

Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Recreational Boating Safety Outreach Department



Directory of Services



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U. S. DEPARTMENT of HOMELAND SECURITY UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary "America's Volunteer Guardians"

PURPOSE

The **DIRECTORY OF SERVICES** of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is a guide for the reader to become acquainted with the capabilities of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and its members. The civilian volunteers of the Auxiliary contribute their time and resources to promote the Coast Guard and its missions, particularly the Coast Guard's Recreational Boating Safety mission. Over thirty-one thousand members (men and women) strong, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary is a major force multiplier in normal and surge operations for the US Coast Guard. Our roles and responsibilities are changing, but our readiness is unwavering.

The Auxiliary's primary function is recreational boating safety (RBS). Our RBS missions operate in alignment with the Coast Guard's National Recreational Boating Safety Program. The focus of the Auxiliary RBS programs is to save lives through education in the classroom, on the docks, and knowledge management through boating partners. The maintenance and growth of the RBS program portfolio is vital to meeting the RBS mission. Our economic readiness to support these programs is also affected by their cost versus revenue in the marketplace. The Auxiliary is the driving force behind the Coast Guard's boating safety initiatives. Carrying the flag for public awareness about boating safety and the maritime community in the classroom, on the boat ramp or in the press, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary strives for excellence in all educational outreach initiatives.

As the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary enters the second decade of the 21st Century, it has re-examined the role it plays in support of the U.S. Coast Guard. In the years following 2001 and the September 11 attacks on the country, the Auxiliary emphasized maritime security issues while trying to balance personnel, assets, and time available with its traditional recreational safe boating missions. In 2011 the Coast Guard Auxiliary will continue to meet America's ever changing needs through increased attention to recreational boating safety, security of America's waterways, and improved methods of educating the boating public. We continue to support the Coast Guard's mission by improving the quality and delivery methods of our educational products. We work with other like-minded organizations to improve the boating public's knowledge and to increase awareness of safety on the water.

Besides boating safety, there are many areas where Auxiliarists are able to assist state and local governments with trained people and facilities including boats, airplanes, and radios. One of the Auxiliary's most important assets is its people power, members who are dedicated to serving their fellow citizens. Whether it is disaster planning or relief, communications, patrols, examining recreational boats, conducting boating classes, teaching young people or saving lives

through search and rescue, Auxiliarists are eager to contribute. They come trained, tested, and qualified to help.

The Auxiliary is always looking for volunteers. You must be an America's citizen 17 years or older to become a member. All new members must pass a background check; the level of background check depends upon the programs in which the member chooses to participate. Auxiliarists are eager to serve and are very willing to assist people or agencies to accomplish joint goals. The Coast Guard supervises the Auxiliary through a network of Directors of Auxiliary and Coast Guard officers assigned to districts. While the Auxiliary elected leadership provides general supervision, the Director of Auxiliary represents the legal authority enabling Auxiliarists to participate in certain activities. Contact with the Auxiliary may be made through the appropriate Auxiliary unit or a Director of Auxiliary.

This DIRECTORY OF SERVICES has been established to inform the public and any interested agency about the Auxiliary's capabilities. It obviously cannot list every asset, but it is intended to convey a sense of many of the opportunities available to Auxiliarists. If you think you could lend a hand, contact the Auxiliary, and you will be rewarded with becoming part of an energetic and eager group of dedicated volunteers.

FOREWORD

The purpose of this publication is to furnish information to individuals and groups that need assistance contacting the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary for a service.

- **Section one** provides a brief history of the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.
- **Section two** provides a brief overview of missions and programs authorized for the Coast Guard Auxiliary.
- **Section three** provides a more detailed explanation of Auxiliary missions and programs along with hyperlinks to additional information. Also includes a map of Auxiliary districts.

