshipmen, usually after May Intercessionals.

Arrive at the stadium early (7:00am – 7:30am) if you want the best seats. If not, you can arrive by 8:45am. Concession stands are open.

.Stadium will have rules about what can/can not be brought in. Generally, NO large camera bags, purses, backpacks, etc will be allowed in. Bottled water is generally not allowed to be brought in. However, you can buy cold water and some breakfast items in the stadium after you arrive. There is plenty of time during the ceremony to go to the snack concessions and get something to eat or drink. It takes a few hours to get through almost 1,000 names, plus all the speeches.

Generally, nobody can leave the stadium once in and then get back in. Yes, someone can go into stadium to save seats.

Podium will be erected at the South end, where the mids march in and is visible from every single seat. Stadium is never full for graduation...seats for all. Bring binoculars and cameras with good zoom lenses!!

Handicapped Seating: Handicapped seating is limited. Midshipmen may request handicapped/wheelchair tickets, for the person needing handicapped seating and for an attendant. Other family members will be directed to sit in an adjacent reserve seating area to allow for maximum handicapped space. Wheelchair accessible seating at the stadium can be accessed by utilizing ramps located adjacent to Sections 8 and 25. Handicapped seating is available at the stadium on a first serve policy (no reservations). A wheelchair member will be expected to have a family designee with him/her. The wheelchairs are positioned above the company area seating under the overhang (and out of the sun and rain). The assisting family member sits in the last row just in front of the wheelchairs.

Post Graduation Ceremony: Allow for time on the field after graduation for taking pictures, placing new shoulder boards, first salute, etc. You will be holding your Mid's new Ensign cover with you in your seats. Your mid will be wearing his Midshipman cover and will be throwing that in the air. After the ceremonies, he will be looking for you to put on his new shoulder boards and ensign cover, becoming eligible to receive his 1st salute (then giving the Silver Dollar).

Officers are saluted only by other active duty military personnel and only by those that they outrank (in this case, ensigns or 2nd LT's only outrank other midshipmen, enlisted of any rank, or warrant officers) and only when in uniform. Be sure to keep an eye on that beautiful new cover. The kids who try to get a Midshipman cover as a souvenir after the ceremony don't always know the difference between that and a new officer's cover. They have been known to disappear while everyone is gathering on the field in preparation for pictures.

Consider packing cooler water, soft drinks, bagels, fruit and veggies for before and after event in parking lot. It takes a long time for the parking lot to clear after the ceremonies.

Traffic/Parking/Shuttles

- *Firsties will receive a parking pass.
 - *Traffic is usually very congested, especially if Herndon is held during Commissioning Week.
 - *If you are scheduled to be on the Yard for an evening event, you may not be able to leave and return in time -- take your clothing and change in a restroom -- also, for most afternoon events, bring a picnic lunch and spend time along the sea wall
- Vehicles parking on the Yard and/or Hospital Point require special stickers and is VERY limited.

- *Plan to park at the Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium for the majority of Commissioning Week activities. Shuttle buses will operate to and from the stadium to the Naval Academy Monday through Thursday, usually from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Buses will make stops at Alumni Hall, Preble Hall, Dahlgren Hall, Luce Hall (by the Midshipmen Store parking lot) and the Visitor's Center at approximately 30-minute intervals. The best and primary location to meet a bus for transportation to/from the stadium is Alumni Hall, or Luce Hall as a secondary location where additional buses will drop off and pick up.
- *No shuttle buses will operate on graduation day, unless the ceremony is held in Alumni Hall. Buses will run from the stadium to Alumni Hall for indoor ceremony ticket holders only. The indoor ceremony can be viewed on the Videoboard at the stadium.

Meals/Food

Plan all of your meals, as well as where you may be going to eat, as far ahead of time as possible. While Annapolis has many good restaurants, many of them do not take reservations.

Ordering of special graduation cakes and most foods should be accomplished well in advance of arriving at Annapolis.

If you plan to eat out in restaurants, check out reservation status, many restaurants will only operate on a first come basis at this time - they will not accept reservations

Think about hosting an Officers' Club brunch after Sunday services -- a good way to celebrate with relatives, etc., who may not be able to attend graduation ceremonies and festivities.