



U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY
PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Monthly NEWSLETTER

Supporting the Corps. And Each Other.

Winter 2026



NEWS & NOTES

Class of 2026 Billet Night!

Billet night is one of the biggest, most highly anticipated nights of the year, not only for the 1/c Cadets, but also for their families and loved ones! I'm sure you can find many firstie parents who would say, "we dropped our child off for swab summer, then blinked our eyes, and now they're walking up on stage to receive their first duty in the U.S Coast Guard!"

It was so exciting to watch the Class of 2026 go on stage and receive their first assignments as they are nearing the pinnacle of their academy career and the culmination of their 200 week journey. I can't wait to see what the future holds for all of these incredible young leaders!

Coast Guard Women's Rugby: A Historic Double-Championship Season

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy Women's Rugby team reached the pinnacle of collegiate sports this winter, capturing the NCR Division II 15s National Championship in Houston, Texas. In a dominant 51-12 victory over Wisconsin-Eau Claire, the Bears secured the first 15s national title in the program's 25-year history.

After a competitive first half, Coast Guard broke the game open with 32 unanswered points. The championship win was the second national title for the team in a single calendar year, following their 7s title in the spring—a rare "double" that cements the Academy as a premier rugby powerhouse.

National Recognition & All-American Honors

The team's collective success was matched by unprecedented individual accolades. Five Bears were named 2025 NCR All-Americans, the highest representation of any Division II program:

Kaitlyn "Kate" Boggs (also named NCR DII Player of the Year and Tournament MVP), Meirabella Rouane, Avery Soca, Savannah McBrayer and Carlee Woolum.

This historic run concludes a season defined by resilience and elite play, setting a new standard for Coast Guard Athletics on the national stage.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Executive Board Elections:
Wednesday, 22 April 2026

Commencement:
Wednesday, 20 May 2026

Day One:
Monday, 29 June 2026





Coast Guard Women's Wrestling Earns National Honors

The Coast Guard Women's Wrestling Club delivered a standout performance earlier this month at the inaugural USA Wrestling Women's Collegiate Club National Championships in North Liberty, Iowa. Competing against established programs from across the country, the Bears finished 6th overall as a team and saw four athletes climb the podium to earn Club All-American honors.

Championship Highlights

The team was led by a historic run from Paraskevi Christopoulos (138 lbs), who battled through the bracket to reach the national finals, securing a National Runner-Up finish. In the 160-lb division, the Bears demonstrated impressive depth with two athletes placing in the top five: Sierra Wangen claimed the Bronze medal (3rd Place), while Mia Carabajal-Hartog and Mali Richardson secured 5th Place nationally.

All four Bears earned All-American status by placing in the top six of their respective weight classes!

This achievement marks a major milestone for the program, establishing Coast Guard as a formidable contender in the collegiate women's wrestling club circuit.

Swimming & Diving: Bears Sweep Runner-Up Honors

Both the Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving teams delivered powerhouse performances at the 2026 NEWMAC Championships in Cambridge, with both squads securing a second-place finish in the conference. The weekend was defined by record-breaking swims and a heavy presence on the podium.

Championship Highlights

The Women's team demonstrated incredible depth, holding off several rivals to claim their runner-up trophy. The Bears were fueled by strong relay performances and several individual program records. Meanwhile, the Men's team surpassed the 1,000-point mark for the weekend, anchored by multiple individual conference titles and a high-energy finish in the final relays.

National & Conference Honors

- Noah Reice: Voted the NEWMAC Men's Swimmer of the Year after successfully defending three individual titles. He will represent Coast Guard at the NCAA DIII Championships in Indianapolis starting March 18.
- Coaching Excellence: The Coast Guard staff, led by John Westkott, was named the NEWMAC Men's Swim Co-Coaching Staff of the Year.
- Academic All-Americans: Both teams were named CSCAA Fall Scholar All-America Teams, with the women maintaining a 3.46 GPA and the men a 3.39.
- Sportsmanship Awards: Kendra Hiigel (Women) and Blaise Minckler (Men) were selected for the NEWMAC Winter Sportsmanship Team for their leadership and character on the pool deck.

