

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 where 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 7th Congressional District of South Carolina
- Skill / Fitness: Must meet the Academy's medical, physical, and academic requirements.

WHO DO I CONTACT TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS ABOUT MY APPLICATION?

If you have questions about your application, contact the Surfside Beach District Office at 843-353-5377 or email Fryacademynoms@mail.house.gov.

WHEN DO I APPLY FOR A NOMINATION?

The nomination application period opens on June 1st each year for 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 to submit a nomination packet to the Grand Strand District Office or the Pee Dee District Office is **Friday, October 23, 2026, by 5:00 pm ET.**

WHAT MUST BE INCLUDED WITH MY NOMINATION FILE?

A complete nomination file includes 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 of the offices below. All documents must be received in one of our offices by **5 pm Friday, October 23, 2026**.

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

OR

Congressman Russell Fry
401 West Evans St.
Suite 205
Florence, SC 29501

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY NOMINATION FILE IS COMPLETE?

Applicants who submit a complete nomination file will receive a confirmation email and be 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 considered and compared with those of other applicants.

HOW MANY ACADEMIES ARE THERE?

There are four service academies you may apply to.

- [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 sources:

- 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 against 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](#)