

Congressman Lamar Smith

FACT SHEET FOR U.S. SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

The competition for any Congressman's nomination is generally keen. Therefore, all candidates are urged to apply to every nomination authority for which their eligibility allows. If a candidate receives a nomination from another source, the candidate must notify my office as soon as possible. We may choose not to duplicate that nomination. This practice provides the academies a greater selection of young people and gives more young people from the 21st Congressional District an opportunity for an appointment.

My nominees are selected on a competitive basis, using criteria determined by the academies as an indicator of potential for success as a midshipman or cadet.

You may take either or both the SAT or ACT more than once to try to improve your chances for a nomination. Take the tests early! The academy will accept your highest scores and ignore all the others. There is usually an SAT test offered on the first weekend in December. If you still need to take the test that late, you might consider scheduling it at Tivy High School, so you make the interviews after lunch. Late Fall test scores will not be received in time for the interviews.

The academies usually require at least a 600 or higher in Math and English on the SAT to be competitive for an appointment. Competitive scores for the ACT would be 26 or higher. The academy selection process is **VERY COMPETITIVE**. You need to maximize your edge in every way possible. Take the tests early!!!

Class rank is also a very important factor. You must request your class rank be included on your transcript. Most nominees are in the top 20 percent of their class.

Being a leader is an essential quality in judging a candidate's potential success. Be sure to include all indications of leadership with your application. Be precise. Your evaluation by my board is based on the information you submit. Now is the time to "toot your own horn".

You must have some sort of athletics. You don't have to be a star of the team, but you do need to participate in a school or community sports activity. It doesn't matter if it's cross-country, tennis or football, etc. You need to show you do something on a regular basis to keep physically fit.

You must also show that you are well rounded. The academies want young people who have demonstrated that they are leaders or have leadership potential. They will look to see if you are active in school activities and also non-school related civic or charitable activities.

You need to be applying to other colleges or universities while you are working to secure your nomination and appointment. Not every applicant will receive a nomination and not every nominee will be offered an appointment. As mentioned earlier, the process is very competitive.

I would also suggest you not limit yourself to one academy. Consider applying to more than one. There is a place on the application to indicate the order of your choices. The ranking order can be changed up to the day of the interviews. Please select only the academies where you plan to open a file.

I only have a set number of nominations we can submit to each academy, which are 10. We try to give a qualified student a nomination to their first choice, but in the event that it's not possible, we try to give them a nomination to their second choice.

To qualify for the final phase of the process for a nomination, you must complete your file by October 20, 2012. You will then be scheduled for an interview with my service academy selection board. These interviews will most likely be held the first weekend in December at Tivy High School in Kerrville. After completion of all interviews, your file and the Board's evaluation will be given to me for final determination of the nominations.

Once nominees are selected, they are submitted in January to the academies who will then determine who will receive offers of appointment.

For further information or questions, please contact Anne Overby in my Kerrville District Office, (830) 896-0154 or e-mail anne.overby@mail.house.gov.

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District 21

Prospective nominees from the 21st Congressional District should also apply to the following sources for congressional nominations:

Vice President Joe Biden
Old Executive Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20501 <http://whitehouse.gov/vicepresident/>

Senator John Cornyn
221 West 6th Street (512) 469-6034
Suite 1530 <http://cornyn.senate.gov> (online application)
Austin, Texas 78701 Contact: Katherine Priddy

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
300 East 8th Street (512) 916-5834
Suite 961 <http://hutchison.senate.gov> (online application)
Austin, Texas 78701 Contact: Cori Modisett

SERVICE-AFFILIATED NOMINATIONS

The President of the United States may select for appointment to the service academies children of members of an armed force who are currently on active duty or were retired from active duty. The President may also appoint the children of Medal of Honor winners. Applicants should contact the appropriate service academies for a nomination.

The Secretary of the appropriate service may nominate for appointment enlisted members of the regular and the reserve components of the appropriate service, members of the service's own Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and Junior Reserve Officer Training Officer Training (JROTC) programs of the other services which have been designated as Honor Unit with Distinction. Applicants should contact their commanding officer for information.

SAT/ACT College Boards

Please take the College Board **early** in the application process. This will allow you time to retake the test should you wish to raise your scores to be more competitive.

United States Service Academies

U.S. Air Force Academy: Admissions Office, HQ USAFA/RRS
2304 Cadet Dr, Suite 200
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5025
1-800-443-9266
www.usafa.af.mil

U.S. Military Academy: Director of Admissions
U.S. Military Academy
600 Thayer Rd.
West Point, NY 10996-9902
1-800-822-ARMY (2769)
www.usma.edu

U.S. Naval Academy: U.S. Naval Academy
Candidate Guidance Office
117 Decatur Rd.
Annapolis, MD 21402-5018
1-440-293-4361
www.usna.edu

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy: Admissions Office
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Kings Point, NY 11024-9997
1-866-546-4778
www.usmma.edu

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy does not require a nomination. You should apply directly to the academy for admission.

U.S. Coast Guard Academy: Director of Admissions
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
15 Mohegan Ave.
New London, CT 06320-4195
1-860-444-8500
www.cga.edu