

# FAQ

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 their state
- Apply directly to the Vice President of the United States

## WHAT ARE THE BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS?

Each applicant for a nomination must meet the following 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
- Marital Status: Must be unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents.
- Residence: Must reside within the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of South Carolina
- Skill / Fitness: Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academy.

## WHO DO I CONTACT TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS ABOUT MY APPLICATION?

Contact the Surfside Beach District Office at 843-353-5377 or email [Fryacademynoms@mail.house.gov](mailto:Fryacademynoms@mail.house.gov) if you have questions about your application.

## WHEN DO I APPLY FOR A NOMINATION?

The nomination application period opens June 1st of each year for those candidates who are high school juniors and will be seniors the following school year or who have already graduated.

## WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING A NOMINATION FILE?

The deadline for submitting a nomination packet to the Grand Strand District Office or the Pee Dee District Office is **Friday, October 24, 2025, by 5:00 pm ET.**

## WHAT MUST BE INCLUDED WITH MY NOMINATION FILE?

A complete nomination file consists of the following items:

- [Online application](#) (must be printed and signed)
- High school transcript – must be current.
- Current Photo
- Official American College Test Program (ACT) results and/or College Board Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) results. Send official test scores to our office (ACT to Code 7667; SAT to Code 7473)

- Resume - should not exceed one page.
  - Include all extracurricular activities (sports, clubs, volunteerism, work, JROTC, etc.)
  - Indicate any leadership roles you have held (captain, president, etc.)
- An essay stating why you want to attend a service academy (500 words or less)
- Three letters of recommendation

Please **mail all required documents to the Surfside Beach address below**. Or, you can hand deliver the required documents to either office below. All documents must be received in one of our offices by **5 pm Friday, October 24, 2025**.

Congressman Russell Fry  
1500 Hwy 17 N.  
Suite 304  
Surfside Beach, SC 29575

OR

Congressman Russell Fry  
1831 West Evans St.  
Suite 300  
Florence, SC 29501

### **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY NOMINATION FILE IS COMPLETE?**

Applicants who submit a completed nomination file will be sent a confirmation email and scheduled for an interview in late November or early December.

### **WHAT CRITERIA ARE USED IN SELECTING CANDIDATES?**

Nominations are based on a comprehensive evaluation. Factors such as academic achievements, extracurricular activities, leadership skills, character, and motivation are taken into consideration and compared with other applicants.

### **HOW MANY ACADEMIES ARE THERE?**

There are four service academies you may apply for.

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

### **WHO SHOULD I ASK TO WRITE A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION ON MY BEHALF?**

Letters may come from anyone except family members. We suggest seeking recommendations from the following:

- Teachers
- Counselors
- Employers
- Coaches
- Service Members
- Clergy
- Scout Leaders
- Community leaders

**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 of your choice will make the final decision. If selected, you will receive an offer of admission (an appointment) directly from the Academy.

**WHAT IF I CHOOSE MORE THAN ONE ACADEMY? WILL I BE LIMITED TO A SINGLE NOMINATION?**

No. You can be nominated to multiple academies depending on how well you have competed among this year's pool of candidates. It is also possible to receive multiple appointments.

**WHEN WILL I KNOW IF I HAVE BEEN OFFERED AN APPOINTMENT BY AN ACADEMY?**

Academies will typically begin to notify candidates of their admission status in February. All offers of appointment are generally sent out by the end of May.

**HOW DO I START THE PROCESS?**

Start with the [Online Application](#)