

AUXILIARY COURSES

VESSEL EXAMINERS

Vessel examiners conduct free vessel equipment safety checks. This is not a law enforcement action and the results are not reported to any law enforcement authority. The Vessel Safety Check program is one of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's best ways to educate boaters and involve new members. To become a Vessel Examiner you must pass the Boating Skills, become familiar with the contents of the Vessel Safety Check Manual, take and pass the VE qualification examination which can be done online and satisfactorily conduct 5 Vessel Safety Checks under the observation of a qualified Vessel Examiner.

RBSVP RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY VISITATION PROGRAM

The Marine Dealer Visitation program is an important task in the promotion of public awareness of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's safe boating programs. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary works to facilitate a cooperative relationship between the U.S. Coast Guard and area marine dealers, marinas and some government agencies (FL Marine Patrol, Department of Highway Safety, Motor Vehicles) to provide them with and obtain information from them regarding boating safety information, regulations, and educational programs available to the boating public. Marine Dealer Visitors are trained Auxiliarists who travel to commercial locations that deal with boating equipment, marinas and some public offices, in order to provide them with the latest safety information to disseminate to their customers

Operations Program

The Auxiliary Operations program qualifies members as boat crew, coxswains, air observers, co-pilots, first pilots, aircraft commanders, aids to navigation (ATON) verifiers, watch standing at Coast Guard active duty units or Auxiliary radio facilities. Qualified Auxiliarists can also serve as crew or engineer on Coast Guard vessels when these vessels are not engaged in law enforcement or military operations.

Your first qualification entitles you to wear the Operations Program ribbon. Each additional qualification entitles you to wear a bronze star on the Operations Program ribbon. Upon earning your sixth qualification the bronze stars are replaced with a silver star. Coxswains and aircraft pilots wear breast devices signifying their accomplishments.

Instructor Program

The Auxiliary Instructor program qualifies members as instructors for public education (PE) and member training (MT) courses. An Auxiliarist qualifies as an instructor by completing the practical exercises and test. Also members of the U.S. Power Squadron (USPS), who have completed the USPS Instructor Qualification Course and graduates of the Coast Guard Basic Instructor Course (BIC) will also be certified as instructors (IT) upon application.

Becoming an Auxiliary Instructor entitles you to wear the Instructor Program ribbon. Further practical training will qualify you as a Master Instructor (MI). This qualifies you to mentor members to become Master Instructors and entitles you to wear a bronze star on the Instructor Program

SPECIALTY COURSES

SAR Specialty Course (AUXSAR)

An AUXSAR Specialist is well qualified in search and rescue and a genuine asset to the Auxiliary operations activities. The AUXSAR training is designed to present a thorough understanding of the policy, organization, and procedures involved in the search and rescue process as generally practiced by the U. S. Coast Guard. The AUXSAR Specialist is aware of the overall structure of the search and rescue organization, is able to plan search operations, and has an understanding of towing principles, towline properties, and recognition of the effects of sea state, to ensure a safe and successful search and rescue.

Navigation Specialty Course (AUXNAV)

An Auxiliarist who is qualified as a Navigation Specialist is a genuine asset to the Auxiliary operations activities. This individual knows where their vessel is at any given time and keeps it from danger. The Navigation Specialist is also well prepared to participate in our Public Education program, teaching the piloting portion of our basic courses and participating in the Basic Coastal Navigation (BCN) and Advanced Coastal Navigation (ACN) courses.

Seamanship Specialty Course (AUXSEA)

The AUXSEA Specialist is a particularly valuable asset in Auxiliary operations as knowledge of vessels and proficiency in their operation is a major Auxiliary interest. An AUXSEA Specialist has extensive knowledge of vessels and their propulsion systems as well as detailed information on how vessels are constructed, founded, and operated. The AUXSEA Specialist understands marine engines, knows how to perform minor repairs, is knowledgeable on vessel handling in normal and heavy weather, and how to approach distress situations. These attributes, when combined with the studies and practical training of the Boat Crew program, will make the member a competent and reliable crewmember of an Auxiliary vessel

Weather Specialty Course (AUXWEA)

The AUXWEA Specialist is a genuine asset to Auxiliary operations activities. This individual understands the weather, its importance in the marine environment, and to the conduct of safe and effective operations. The AUXWEA Specialist is able to make accurate and valuable short range (several hours) weather forecasts to enable crewmates to avoid dangerous weather conditions while performing their patrol activities. Long range (two or more days) forecasts are also developed to assist in planning operations activities. The AUXWEA Specialist develops a keen sense of weather processes, including those which have an element of danger: thunderstorms, squall lines, fog, tornadoes, and other severe phenomena. A comprehensive knowledge of weather processes and effects is essential to the competent mariner, whether on the high seas, the coastal areas, lakes and rivers, or local reservoirs.

Communications Specialty Course (AUXCOM)

The AUXCOM Specialty is one of the few specialties cited as a requirement for other Auxiliary activities: ownership of an Auxiliary Fixed Land, Land Mobile, or Direction Finding Radio Facility. It is also required by Communications Officers who conduct radio facility inspections. AUXCOM is also the entry level requirement for communications watchstander training at Coast Guard units.

Patrol Specialty Course (AUXPAT)

The AUXPAT Specialist is another genuine asset to the Auxiliary operations activities. This individual fully understands the complete spectrum of operational patrol activities both on the water and in the air, such as: Safety Patrol, Search and Rescue (SAR), Regattas spectator safety control, Chart Updating/Aids to Navigation Patrols, to name a few. Practical knowledge achieved by the AUXPAT Specialist engenders a keen awareness of, and response to, emergency situations, without jeopardizing the crew and facility.