



# Press Release

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**For more information, contact:**

John C Stockwell  
Chief- External Communications Branch  
Public Affairs Department  
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
email [jhoss@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jhoss@twcny.rr.com)  
<http://www.auxpa.org>  
(315)303-4735

## President Bush Heralds Volunteerism

### The Coast Guard Auxiliary offers a unique way to serve our country and learn new skills

Earlier this week, at an event celebrating the 5th anniversary of the USA Freedom Corps, President George W. Bush praised the work that all volunteers do across the country. Bush challenged those who want to enrich their lives to consider volunteering, and urged them to find an opportunity that will give them the opportunity to follow their heart. For those who may be looking to answer Bush's call for volunteerism, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary wants to share what it has to offer to perspective members.

President Bush said, "we are a nation of people who take time out of their lives on a regular basis to help a fellow citizen realize the full potential of America. We've got a lot of people volunteering in the country, and one of my calls is for people to do more of it. And there's plenty of opportunities to find out where you can volunteer."

How is serving in the Coast Guard Auxiliary unique? The Auxiliary is a volunteer organization affiliated with the United States Coast Guard, and has over 27,000 members across the country including Alaska & Hawaii. Its volunteers work side by side with the active duty and reserve Coast Guard in many mission areas, including Recreational Boater Safety, Marine Domain Awareness and Security, and Environmental Safety and Concerns. Auxiliarists are authorized to perform any mission that the Coast Guard is involved in, with the exceptions of direct law enforcement and military operations.

As volunteers, Coast Guard Auxiliarist play a vital role in helping to educate, communicate and administrate many of the programs aimed at helping all our shorelines remain safe and secure for all who live, work, or play around our nation's waterways. Numerous training opportunities exist for Auxiliarists, including boat operations, aviation, vessel examinations, public education, administration and leadership, plus many others.

To become a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, you must be an American Citizen, at least 17 years old, and be able to pass a basic background check. If you would like to learn more about volunteering with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, call 1-877-875-6296, or visit the Coast Guard Auxiliary on the web at <http://nws.cgaux.org/visitors/index.html>

President Bush said that "if you are concerned about the future of America, you can volunteer to help make that future look ever brighter." The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary welcomes those who want to serve their country and community in promoting recreational boating safety and in supporting the many missions of the United States Coast Guard.

*The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is composed of uniformed, non-military volunteer's who assist the Coast Guard in all of its varied missions, except for military and direct law enforcement. These men and women can be found on the nation's waterways, in the air, in classrooms and on the dock, performing Maritime Domain Awareness patrols, safety patrols, vessel safety checks and public education.*

*The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary was founded in 1939 by an Act of Congress as the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve and re-designated as the Auxiliary in 1941. Over 27,000 members donate millions of hours annually in support of Coast Guard missions.*

For more information on the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, visit us at [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org) or [www.axupa.org](http://www.axupa.org) .