Section 1. Missions and Programs

- **Academy Introduction Mission (AIM).** Auxiliarists are authorized assignment-to-duty to assist the Coast Guard Academy with recruitment of cadet candidates. This assignment includes orienting and counseling high school students, attending college fairs, and participating in AIM Week each summer at the USCG Academy (**USCGA**).
- **Administrative Support to the Coast Guard.** Auxiliarists are authorized assignment-to-duty to assist and to augment administrative functions of any Coast Guard (**CG**) unit.
- **Aids to Navigation (ATON).** Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities are authorized assignment-to-duty to support and augment the CG's ATON Program. This involves verifying the position and characteristics of private aids to navigation (**PATONs**) after qualifying as an aid verifier. Members assist and support ATON units in servicing federal aids after receiving CG training. ATON units also help the National Ocean Service (**NOS**) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in updating nautical and aeronautical charts.
- **America's Waterway Watch Program (AWW).** Individuals and families are invited to participate in this program that is a nationwide initiative similar to the well-known Neighborhood Watch program that asks community members to report suspicious activities to local law enforcement agencies.
- **Bridge Administration.** Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities are authorized to support and augment bridge surveys.
 - To investigate and to provide information regarding waterways safety and navigation situations pertaining to the bridge program
 - To provide direct assistance and support to bridge program staff and other CG personnel in the Bridge Administration Program
- **Caribbean Maritime Search And Rescue Mission** This mission was created to enhance the security, stability, and safety of life at sea in the Caribbean region through the strengthening and establishing of local Coast Guard volunteer components and non-government volunteer SAR organizations that can provide SAR and other non-law enforcement support, thereby freeing government forces to better focus on law enforcement and security missions.
- **Contingency Preparedness.** Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities are authorized to provide platforms and personnel for defense and non-defense exercises. Auxiliarists and their operational facilities may also provide support as unarmed opposition forces (**OPFOR**) and gather information and data for contingency plans. Qualified Auxiliarists are authorized to develop plans and to support contingency response operations for disasters and lesser incidents.
- **Merchant Mariner Licensing.** Qualified Auxiliarists are authorized to administer merchant mariner license and document examinations in remote areas, to conduct oversight of approved maritime training courses, and to provide administrative support for the marine licensing program at the local level.
- **Marine Environmental Protection and Safety (MEP).** Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities assist with marine environmental protection and safety programs. Auxiliarists

may provide facilities and personnel for public education, for support of pollution prevention activities, and for environmental disaster relief operations.

- **Operational Support to the Coast Guard (OPS).** Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities are authorized to support all CG operational units. Auxiliarists must be qualified per current CG manual and directive provisions and must serve under the active duty unit commander's direction.
- **Port Safety and Security (PS&S).** Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities are authorized to support the Port Safety and Security Program. Auxiliarists may provide facilities and *unarmed* personnel for
 - surveillance and reporting
 - harbor and anchorage patrols
 - assistance to CG forces in safety and security zone enforcement
 - support for vessel boardings
 - port facility and vessel verification visits
 - aircraft over-flights augmenting CG crews
 - administrative support.
- **Public Affairs Support (PA).** Auxiliarists are authorized to support both Coast Guard and Auxiliary public affairs program.
 - **Public Education.** The Education Department's mission is twofold: to provide exceptional boating safety education to America with the aim of reducing loss of life, personal injury and property damage to recreational boaters; and to deliver the highest possible quality *training, resources* and timely *materials* in support of our flotilla instructors and public education staff officers at every level who are furnishing such boating safety education.
 - **Recreational Boating Safety (RBS).** Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities may be assigned to support the recreational boating safety program by
 - conducting public education
 - performing recreational Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs)
 - participating in State Liaison Programs
 - participating in marine program visitations (PVs), boat shows and National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) activities
- **Recruiting.** Auxiliarists may qualify and be assigned to duty as military recruiters to support the CG's recruiting program. This assignment includes qualification as a military recruiter, proctoring recruiting examinations, and administrative assistance to recruiting offices.
- **Search and Rescue.** Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities are authorized to assist in CG in support of search and rescue operations. These duties include search planning, search operations, and the conduct of rescues at sea.
- **Training for Sea Cadets and Sea Scouts.** Coast Guard Auxiliary members are authorized to provide shore side and underway training to Sea Cadets and Sea Scouts, under a program that is an outgrowth of the Auxiliary's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC), and its Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

- **Vessel Inspections.** Qualified Auxiliarists assist the CG in marine inspection mission that include
 - Supporting and assisting CG accident investigations;
 - Providing platforms for inspectors;
 - Conducting barge inspections;
 - Providing remote area surveillance and response;
 - Conducting voluntary examinations of uninspected passenger vessels and commercial fishing vessels;
 - Providing administrative support.
- **Waterways Management.** Qualified Auxiliarists are authorized to assist in CG waterways management mission areas by providing
 - platforms and unarmed personnel for CG and other federal and state agencies
 - information and input into the analysis process
 - administrative and operational program support

Section 2. The United States Coast Guard

The United States Coast Guard is the nation's oldest seagoing service with its roots dating to 1790. When our nation was born almost all trade was done by ship. It was soon apparent that an organization to ensure safe transportation and enforce U. S. law was needed.

