



# 2026

## **SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS**

**CONGRESSMAN Mike Flood**  
Nebraska's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional DISTRICT

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[www.Flood.HOUSE.GOV](http://www.Flood.HOUSE.GOV)

**Mike Flood**  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
First Congressional District,  
Nebraska

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

301 S. 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, NE  
(402)438-1598

Dear Academy Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in receiving a nomination to the United States Service Academies.

Our American Service Academies have a rich history of training our nation's military leaders. From the fields of Gettysburg to the sands of Omaha Beach military academy graduates have led this country through some of its most difficult days. Today, these same values are taught at the service academies.

The Service Academies allow students to serve their nation while receiving a quality, tuition-free education at some of the nation's finest educational institutions. I take the privilege of nominating people to the Service Academies very seriously.

Please use the information enclosed in this packet to apply to my office.

Sincerely,



Mike Flood  
Member of Congress  
Nebraska's First Congressional District

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## 2026 SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS TIMELINE

**August, 2026** **First Day to Apply for a Nomination**

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**October 15, 2026** **All Applications Must be submitted**

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**November, 2026** **Selection Committee Interview**

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**December, 2026** **Nominees will be Contacted**

## **HOW NOMINATIONS ARE COMPLETED**

Choosing the most qualified candidates to be nominated for a Service Academy nomination is no easy task. Nominees are chosen strictly on the quality of their qualifications, academic record, standardized test scores, resume, essay, and letters of recommendation. No other information will be used when selecting candidates for nomination.

In order to ensure the utmost level of fairness and quality in the fiercely competitive nomination process, Congressman Flood has asked several qualified and experienced individuals to serve on a Service Academy Nomination Board. This board will review all applications, interview prospective nominees, and then recommend the most qualified candidates for Service Academy nominations.

Congressman Flood believes this process is the most fair and efficient way to select the most skilled and qualified candidates for nomination.

## APPLICATION PACKET INSTRUCTIONS

The application is your means to communicate to the Academy Review Board the information necessary to process your application for a Congressional Nomination.

Follow all instructions carefully:

- Assemble your packet in the order of the required material checklist.
- Do not send a full-sized photograph. Please attach a wallet-sized photo.
- Be complete and neat.
- Be precise.
- Please send packet as one document or attachment.
- You may contact the office to confirm that your packet has been received.
- The information you send in will be submitted to the review board “as is.”
- Candidate packets are kept confidential and only reviewed by members of the Congressional staff and Board of Review members.
- Late submission of packets or individual pieces of information will not be allowed unless e-mailed as of or prior to the submission deadline.
- Please e-mail the completed application to: [kim.kwapnioski@mail.house.gov](mailto:kim.kwapnioski@mail.house.gov).

## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a nomination from Congressman Mike Flood one must:

- Be a citizen of the United States by the time you enter a military academy.
- Be a legal resident of Nebraska's 1st Congressional District.
- Be 17 years old, but not yet past one's 23rd birthday, on July 1st of the year one enters a military academy.
- Be unmarried, not pregnant, and have no legal obligation to support children or other dependents.
- Earned an above-average academic record.
- Achieved competitive standardized test scores (ACT/SAT).
- Have unquestionable strong moral character and display uncompromising integrity.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS CHECKLIST

### All Materials Must Be Returned By October 15, 2026

#### Application for nomination

- >Complete entire application form.
- >Please type or print neatly.
- >Make sure to sign and date application form.

#### Materials from your school

- >Current class schedule (may be included on transcript),
- >Official academic transcripts from high school and college (if applicable).

#### Standardized test scores (ACT/SAT)

- >May be included on transcript.

#### Resume

- >Include extracurricular activities starting in 9th grade and employment history.

#### Essay Question (500 words or less)

- >"Describe a personal experience you have had which you feel has contributed to your own character development and integrity."

#### Letters of Recommendation

- >Please include 3 letters.
- >Should be from people who applicant knows personally, and should attest to applicant's character, motivation to serve, and integrity.
- >Letters should be included in your required materials that you will e-mail in.

#### E-Mail to: [Kim.Kwapnioski@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kim.Kwapnioski@mail.house.gov)

Questions? Please feel free to contact Kim Kwapnioski at: 202-834-2780

\*\*\*\*\*Please e-mail completed, signed, and dated application package to Congressman Flood's District Office. Remember, all materials **MUST** be submitted by **October 15, 2026**.

**PLEASE E-MAIL ALL MATERIALS TO:**

Congressman Mike Flood Attn:  
Service Academy Application  
**Kim.Kwapnioski@mail.house.gov**

**ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Kim Kwapnioski  
Email: [kim.kwapnioski@mail.house.gov](mailto:kim.kwapnioski@mail.house.gov)  
Phone: 202-834-2780

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**What is a nomination?** 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 his or her 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 boundaries of the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District of Nebraska.
- Skill/Fitness: Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requests of the Academy.

### **Who do I contact to request an application?**

Contact Congressman Flood's District Office: 402-438-1598 or Kim Kwapnioski at 202-834-2780.

### **What is the deadline for completing a nomination file?**

The deadline for submitting a nomination packet to Congressman Flood is by October 15, 2026.

Please contact Congressman Flood's office at 202-834-2780 for more information.

### **What must be included in my nomination file?**

Please refer to the checklist on Page 7 of this document for a complete list of required nomination documents.

### **What happens after I have completed my nomination file?**

Applicants who submit a complete nomination file by October 15, 2026 will receive a phone call to schedule an interview with the Selection Committee in November.

All candidates will be notified as to their status in December, 2026.

**What criteria are used in selecting candidates?**

Nominations are based on a "whole person" evaluation. Factors such as academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, leadership skills, physical aptitude, character, and motivation are taken into consideration and compared with other applicants.

**How many academies are there?**

There are four Service Academies.

- [U.S. Military Academy](http://www.usma.edu/admissions) at West Point, New York - [www.usma.edu/admissions](http://www.usma.edu/admissions)
- [U.S. Naval Academy](http://www.usna.edu/admissions) at Annapolis, Maryland - [www.usna.edu/admissions](http://www.usna.edu/admissions)
- [U.S. Air Force Academy](http://www.academyadmissions.com) at Colorado Springs - [www.academyadmissions.com](http://www.academyadmissions.com)
- [U.S. Merchant Marine Academy](http://www.usmma.edu) at Kings Point, New York - [www.usmma.edu](http://www.usmma.edu)

**Are the requirements the same for all of the Service Academies?**

No. Although many of the qualifications are similar, each academy operates under its own admissions guidelines. Visit the academy of your choice via the websites noted for each academy's particular admissions qualifications.

**Who should I ask to write a letter of recommendation on my behalf?** It is important that the

individual writing your letter demonstrates personal knowledge about you. While it might seem impressive to have a high-level professional construct your letter, it is more important the writer clearly knows your desire to attend an academy.

Some of the people applicants typically seek recommendations from include:

- |              |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| ■ Teachers   | ■ Volunteer Organizations |
| ■ Counselors | ■ Neighbors               |
| ■ Employers  | ■ Family friends          |
| ■ Coaches    | ■ Relatives               |
| ■ Clergy     | ■ Scout 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 win multiple appointments.

**When will I know if I have been offered an appointment by an academy?**

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