ADVANCEMENT UPDATES

Our cadets need us, and we need you.

Your generous hearts have supported sending, hosting, or contributing to so many things for our cadets! Your monetary donations go to numerous events to support corps-wide morale events such as holiday parties, country line dancing, comedy night, Bearfest and much more! Your contributions also support the purchase, maintenance and fueling of cadet liberty vans and a variety of legacy capital projects.

Make Your Gift
www.cgaparents.org/2026Gift



The Parents Gift Fund

Your support to the Parents Gift Fund impacts cadets on a daily basis. Your generosity has supported sending, hosting or contributing to:

- Sweetrolls for Cadets
- Sponsor Family Ice Cream Social
- Bearfest Ice Cream
- Halloween Treats
- Cannolis for Cadets
- Class Socials
- Valentines Day
- Bearfest Band
- Trivia Night
- Comedy Night
- Super Bowl Party
- Guest Speakers
- Country Line Dancing
- Holiday Party
- Cubfest Cupcakes
- Welcome Back Treats
- EAGLE Welcomes and Farewells
- Bearfest
- Coast Guard Day
- Games
- 4C Bus for Stonington Lodge Trip
- Van, Fuel, and Maintenance
- Transportation
- Printers, Ink, and Paper

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Thank You

By the time you're reading this, an email was sent to all Parent Association members with details regarding nominations for Executive Board Positions. **The election for these positions is scheduled for Wednesday April 22.**

If you have a passion for supporting the Corps of Cadets and want to learn more about the available executive board positions, please reach out! It's a great way to get involved and have some fun doing it!

Positions include:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- VP of Communications
- VP of Governance
- VP of Advancement

We are happy to chat about what each role entails. Just email Jason Striker at communications@cgaparents.org to find out more!



Above: Cadets at Comedy Night

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

CONNECT WITH YOUR LOCAL
CHAPTER TO GET INVOLVED!
WWW.CGAPARENTS.ORG/CHAPTERS

Thank you to all chapters, far and near, for your dedication and support of our cadets and each other.

GOOD STUFF!

Learn what your Parents Association has been doing to help you and our Corps of Cadets.

For questions regarding any items, please contact Jason Striker at communications@cgaparents.org.

Because of your generous hearts, there is so much good stuff happening in support of our cadets, and each other. We appreciate your kindness and collaboration. We also recognize that many of you who live far from or are unable to easily access the Academy want to contribute in meaningful ways as well, and so we have created some new traditions and processes to help everyone feel invited and included in the support of our Corps. Below are some samples. Please feel free to contact Jason Striker at communications@cgaparents.org with other ideas for supporting our cadets and families.

Operation: Winter Goodie Bags!

Thank you to everyone who made a purchase off the registry list on Amazon for our Wintertime Blues Goodie Bags!!! Our awesome 2029 parent Lisa Downey took on the task of taking delivery of, assembling and delivering to the academy. The best part? She loved every minute of it!! (at least I like to think she did!)

Here's what it looked like "by the numbers:"

15,828 individual items

\$6,763 total cost

427 boxes delivered

1,112 care bags assembled

57 hours to sell out all items

COUNTLESS incredibly generous parents and loved ones supporting our cadets!!!

It's sometimes easy to think there aren't a lot of social activities on base for our cadets. That really couldn't be further from the truth! In addition to funding more well known functions like class formals, your donation dollars directly support the Cadet Activity Fund and allows the Academy to put on a variety of fun activities and events for the entire Corps of Cadets!

Here are just a few examples:

- First day of classes coffee cart
- Chair massages for exam week
- Hand warmers for Secretaries Cup
- Goat Yoga
- Apple Cider donuts
- Oktoberfest celebration in Leamy Ballroom
- Pretzel Day
- Cow Bells for wardroom
- Cinnamon Roll Day
- Comedy Night
- Valentine's Day Celebration
- Mardi Gras
- St. Patrick's Day
- Campus Easter Egg hunt
- Bearfest



We appreciate your continued support!

We want to hear from you! Please share your stories of support, chapter activities, pictures, anything you'd like to be featured in the newsletter!