Over the years the duties of the Coast Guard have expanded. Today they include search and rescue, national security, boating safety education, aids to navigation, bridge administration, merchant marine safety, and ice operations. The Coast Guard promotes safety on, over, and under the high seas and navigable waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. The Coast Guard is authorized by law to develop, establish, maintain, and operate search and rescue facilities. The Coast Guard is authorized to perform all acts necessary to rescue and aid persons and save property at any time and at any place where its facilities and personnel are available and can be effectively used. However, there is no legal duty for the Coast Guard to undertake any particular rescue mission.

The Coast Guard is the world's leading maritime humanitarian safety service and is viewed as a strong contributor to our nation's security as part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. National security is woven through all of its missions, especially maritime law enforcement and its role as one of the five armed forces of the United States. The Coast Guard is a professional organization whose personnel are proud of their traditions as lifesavers, guardians of the sea, and of military service. The Coast Guard contributes significantly to our nation's economy since marine transportation remains the primary method for moving trade.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Boating has always been one of America's favorite sporting pastimes and since the early nineteenth century. Rowing and yachting races were among the most popular spectator sports through the 1930s. The wealth generated in post-Civil War America along with the growth of railroads spurred the development of resorts, country homes, and the suburbs - all providing places to go boating. With the development of the single-operator motorboat and the outboard engine at the turn of the twentieth century, the number of recreational boaters skyrocketed. In 1939, the Coast Guard reported that there were more than 300,000 boats operating in federal waters. In the previous year it received 14,000 calls for assistance and had responded to 8,600 "in peril" cases. It was apparent that boaters needed to be better trained, and civilian yachtsmen were pressing the Coast Guard to establish a volunteer arm of the service.

As a result of these demands, on June 23, 1939, Congress passed legislation that established the Coast Guard Reserve, a volunteer civilian component to promote boating safety and to facilitate Coast Guard operations. Groups of boat owners were organized into flotillas within Coast Guard Districts around the country. Members initially conducted safety and security patrols and helped

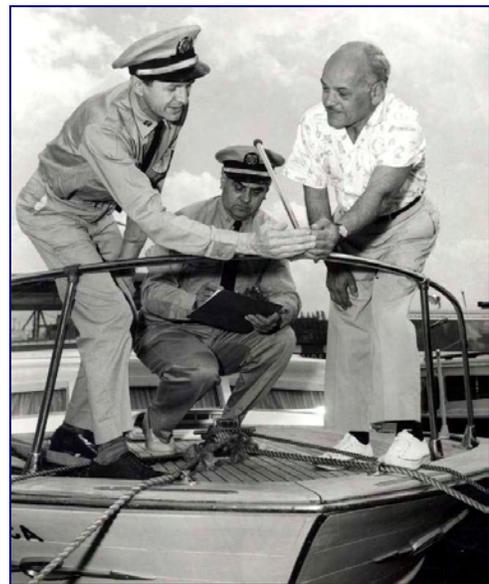
enforce the provisions of the 1940 *Federal Boating and Espionage Act*. When a Coast Guard military reserve was created in February 1941, the volunteer Reserve was renamed the *U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary*.



Following America's entry into World War II in December 1941, recruits flooded into Auxiliary flotillas in a burst of patriotic fever. June 1942 legislation allowed Auxiliarists to enroll in the Coast Guard Reserve on a part-time temporary basis. Throughout the war, some 50,000 Auxiliarists constituted the core of the temporary Reserve membership. These reservists, along with newly enrolled civilians, performed coastal defense and search and rescue duties. They patrolled bridges, factories, docks, and beaches. They fought fires, made arrests, guided naval vessels, and conducted anti-submarine warfare. As their

ranks grew, thousands of active duty Coast Guard personnel were freed up for service overseas.

Following the war, by 1950 the four traditional Auxiliary cornerstone missions of public education, operations, vessel examination, and fellowship had been established. The public education program yearly trains tens of thousands of boaters in seamanship, piloting, rules of the road, and weather, among other topics. Specially qualified coxswain and crew members conduct search and rescue missions in their own boats and support Coast Guard missions. Auxiliary pilots and air observers search for boaters in distress, floating hazards, pollution spills, and ice-locked vessels. Communications watchstanders handle distress calls at Coast Guard and Auxiliary radio stations. Vessel examiners conduct Vessel Safety Checks under which recreational vessels are examined for properly installed federally required equipment and systems. Under legislation passed in 1996, the Auxiliary's role was expanded to allow members to assist in any Coast Guard mission, except direct law enforcement and military operations, as authorized by the Commandant. Thus, Auxiliarists can be found examining commercial fishing vessels, flying in C-130 aircraft, working in Coast Guard offices, and crewing with regular. The three components of the service—the active duty Coastguardsmen, the Reservists, and Auxiliarists—truly constitute TEAM COAST GUARD.



