

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

**United States
Coast Guard**



Superintendent
United States Coast Guard Academy

15 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320
Staff Symbol: scs
Phone: (860) 444-8464

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May 19, 2026

Dear Parents, Family, and Guests:

We are glad you are able to join us in celebrating the One Hundred Forty-Fifth Commencement Exercises at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. We are honored to have the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, serve as our Commencement Speaker.

To ensure you have the most enjoyable and memorable experience, and to ensure the safety and security of all our graduates and guests, we would like to provide you with the following important logistical information.

Every effort will be made to hold the Commencement Exercises outdoors on Cadet Memorial Field. You should anticipate the possibility of being in the sun for most of the day; therefore, guests are strongly encouraged to wear sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses, and rain gear if there is a potential for inclement weather. In the event of severe inclement weather, the ceremony will take place in Leamy Hall Auditorium, which has limited seating. For those individuals who do not have "foul weather" tickets to Leamy Hall, the ceremony will be livestreamed in Dimick Hall Auditorium and in the Alumni Gym on the third deck of Roland Hall.

All guests (age 18 and older) who wish to come onboard the Academy campus are required to show valid photo identification that complies with the REAL ID Act. More information can be found here: <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>. If your state-issued driver's license is not REAL ID-compliant, there are a variety of other forms of identification you can provide: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification>.

On Tuesday, May 19, off-campus parking for guests will be provided at the Electric Boat Facility in Waterford (formerly Crystal Mall) at 850 Hartford Turnpike. Shuttle service to CGA, including accessible buses for persons with disabilities or persons who utilize mobility devices, will be provided from this lot between 07:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. All guests (age 18 and older) must show REAL ID-compliant identification to board the bus. Parking on campus will only be for members with a valid CGA parking hang tag.

On Wednesday, May 20, only vehicles displaying a valid Coast Guard Academy Commencement 2026 pass will be allowed access to campus. All vehicle occupants (age 18 and older) must present REAL ID-compliant identification. Off-campus parking for guests attending the ceremony will be located at Electric Boat. Representatives from CGA will be on hand to provide directions and assistance to guests. Shuttle service to CGA, including accessible buses for persons with disabilities or persons who utilize mobility devices, will be provided beginning at 07:00 a.m. Shuttle service will halt at 9:30 a.m. and, for security reasons, will NOT run again

until after the conclusion of the Commencement exercise, at approximately 2:00pm. Shuttle service will resume after the ceremony and continue until 3:45 p.m. All guests (age 18 and older) will be required to show REAL ID-compliant identification and a matching Coast Guard Academy 2026 Commencement ticket to board the shuttle bus. Guests under the age of 18 (except for lap infants under the age of 2) must also show a Coast Guard Academy Commencement 2026 ticket.

Like an airport screening process, all purses, bags, backpacks, packages, etc. are subject to search prior to boarding shuttle buses and prior to entering the Commencement venue. Any bags should be clear/transparent to facilitate the screening process. Due to heightened security, items such as umbrellas, beverage containers (either empty or full), liquids greater than 3.4 ounces, pocket knives, nail clippers, scissors, etc. must not be brought onboard the Academy. A complete list of prohibited items is attached.

Complimentary bottled water will be available on Cadet Memorial Field. Guests are not permitted to bring personal water bottles, flasks, or other outside beverages into the secured area.

Following the ceremony, we appreciate your patience as bus departures to the satellite parking lots may be delayed due to the volume of guests. Once shuttle service resumes, buses will run continuously with the last shuttle departing the Academy at 3:45 p.m.

Please feel free to visit our website at <https://uscga.edu/cadet-life/commencement/> for current information, as some plans are subject to change.

Enclosures: (1) Driving Directions
(2) Prohibited Items

Driving Directions to the Electric Boat Facility Parking Area (formerly Crystal Mall)

Address:

850 Hartford Turnpike
Waterford, CT 06385

From Providence, traveling on I-95 South:

- *Take exit 82/Broad Street, to CT-85N
- *Follow CT-85N to your destination.

From New Haven, traveling on I-95 North:

- * Take exit 82/Broad Street, to CT-85N
- * Follow CT-85N to your destination.

From Hartford/Springfield:

- *Take Route 2 East towards Norwich/New London
- *Take exit 28S to I-395/CT-2A South towards New Haven
- *Take exit 2 for CT-85S toward Waterford/Chesterfield
- *Follow CT-85S to your destination.

Electric Boat Site Parking



Coast Guard Academy Commencement 2026 Prohibited Items

Aerosols
Air horns
Ammunition (either real or simulated)
Animals other than service/guide animals
Backpacks and bags exceeding size restrictions (18" x 13" x 7")
Balloons
Bicycles
Coolers
Drones and other unmanned aircraft systems
Explosives of any kind (including fireworks)
Firearms
Flammable liquids
Fruit (whole)
Glass, thermal, or metal containers
Knives, blades or sharp objects (of any length)
Laser pointers
Liquids in containers larger than 3.4oz/100ml
Mace / Pepper spray
Packages
Pocket or hand tools, such as "Leatherman" tools
Portable chairs (other than those for disabled persons)
Range Finders
Recreational motorized mobility devices
Selfie Sticks
Signs or posters
Strollers
Structures
Supports for signs and placards
Toy guns
Umbrellas
Water bottles and beverage containers (either empty or full)
Weapons of any kind
Any other items determined to be potential safety hazards