



# GOT YOUR PASSPORTS READY?

## THE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM IS RETURNING FOR SUMMER 2023!



### What is the International Exchange Program (IEP)?

The IEP is a Sea Cadet program that provides the cadets an opportunity of a lifetime - travel to another country to meet other like-minded cadets of different nations. Since 1999, with the exception of the past two years due to COVID restrictions, we have been sending cadets and adult volunteer escort officers (EOs) across the globe every summer as Outbound Exchanges, and hosting other countries' Sea Cadets and adult volunteer escort officers here in the US at the Inbound Exchange.

### Why should I go on a Sea Cadet International Exchange?

Participants earn training credit towards advancement, just like any other training. Travel from your closest major airport is paid for by the Sea Cadets. In addition to practicing maritime and teamwork skills, while on an exchange, cadets participate in a variety of activities, including many that they would not experience as a cadet otherwise, such as petting a koala in Australia, dragon boating in Hong Kong, or exploring ancient ruins in England. They learn about different countries' military, culture, and traditions, and share Sea Cadet stories. Best of all, the cadets make lifelong friends!

### What countries are available in 2023?

We are still confirming participation from our partner countries, so we can't announce the specific countries just yet. However, we do know we will be sending cadets and adult volunteers out of the country as well as hosting them here in the United States. We are currently anticipating exchanges with 5 countries. As soon as we receive their formal invitations, we will announce them to the field. We will know before the application window opens. Stay tuned!

## Do other countries come to the United States?

The US Inbound Exchange will be held 16 - 29 July in Washington, DC. This year we have invited 24 international guests. We will be selecting 5 US cadets to serve as hosts, using the same application process as the outbound exchanges. Passports are NOT required for this exchange.

Minimum age for Inbound is 15 years old for cadets, and it counts as a staff billet for training purposes. US Inbound Exchange officer staff billets are filled by the IEP Team, so we will not be selecting adult volunteers for this training.

## Who is eligible to participate?

Because of its unique nature, unlike most advanced trainings, participants are selected for IEP through a rigorous application process. Sea Cadets applying to go out of the country must be age 16 or older at time of application, be E4 or above, and have their Commanding Officer's approval to apply. Applicants for the US Inbound can be 15 years old or older, be E4 or above, have attended Petty Officer Leadership Academy (POLA), and also must have their Commanding Officer's approval. Adult volunteers may apply as long as they are not in an auxiliary status and have approval of their chain of command. There are no other rank requirements, but experience will be considered for selection.

## Do I have to choose just one country?

Cadets may be selected for both inbound and outbound in the same year, but they can only go to one outbound country. However, applicants will have the opportunity to select multiple countries for which they wish to be considered.

## When can I apply?

While we are still waiting for official invitations from the host countries, we can provide you with the following information to help you prepare for your application now. The window to apply is relatively short, so you will want to be ready when it opens!

	<b>Cadets</b>	<b>Adult Volunteers (Escort Officers)</b>
<b>Application window:</b>	6 - 31 March 2023	6 - 24 March 2023
<b>Finalist interviews:</b>	22 & 23 April 2023	9 - 12 April 2023
<b>Notification of selection:</b>	29 - 30 April 2023	15 - 16 April 2023

## How do I apply?

When the application window opens, a link to the application form will be provided on the IEP website [www.seacadets.org/iep](http://www.seacadets.org/iep) and disseminated via NHQ communications. In addition to the application, online interviews will be conducted for the top finalists before selections are made.

## What will be required in the application?

Among other information, applications will require the following information and documentation for which you can prepare in advance:

### Cadets applicants:

- Current passport with expiration date after February 2024 (6 months after the dates of travel)
- Name and email address of one reference. You do not need to get a letter of recommendation from them, but they must be willing to complete an online form. They can be any adult who has worked with you in any capacity who can speak unbiasedly about your suitability for this program (e.g., Teacher, coach, mentor, employer, youth minister, division officer from a Sea Cadet training). Family members and adult volunteers from your home unit are discouraged from submitting the reference as they have a vested interest in your selection.
- Commanding Officer's approval. Your CO will be required to give their approval for you to go on an exchange. Talk to them now to make sure they are willing to do so.
- List of Sea Cadet accomplishments and activities not listed in your Magellan Record Book
- Detailed list of extracurricular activities, including jobs and volunteer work outside of Sea Cadets (including dates involved, responsibilities)
- Official high school transcript that includes the fall semester/trimester (not a report card)
- Travel history

### Adult volunteer applicants:

- Current passport with expiration date after February 2024 (6 months after the dates of travel)
- Magellan Record book (Make sure it is accurate and up to date)
- List of Sea Cadet involvement not included in the Magellan Record Book
- Relevant employment/volunteer history
- Travel history
- Commanding Officer/Regional Director's approval.

More information will be provided on our IEP website [www.seacadets.org/iep](http://www.seacadets.org/iep) .  
Contact us at [iep@seacadets.org](mailto:iep@seacadets.org) if you have any specific questions.