During the past decades, the Auxiliary has continued to grow in membership which today totals more than 30,000 members in the United States and its territories. Training is held at every level from the flotilla to national training schools. Leadership and management training, award programs, and data management systems ensure a high level of professionalism.

Over the years, Auxiliary programs also have kept pace with boating trends. Members helped implement the provisions of the 1958 Federal Boating Act. In the 1970s, they formed flotillas in sole-state waters to meet local demands for water safety. They introduced new courses such as those for sailors and personal water craft (PWC) operators as their numbers increased. One of the newest programs is the Paddlesafe program for canoes and kayaks.

The U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the largest volunteer marine safety organization in the world and has fostered similar ones in foreign countries. During its sixty years, it has lived up to its motto of– “A Proud Tradition, A Worthy Mission.”

Section 3. Expanded Description of Selected Missions and Programs

ADMINISTRATION

Under the administration of the Coast Guard, the membership of the Auxiliary is organized with four levels of administration and supervisory responsibility. These levels are National, District/Region, and Flotilla. Officers responsible for unit administration and supervision are elected at each level. These officers in turn appoint staff officers to assist in carrying out Auxiliary missions.

National - The Auxiliary has national officers who are responsible, along with the Commandant, for the administration and policy-making for the entire Auxiliary. These officers comprise the National Executive Committee (NEXCOM), which is composed of the Chief Director of Auxiliary (an active duty officer), National Commodore, Vice National Commodore, and the Deputy National Commodores.

District/Region - Flotillas and divisions are organized in districts comparable to the Coast Guard districts and must be assigned the same district number. Some districts are further divided into regions. The district/region provides administrative and supervisory support to divisions and promotes policies of both the District Commander and National Auxiliary Committee. All districts and regions are governed by a District Commodore (DCO), District Chief of Staff (DCOS), and District Sector Captains (DCAPT) under the guidance of the Coast Guard District Commander. At this level, Coast Guard officers are assigned to oversee and promote Auxiliary programs.

Division - For maximum administrative effectiveness in carrying out Auxiliary programs, Flotillas in the same general geographic area are grouped into divisions. The division provides administrative, training and supervisory support to flotillas and promotes District policy. Each division is headed by a Division Commander (DCDR) and Vice Division Commander (VCDR) and usually consists of five or more flotillas.

Flotilla - The flotilla is the basic organizational unit of the Auxiliary and is comprised of at least 15 qualified members who carry out Auxiliary program activities. Every Auxiliarist is a member of a local flotilla. Each flotilla is headed by a Flotilla Commander (FC).

AMERICA'S WATERWAYS WATCH

America's Waterway Watch (AWW) is a combined effort of the Coast Guard and its Reserve and Auxiliary components and continues to grow, enlisting the active participation of those who live, work or play around America's waterfront areas. Coast Guard Reserve personnel concentrate on connecting with businesses and government agencies, while Auxiliarists focus on building AWW awareness among the recreational boating public. If you are a tow boat operator,

a recreational boater, a fisherman, a marina operator, or otherwise live, work or engage in recreational activities around America's waterways, the United States Coast Guard wants your help in keeping these areas safe and secure. You can do this by participating in *America's Waterway Watch* (AWW). This nationwide initiative is similar to the well-known and successful Neighborhood Watch program that asks community members to report suspicious activities to local law enforcement agencies. For more information go to: www.cgaux.org/aww.php

AUGMENTATION

Coast Guard forces are comprised of Active Duty, Reserve, civilian and Auxiliary people. The Coast Guard District Commander determines which units shall be employed for various missions. Reservists and Auxiliarists must be trained and found competent to work at certain jobs, determined by the active duty Commanding Officer. Reservists and Auxiliarists can augment active duty units, replace active duty personnel and be employed on or at regular units, such as Stations, vessels or aircraft. Auxiliarists may be employed on any Coast Guard mission except those dealing directly with law enforcement or military actions at the discretion of the Coast Guard.

TRAINING

The Department of Training's core responsibility is to provide advanced, value-added, and leadership management training for our members. The Department of Training serves our members by designing innovative and effective performance solutions that enable members to achieve their personal goals, support the myriad of Recreational Boating Safety and operational support missions and provide valuable assistance in protecting our shoreline and the Nation.

