

FAQ'S

- When should we arrive in Annapolis for I-Day?

1. I would suggest arriving the day before if possible. That way you can relax from the travels and spend a little more time with your Plebe prior to I-Day.

2. Early report time, you need to be there the night before so you can arrive on the yard on time.

3. We arrived 2 days prior to I-Day. This allowed us to depart at our leisure on Monday from CLE area and arrive in Annapolis around 4pm. Emotions are running high for everyone, and this allowed us to travel without worries and then have a day and a half away from "home" distractions and enjoy family time.

4. We arrived 2 days before I-Day because there was an event for the rowing team. The event was late afternoon ... once it was over, we walked all over the Yard --- it was terrific ... no one was around, we had the place to ourselves and took our time taking in the sites. We took tons of pictures too. It gave Drew time to reflect and to get used to his new "home". My suggestion would to arrive early so you can enjoy some time there too!

--What should my plebe bring on Induction Day.

1. Wear good pair of running shoes; cell phone; duplicate documentation of everything you've submitted

- Where should/can I park?

1. Navy Marine Corp Memorial Stadium and use provided shuttle buses all day, runs frequently back and forth.

2. Our check in time was 6:10 AM --- we parked at the Navy Stadium and took the shuttle which dropped us right at Alumni where the new plebes began their journey.

3. Shuttle service is awesome.

- What should my Plebe do with their cell phone?

1. Our Plebe had his phone in the bag he took with him on I-Day -- make sure they remember the charger too. Their personal items were held for them in a secure place and when they were given the chance to call home, they were given their personal cell phones. We were so excited to get "the calls" ... our family (including the dog) piled into our van so we could hear Drew on the speaker ... was much more efficient for us ... we could all communicate with him at the same time ... no passing the phone from person to person.

2. Plebes can take it with them but it will be taken from them and put in safe keeping until the allowed phone calls home. Put it in a plastic zip lock bag and also include the charger. They will charge the phones prior to the calls as well.

3. Have it completely charged at check in time. Bring a charger too. I believe our son was told to bring the phone (turned off) and charger in a ziplock with his name on it. Detailers will hold them until it's time for the Sunday calls!

- Will the Plebes get lunch?

1. Our plebe's check in was at 6:30AM. He did get lunch.

2. Yes but our plebe didn't remember much about the meal.

3. Maybe. Get a good breakfast, and plan to have food for 30min family time after Induction Ceremony.

4. Our son who had an early check-in did get lunch. But our older son, who had a later check-in did not get to eat lunch. Make sure you bring food for the post Induction family time.

- Where's the best place to see our Plebe after we drop them off – before Induction?

1. At the loading docks behind Alumni Hall after they are processed is one option. They are then bused to Bancroft Hall (near Midstore entrance) for a second chance to see them. Good luck, because they all look alike!

2. We had a brief sighting near the Midshipmen Store – we stood on the steps coming down to the store, which happens to be where the plebes were brought via bus. They quickly picked up bags and scurried up the steps and disappeared into Bancroft Hall.

- What should I have for our Plebe after Induction?

1. Encouragement, hugs and kisses. Lots of cold water and food. Make sure the food is not messy! They will already be wary of getting their "whites" dirty. Also, a blanket to sit on... one that won't let moisture soak through onto "whites". We also brought a towel to use as a bib! We picked up subs from Jimmy Johns in downtown Annapolis (DTA)

2. You won't see your Plebe until late in the day. Bring a water bottle and a light snack or protein bar for them to eat. They'll be busy all day and a little extra won't hurt. Also make sure you have a blanket or something for them to sit on later when you see them. They don't want to get their white uniforms dirty or have grass stains on them.

3. We had a sandwich and drink for him -- make sure to have something that they can sit on --- a blanket or something similar – they are not allowed to get anything on their uniforms ... we also had a towel to cover his front – again, in case of spills.

4. Along with hugs, food and cold water, our son called his older brother ('12) and they compared notes. Of course, the older one told his brother that his I-Day was much more grueling, haha! Make sure your phone has a good charge, in case your Plebe wants to call a loved one.

5. A BIG HUG and LOTS of ENCOURAGEMENT; Waterproof blanket to sit down on, plastic cover to safeguard their uniform while you provide him/her with a sandwich, fruit and beverage (self supplied)

6 Purchase a snack or drink for after the Induction, it should be done earlier in the day and have a small portable cooler or something to hold snacks, etc. If seeking to purchase a drink or snack, Drydock gets crazy with lines going out the door. Mid store would be better choice to buy refrigerated drinks and snacks. We joined the Officer's Club, and love the place. It is convenient, price is good, and was a great place to take my Plebe and her friend for brunch on Parents' Weekend.

- Where should we meet our Plebe after Induction?

1. We had a plan to meet near the gazebo – closer to the Chapel. It got him away from the crowd that was headed for the alphabet letters that lined Stribling Way.

2. USNA has signs for all letters in the alphabet, but it is chaos. Arrange a rendezvous point the day prior. This will reduce stress and make it easy for Plebe and family to meet.

3. You will be told where and when you can meet them. It will most likely be Stribling Walk and there will be a marker with letters for last names.

4. Our Plebe had a personal swearing in, so we told him to meet us in Smoke Hall in Bancroft. This is where they had the swearing in 2013.

- How much time will we have with our Plebe?

1. About 30min, although your Plebe may be anxious to not be late to muster for the march into Bancroft.

2. We enjoyed about 40 minutes with our Plebe. He ate and sat for a few minutes, we took a few pictures and then he was off. Watching them line up in companies and march into Bancroft Hall was emotional for all of us.

3. 15 minutes

4. It depends, most likely about 30 minutes.

- What are the must-haves to buy at the Mid Store?

1. Naval yard flag; Class of 2020 T Shirt that lists the class names

2. We went a little crazy but love everything. We bought the Class of 2019 blanket, the Class of 2019 canvas bag that has plebe names on it, Class of 2019 Mom & Dad shirts, etc.....

Take some time on Induction Day and look around ... there are lots of good finds and it helps to pass the time as you are waiting to be reunited with your son or daughter!!

3. Shirts, water bottles, anything spirit oriented.

4. The options are limitless! And you'll be back sooner than you think for even more! USNA "Mom" or "Dad" gear is popular.

5. Along with the usual suspects, we purchased a USNA Class banner. For our oldest son I've sewn on the patches for his USNA Company, the various NAS locations he's been at along with the different squadrons he's flown with.

- What are useful links for USNA?

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/USNAMIDPARENTS/>

<https://www.facebook.com/USNavalAcademy>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/USNA-Chaplains/225868307479287>

<https://www.usna.com/photoprogram> (this one requires registration)

<http://get.usni.org/navy-news/> (subscription required for full access)

1. Facebook was a great way to follow our Plebes through Plebe Summer. Join the Class of 2020 Parents group for lots of pics, updates and information. Also, you can join the USNA Alumni Association and you can view (and order) Plebe Summer pictures taken by the official USNA photographer.