

# GRADUATION AND COMMISSIONING WEEK

Helpful Hint, Tips, and Ideas



- ▶ It is well worth the trip to see a USNA Graduation
- ▶ You will experience a lifetime of memories
- ▶ Share wonderful experiences with your Firstie, family, and friends!



**GRADUATION WEEK**



This week is about your FIRSTIE.

Make sure you keep this as  
your Top Priority

ALWAYS REMEMBER



## ▶ 9-12 Months

### ▶ Begin Plans for graduation

- ▶ Budgets,
- ▶ Midshipman preferences,
- ▶ Family desires, Parents, Relatives, and Friends
- ▶ Special needs

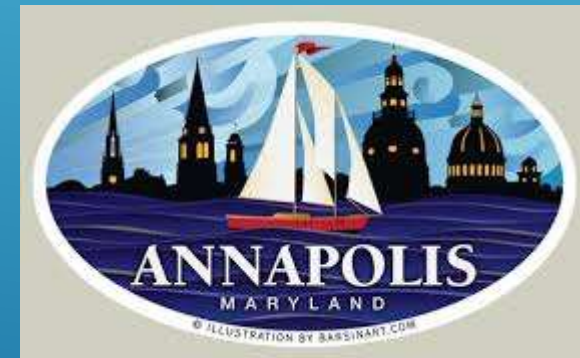


# GRADUATION TIMELINE



## ▶ 6-9 Months

- ▶ Look into Annapolis Accommodations for your Family
  - ▶ Choose House Rentals, B&B, Hotels
  - ▶ Stadium Party Suite
  - ▶ Pay Deposits
- ▶ Inform Grandparents, Family, Friends of Graduation date and timeline
  - ▶ Share with them Airline information
  - ▶ Driving time (22-24 hours, typically 2 days)
  - ▶ Hotel Information and Accommodations



# GRADUATION TIMELINE



## ▶ 3-6 Months

- ▶ Order Graduation Announcements
- ▶ To Party or Not to Party?
  - ▶ What does your Firstie want?
  - ▶ Plan Custom Party Themes
  - ▶ Caterers

## ▶ 3-4 Months

- ▶ Confirm Reservations, deposits
- ▶ Make Airfare Reservations

# GRADUATION TIMELINE



## ▶ 1-3 Months

- ▶ Using the **USNA Commissioning Schedule**
  - ▶ Plan out the Activities you want to attend for the week
  - ▶ Get family's buy-in
  - ▶ Publish/highlight this schedule for all attending parties
- ▶ Mail Graduation Announcements
- ▶ Create an Annapolis / USNA Information Packet

# GRADUATION TIMELINE



- ▶ Get Lodging too far from the USNA
  - ▶ Traffic can be difficult
- ▶ Don't Plan, just fly by the seat of your pants
- ▶ Think you can arrive 15 minutes ahead of time
- ▶ OVERPLAN Activities
- ▶ FORGET, Not Bring an ID
- ▶ Not Talking to the Other Mids Parents



WHAT NOT TO DO!





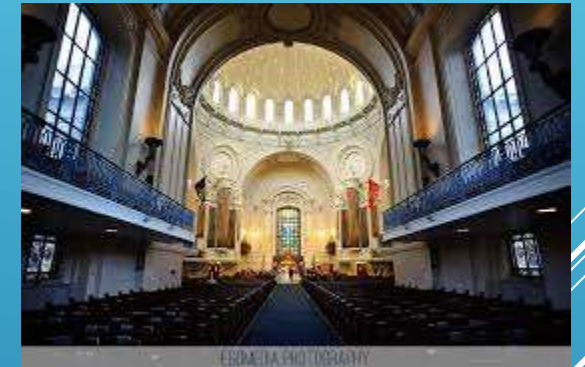


# COMMISSIONING WEEK



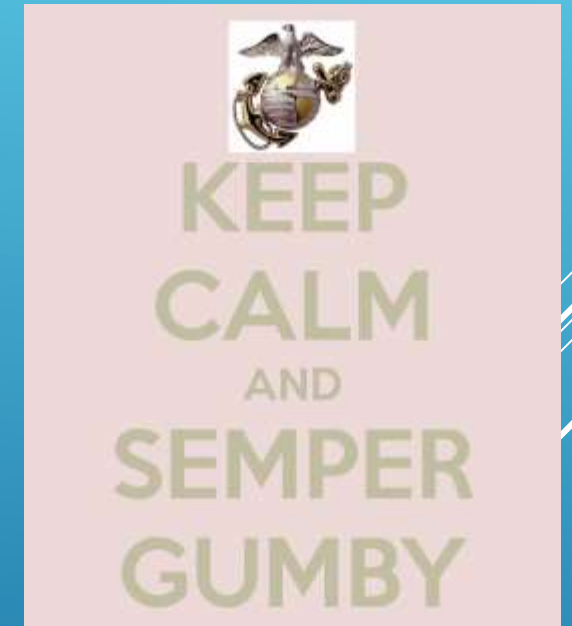
- Graduation Ball
- Baccalaureate Service
- Superintendent's Garden Reception
- Awards Ceremony
- Choir Concerts & Band Concerts
- Blue Angels Performance
- Color Parade
- Ordering the Commissioning Week DVD

**BE SURE NOT TO MISS**



- ▶ Firsties will have a lot of schedule/time requirements.  
They will be going on very little sleep
- ▶ You Might not see him/her as much as you want.
  - ▶ Make your family and friends understand this
  - ▶ Roll with the flow...Semper Gumby
- ▶ Expect USNA Graduation Schedule changes
- ▶ Plan for changes in weather

**DON'T BE SURPRISED**



- ▶ Firstie places money inside their cover they will throw.
  - ▶ The Class of 2015 placed a \$20, a dime, and 1 nickel
  - ▶ Take a photo of the inside of the cover
- ▶ Buy a new Silver Dollar of the current graduate year
  - ▶ <http://www.usnamarylandpc.org/first-salute-coins.html>
- ▶ First Salute: Have a New Silver Dollar following graduation
- ▶ Shoes left on the Parade Grounds. Firsties to leave their shoes behind after their last parade as a reminder of the shoes that the younger classes have to fill



# GRADUATION TRADITIONS

- ▶ Officer Sword
- ▶ Insignia Chest
- ▶ VISA Gift Cards
- ▶ Luggage
- ▶ Custom Graduation Frame / USNA Frame
- ▶ Clothing
- ▶ Cover Box
- ▶ Graduation Coin



# GIFT IDEAS

## ▶ Create an Information Packet

- ▶ Hotels, B&B
- ▶ Maps
- ▶ 2014 Guide to the USNA
- ▶ Annapolis Map
- ▶ Restaurant Guide
- ▶ Graduation Schedule
- ▶ Contact Numbers
- ▶ Note / Thank you from your Firstie



# PARENTS, FAMILY, FRIENDS



## ▶ Graduation Tickets

- ▶ Are distributed the week prior to Commissioning
- ▶ Get the tickets from your Firstie
- ▶ Each Mid gets 6 Reserved Seats & as many General Admission tickets as they request
- ▶ Plan to arrive 2-4 hours prior to Graduation
  - ▶ Lines will be long....be patience
- ▶ Consider Packing a cooler with drinks and snacks
- ▶ Read the Stadium rules prior to arrival



# GRADUATION CEREMONY



- ▶ Have a pre-determined place to meet your Firstie after Graduation in the Stadium
- ▶ Bring your Ensign's Cover or 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Cover and keep with you
- ▶ Make Lunch Reservations, or plan lunch at your Hotel, House, or B&B



## GRADUATION CEREMONY







**CELEBRATE!**