Appropriate and effective training of our members is the key to a highly evolved, dynamic, effective and efficient organization. Training enables us to become valuable partners with the Coast Guard, helping them meet mission objectives. Also, we meet our commitment to be of service not only to the maritime community, but also our community as a whole. The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is closely aligned with its parent organization, the US Coast Guard, and its members are constantly training to be mission-ready and mission-capable. The Department of Training develops or partners with other Auxiliary Departments to ensure that our members are prepared and ready to execute our existing and emerging missions. We provide quality services by our commitment and forward thinking in the world of education, closely examining new methods of delivery and teaching techniques that involve all facets of media from PowerPoint's to video production.

We also develop and provide training materials that provide the essential tools to develop strong leadership for the administration of all our programs. The Department of Training team is dedicated to providing the highest quality learning opportunities available to our members. We stand side-by-side with the Coast Guard and we are - *Semper Paratus* - *always ready* to answer the call of the Nation. For more information go to: www.cgaux.org/training/.

VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

The Vessel Safety Check (VSC) is a service provided to owners or operators of privately owned recreational boats, certain federal, state, and local government owned boats, and certain other boats which do not come under the provisions of the Coast Guard inspection and certification program. Only those Auxiliarists and VSC partner organizations with the Auxiliary, e.g. Power Squadrons, USACE and several state agencies, who have been specially qualified as Vessel Examiners may conduct Vessel Safety Checks. A vessel safety check will be conducted only with the consent of, and in the presence of, the owner or operator of a vessel. It is made solely as an educational service to the boating public. If a boat does not pass a Vessel Safety Check, no violation report is made to the Coast Guard or to any law enforcement agency. The intent of the Vessel Safety Check Program is to insure that the vessel is in compliance with federal and state equipment requirements. In addition, the Coast Guard Auxiliary vessel examiner will recommend certain additional safety items and will discuss safe boating practices. The Vessel Safety Check (VSC) actively promotes boating safety by using trained Auxiliary and other aforementioned partner volunteers to educate the boater through a direct, face-to-face boating safety information exchange with the owner/operator and providing instruction on equipment to be carried on board and other matters affecting safety. Federal and local equipment regulations and Auxiliary VSC requirements are explained as well as other matters of interest. For more information, go to: www.cgaux.org/vsc/.

TRAINING SEA CADETS AND SEA SCOUTS

Coast Guard Auxiliary members are authorized to provide shore side and underway training to Sea Cadets and Sea Scouts, under a program that is an outgrowth of the Auxiliary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC), and it's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

The training provided includes standard Auxiliary boat crew and coxswain skill training that is already a part of Sea Cadet and Sea Scout training programs. This includes activities such as preparing the vessel to get underway, docking, operating the vessel, anchoring, and safety drills.

Training is provided by Auxiliary boat crew selected for their ability to mentor boat crew and coxswain trainees, many having prior experience working with youth or younger trainees through the Coast Guard Auxiliary or other youth-serving organizations. Sea Scouts and Sea Cadets will be provided with the same personal protective equipment as Auxiliarists including appropriate life jackets. For more information go to auxbdeptwiki.cgaux.org/index.php/Sea_Scouts .

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The mission of the Education Department of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary is twofold.

- To provide exceptional boating safety education to the American public with the aim of reducing loss of life, personal injury and property damage to recreational boaters
- To deliver the highest possible quality *training, resources* and timely *materials* in support of our flotilla instructors and public education staff officers at every level who are furnishing such boating safety education

ABOUT BOATING SAFETY: This basic boating course is for the new boater or one who wants to update his/her skills. This 6-8 hour course is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). This beginner boating class will give you the knowledge needed to obtain a boat license or safety certification in many states. Many boat insurance companies will offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete *About Boating Safety*.

BOATING SKILLS AND SEAMANSHIP: The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's *Boating Skills and Seamanship* (BS&S) is a comprehensive course designed for both the experienced and the novice boater. This 13th edition features all new, full-color graphics and updated text. To meet NASBLA requirements, Chapters 1-8 and Appendix A must be taught, with the addition of your state specific boating laws. Chapters 9-13 are optional.

WEEKEND NAVIGATOR: This course teaches core concepts of coastal piloting using training charts and classroom exercises. It concentrates on the use of electronic equipment as an asset in the piloting process. Students completing this course will have confidence in their charting and piloting skills as they go boating and can better utilize the electronic equipment available on their boats.

