

Helpful Hints for Plebes during the Summer
Written by a member of the Class of 2014

1. Bring running shoes. Wear them on I-Day. Even bring a second pair if you want.
2. Ladies - bring a brush and comb. As of last year, they were the only necessities outside of face wash that weren't issued.
3. If you use a specific face wash, scrub, etc. bring it. You CAN bring toiletries so long as you can carry them. For ladies, NO makeup.
4. Bring your own white undergarments, both men and women. One horror story had a mid with a late I-Day report time and was issued the only underwear left, which was a size too small; he got an infection.
5. Before I-Day, have your future-mid make up their own care package with whatever they want. Food, an address book (he will be issued stationary, envelopes, and stamps), just no contraband. Send it from Annapolis on or right before I-Day. Parents - ship care packages in airtight plastic containers. Shoebox sized is always good; very large containers may be more difficult to store. They help organize and keep things clean.
6. On keeping things clean - send your plebe Swiffer products, Lysol wipes, paper towels, etc. They will constantly have room inspections, and none of those are issued. Imagine cleaning blinds with Pledge and a washcloth... The day I received a Swiffer duster was described as "Christmas" in my room.
7. After I-Day, mail black compression shorts. The ones issued are okay but they tend to melt in Brigade Laundry.
8. Plebes - take all the Gatorade you can from King Hall back to your room. It may be at every meal during plebe summer, but after that you will never see it again.
9. If your plebe has no intention of doing a varsity sport (or even a club sport), he or she should sign up for Company Soccer during the summer for sports period every day. They will get to meet those in their company and have time to talk and get to know each other, as well as see the nicer sides of some of the detailers. As an added bonus, if it is a black or red flag day (too hot) during sports period, he or she will get an hour and a half back in his or her room. Considering that plebes only get 27 minutes of "personal time" a day, this is spectacular
10. JOIN CHOIR. If you can sing Happy Birthday, you're in. Even if you've never sung or are almost too embarrassed to join a choir, it's worth it. It's almost three hours a week that you will be away from the bulkhead and the detailers and somewhere that you can socialize and have fun. You don't have to continue during the Academic Year. We missed an ITE session (PT beat down), got an

hour-long phone call without detailer supervision, met non-detailer midshipmen, and made friends out of our companies. Worth it, hands down.

11. Men - be able to shave in 2 minutes or less.

12. There are two sets of detailers: 1st set and 2nd set. 1st set is meant to break you down and 2nd set is meant to build you up. Changeover from 1st to 2nd set is Monday, July 23, 2012 at Noon Meal Formation.

13. Don't lose any of your stuff, and never, ever leave your rifle (or rifle lock) unlocked, ever. Also, don't leave your Con Locker unlocked. You don't want to know what Reg Tables or Lock Bombs are like. And try to avoid Swim PEP (PEP for the injured plebes).

14. Know the rates you're supposed to on I-Day. Be obnoxiously loud and confident. Even if you aren't sure about a rate, just keep going; if you don't stumble or stop, the detailer probably won't notice. If you are confident and do exactly what you are supposed to for the first week or two (before the rates start getting really hard), detailers don't tend to go after you as much. Also, keep at least five pieces of paper folded up in the plastic cover of your Reef Points every day for any downtime in which to write letters or do writing assignments.

15. Keep a sense of humor, try to keep your perspective on things, help anyone who needs it no matter the cost, don't freak out, know that this is by no means what the rest of your time at USNA will be like, and pay attention to the leadership styles of your detailers - be able to learn from them, the good and the bad. Remember that the reasons why you came won't be the reasons why you stayed; the reasons why you stay will be much stronger, much more meaningful, and will bond you to the rest of your class.

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1st Company
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