

Congressman Gil Gutknecht
First District, Minnesota

SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS

The following information is intended to assist you in completing the Application for Nomination to U.S. Service Academies from United States Congressman Gil Gutknecht. Please review the following information carefully to ensure that your file is completed properly and on time.

Congressman Gutknecht accepts Applications for Nomination to the following service academies:

Department of Defense
U.S. Air Force Academy
Colorado Springs, Colorado
719.333.2520
800.443.9266
www.usafa.af.mil

U.S. Military Academy
West Point, New York
845.938.4041
www.usma.edu

U.S. Naval Academy
Annapolis, Maryland
410.293.4361
www.nadn.navy.mil

Department of Transportation
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Kings Point, New York
866.546.4778
www.usmma.edu

Application for admission to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy is by application directly to the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. Call (800) 883-USCG for more information.

Eligibility

The law pertaining to congressional nominations for each of the service academies stipulates that each Member of Congress is allowed a maximum of five persons at each academy during any given year. This allocation to the academies determines the number of vacancies for each entering class. We are authorized to nominate up to ten individuals for each vacancy in the entering class. Since the process is so competitive, we recommend that candidates apply to both U.S. Senators and the Vice President as well. The Merchant Marine allocation system is the exception to this guideline.

The regulations of the Air Force, Army and Naval Academies require that a nominee reside in the congressional district of the nominating Congressman. In this case, it is the First Congressional District of Minnesota, and your parents' legal voting address determines whether you can apply from this district. If you should move out of the First Congressional District during the application process, you should notify this office immediately so your file can be transferred to the proper congressional office.

Nominees to the service academies must be permanent residents of Minnesota and must be United States citizens. Candidates must be at least 17 years old and not past their 23rd birthday. Merchant Marine regulations allow candidates until their 25th birthday. Candidates cannot be married and must not have dependents. These stipulations have been established by the service academies.



Method of Nomination

Congressman Gutknecht uses the 'Competitive' form of nomination to the service academies. Using this method, the Member of Congress submits to each academy unranked nominees for each vacancy. The Academy then reviews the nominees and selects the candidates it deems most qualified.

If an applicant has a parent who is an active or retired military person, or a parent who is a disabled or deceased veteran, he/she should review the instructions in the service academy literature to learn of additional means of receiving a nomination.

Application Process

The application process for an academy nomination is challenging. We recommend beginning the process during the spring of your junior year in high school. After an application has been completed, it must be returned to the mailing address, as noted at right.

The following materials need to be submitted, no later than the deadline noted on the current Application for Nomination:

1. A completed Application for Nomination, including a recent photograph.
2. High school transcripts.
3. Three letters of recommendation, written by individuals who are very familiar with the applicant. These may be written by teachers, coaches, employers, clergy, veterans, neighbors or other non-family members who can accurately comment on an applicant's character, abilities, motivation and potential.
4. SAT and/or ACT scores. These are acceptable from the high school transcripts.
5. A typewritten essay explaining your motivation for application to a service academy. It should be no more than two pages, double-spaced.

Pre-Candidate Questionnaire

If you have not already done so, you should contact the Admissions Office at the Service Academies directly. Request a 'Pre-Candidate Questionnaire' to 'Open a file' at each school to which you are applying. Upon completion and return of the Pre-Candidate form for each school, you will be informed of their application requirements.

Academy Advisory Committee

Upon receipt of your entire Application for Nomination, it will be reviewed. If it is complete, and you appear qualified, an interview will be scheduled when our Academy Advisory Committee meets. We will accept updated test scores or other new documentation at that time. You will be informed as to whether or not you received a nomination as soon as possible thereafter.

Contact Information

All materials and correspondence should be sent to:

Congressman Gil Gutkencht
 ATTN: Mr. Douglas Altrichter
 1530 Greenview Drive SW
 Suite 108
 Rochester, MN 55902
Telephone
 507.252.9841 or 800.862.8632

Finally, the difficulties and complexities of the service academy process are many. Our office will make every effort to work with you and your family to explain the process and encourage you through the system.

We are very proud of all the young men and women who have been nominated or who are currently appointed to each of the service academies. We wish you the best of success!