SAILING SKILLS AND SEAMANSHIP: Teaching the fundamentals of sailing, this course is NASBLA approved. The core Chapters 1-10 provide the boater with basic knowledge about sailing and safety on the water. The second part, Chapters 11-16, provides the students with additional information necessary for a safe return to shore.

SHORT COURSES: The Auxiliary offers several short courses for both the new boater and the more seasoned one.

- *GPS For Mariners;*
- *Safe Operation of Personal Water Craft;*
- *Paddlesports America;*
- *Suddenly in Command;*
- *How to Read a Nautical Chart.*

YOUTH COURSES: Two youth courses, *Waypoints* (For children in grades 5 and up) and *Boating Fun* (for children in grades 1-4) teach future boaters the basic principles of boating safety.

Each year thousands of students attend these classes and you, your family and friends are invited to become better boaters by enrolling in the course appropriate for your needs. Enroll today and boat smart from the start! For more information go to www.cgaux.org/boatinged

RESPONSE

The Response Department is a force multiplier for the Coast Guard helping to secure our homeland and assist the boating public. This includes the traditional Search & Rescue missions where lives and property are assisted or saved. Providing this level of direct Coast Guard operational support is a demanding activity where qualified Auxiliarists may use their knowledge, skills and facilities in an active and satisfying manner. On the water, Auxiliary vessels under orders are marked with patrol sign-boards bearing the red slash of the Coast Guard and fly the distinctive Coast Guard Auxiliary white and red Patrol Ensign. These privately owned boats and aircraft become Coast Guard assets and are no longer simply civilian facilities. These crews are trained to rigorous CG Auxiliary standards, prepared to meet the challenges of a variety of situations, including emergencies.

Auxiliary members actively contribute to the nation on the water, in the skies and shore side as well. These shore side activities take advantage of the local knowledge that Auxiliary members have about their community. Auxiliary members are providing assistance to the Coast Guard in vehicles, on bicycles and on foot as monitoring the infrastructure of the ports and waterways. Many Auxiliarists have been trained to a very high standard in Coast Guard training programs and participate in teams with other CG or Auxiliary members assessing port facilities and other infrastructure elements. Auxiliarists can also patrol to keep a watchful eye on the marinas, yacht clubs, boat ramps, rental agencies, dive shops and other areas where the recreational boater and the boating industry meet. The knowledge and experience of the Auxiliarist is ideally suited to making observations and partnering with the Coast Guard to help insure the safety of the ports, waterways and coastal areas of this country. For more information go to: www.cgaux.org/response/

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Coast Guard Auxiliary utilizes MF/HF/VHF communications on vessels, land mobile units, aircraft and fixed-land units. In order for an Auxiliarist to operate radio equipment not installed on a vessel on Coast Guard Auxiliary business, the radio equipment must meet certain Coast Guard requirements, and the Auxiliarist must complete a Coast Guard qualification standard. Auxiliarists and facilities meeting all of these requirements are members of a Coast Guard District telecommunications system and are considered "Government Stations" when conducting official Coast Guard or Auxiliary business. Auxiliarists will receive and transmit information

about waterway dangers or problems, overdue vessels and other official communications within the geographic area of a Coast Guard Station. Auxiliary Radio Units coordinate with other government services and with the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the Military Affiliate Radio Service (MARS) during disasters and emergencies. Use of amateur radio service is available during disasters and emergencies. For more information go to: www.cgaux.org/response/Telecom/

RBS PROGRAM VISITATION

The RBS Program Visitation's intent is to save lives and property by providing marine related businesses with the most current boating safety information and by establishing a point of contact for boaters. Customers visiting these businesses will be able to obtain the most up-to-date boating safety and security literature and information on Auxiliary Vessel Safety Check (VSC) stations and Public Education courses. The main objectives of the RBS-Visitation Program are the following:

- To establish and/or enhance working relations between the businesses, the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.
- To utilize the business as the contact point for making the boating public more aware of State and Federal requirements for boating safety.
- To provide information regarding Auxiliary Public Education Courses, Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) and Auxiliary membership.
- To distribute Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary handout materials.
- To provide liaison between the business and the Coast Guard.

For more information go to: vdept.cgaux.org/

CHART UPDATING

In 1962, the National Ocean Service, the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary entered into an agreement for mutual cooperation. National Ocean Service (NOS) agreed to furnish each participating Auxiliary Flotilla with a set of charts of its local area. In return, the Auxiliary agreed to report data useful for chart corrections to National Ocean Service, Marine Chart Branch. The personal knowledge of those in the Auxiliary resulting from frequent operation in their areas is vital to the chart certification activities of U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey and the Marine Chart Branch. The purpose of this cooperation program is to properly report all current chart revision information. For more information go to: pdept.cgaux.org/latest_navigation_systems_division.htm

RECRUITING SUPPORT SERVICES

The Coast Guard Auxiliary assists the Coast Guard Recruiting Command and Coast Guard Academy Admissions by referring young people with an interest in Coast Guard careers. In addition, qualified members of the Auxiliary augment active duty recruiting staff in branch

offices around the country. Others are authorized as part of the Academy Admissions Partner Program (AAPP). As Academy Admissions Partners (AAP) they directly support cadet recruitment in a variety of ways that include orientation and counseling of high school students, attendance at college fairs and participation in the Academy Introduction Mission (AIM). Three one week sessions of AIM are held each summer at the U. S. Coast Guard Academy in New London. Participation by Auxiliarists in the AAPP is subject to successful completion of required program requirements as defined and recognized by the Coast Guard Academy Director of Admissions. Information concerning the Academy Partners Program can be found at: www.admissions.uscga.edu/partners/img/uscga_volunteer_letter.pdf

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION SERVICES

The Information and Communication Services Department is responsible for the planning, collection and dissemination of information and statistics at all levels of the Auxiliary through supervision and direction of:

- AUXDATA, a centralized database information system
- AUXINFO, a reports retrieval system
- Auxiliary National Internet web sites and other electronic media.

For the Auxiliary, web pages and email communications offer a special potential not only to communicate internal needs and abilities throughout the Coast Guard family but also for communications to the boating public. The Auxiliary maintains an official website at www.cgaux.org.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Public Affairs Department is charged with promoting greater awareness of all missions of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, including its activities in recreational boating safety and maritime domain awareness. In order to do this, Public Affairs supports both the Coast Guard and other Coast Guard Auxiliary Departments and mission areas. Specialists in multimedia provide graphics, photography, video, sound and website services. Media relations experts gather newsworthy stories from local Auxiliarists, produce news releases, prepare feature articles and support local Auxiliarists in their media relations efforts. Each Auxiliarist receives a biweekly electronic newsletter which reports on developments throughout the Auxiliary. Training is provided to public affairs officers nationwide through live and online training courses. Special projects include National Safe Boating Week, an International Search and Rescue Competition, Community Outreach, and contests among photographers, public affairs and internal publications. *Coastie the Safety Boat* seeks to ensure that youngsters across the nation build safe boating habits early. The Department also preserves the history of all Auxiliary activities. For more information go to: www.auxpa.org/

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK (North American Safe Boating Campaign)

National Safe Boating Week has been expanded to encompass the entire year. Because Canada, our neighbor to the north, has joined the event, the campaign is now called the *North American Safe Boating Campaign*. The campaign is centered on a week's activity just before Memorial Day in May. There are eight partners involved with the NSBW campaign: U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), U.S. Power Squadrons, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Safe Boating Council (NSBC), the Boat U.S. Foundation, and the Canadian Safe Boating Council. Auxiliary units organize appropriate activities, such as boating safety booths, Vessel Safety Check blitzes, public affairs activities, demonstrations and programs with other boating organizations. These efforts are aimed at the boating public to increase their awareness of safe boating practices. It is a great opportunity to publicize the Auxiliary's programs, vessel safety exams and safe boating classes, as well as membership in the Auxiliary. Auxiliarists work with their local media to promote these events. Campaign materials are available for order by flotillas and divisions. These materials include posters, handouts, billboards, and media guides and releases. They are designed to provide appropriate news items throughout the year, not only for the special events of the week. Many great initiatives have been used to turn attention to safe boating practices. For more information go to: www.auxpa.org/resources/tools/Media%20Guide.PDF

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Department of Human Resources is responsible for developing membership growth and retention in the Auxiliary. The Department of Personnel has oversight over programs used to increase pride and esprit de corps of being a member of the Auxiliary, to increase diversity in the Auxiliary membership and to develop work/life programs for the membership. The Department also identifies and maintains a list of prospective members for staff positions at all levels of the Auxiliary and provides candidates as requested by appointing authorities. The Department processes prospective member hits on the National Web Page and notifies the nearest flotilla in order to establish channels of communication and follow up with prospective members. Citizens of the U.S. who are at least 17 years of age interested in membership may contact the Auxiliary through join.cgaux.org/ or hdept.cgaux.org/

MARINE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The USCG Auxiliary's Prevention Department is responsible for the planning and administration of programs to support and augment the United States Coast Guard's Prevention Directorate. This support includes, but is not limited to

- support for marine environmental response assistance
- port safety and security inspections

- commercial vessel safety and security inspections (UTV, UPV, CFVE and other Foreign and Domestic Vessels)
- container inspection assistance
- mariner licensing/documentation/course audits
- public affairs
- area contingency planning
- waterways management
- America's Waterways Watch
- MISLE support
- environmental education

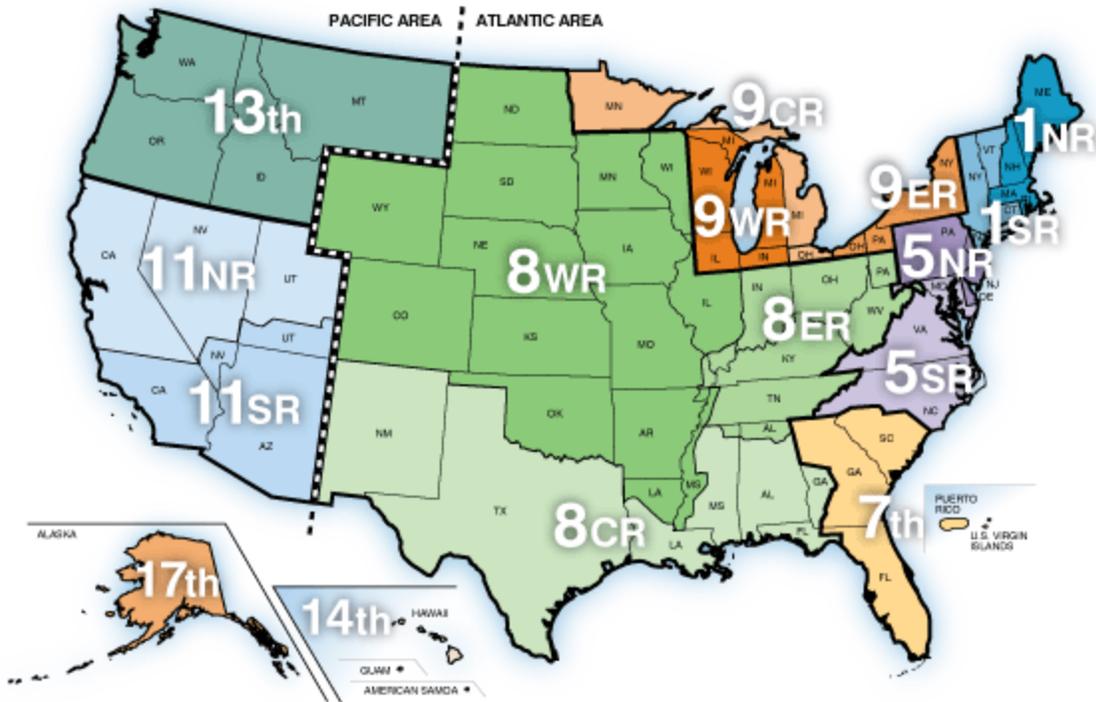
As such we assist and augment the Coast Guard's vital role as the nation's guardian agency ensuring the safety and environmental protection of our nation's precious waterway resources. As America's Volunteer Guardians, we are committed to be dedicated, vigilant, and ready to engage this mission on behalf of our fellow citizens.

The Prevention Department's program provides needs-based support to Prevention activities of the Coast Guard based on local requirements and member capabilities. This is accomplished by providing training, expert resources and field technical support to Auxiliary members and local units as well as to Coast Guard units. The training required by members in order to participate in these programs is unique and extensive and includes both courses and on-the-job training. The most significant individual achievement is the qualification of an Auxiliarist to wear the Auxiliary's Trident pin which signifies substantial training, service and acquisition of personal skills in the prevention field, similar to the USCG Active Duty Trident Pin. For more information go to: pdept.cgaux.org/

AUXILIARY INTERPRETER CORPS

The USCG Auxiliary Interpreter Corps provides support in Coast Guard operational and administrative missions. The Interpreter Corps involves over 400 highly proficient Auxiliary interpreters who serve authorized Coast Guard missions supporting 46 foreign languages. Auxiliary Interpreters serve on cutters from the Caribbean to the Bering Sea, as well as on foreign VIP tours, SAR and MSO training events, boarder guard training events and incident investigations. They also assist in translating documents. For more information go to: cgwebs.net/interpreter/ .

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY AREAS, DISTRICTS, AND REGIONS



This map shows the Coast Guard Auxiliary districts. Click the following to find the closest Auxiliary Flotilla to you: cgaux.org/units.php