

Dear Volunteers,

The following message is for our volunteers, however, we have also sent a tailored message to our parents, guardians, and cadets.

The United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps is pleased to announce that the initial rollout of our new Learning Management System (LMS), **Polaris**, will take place on 15 July 2020. We need your help in preparing for this process in the coming weeks. This announcement details the steps necessary to prepare your cadets for this exciting transition.

Summary

NOTS and CCMS will be decommissioned on 8 July 2020. Any assignments, courses, and exams in progress must be submitted prior to 8 July 2020 to be recorded in the Magellan record book.

We will be transitioning to our new online Learning Management System, **Polaris**, on 15 July 2020. All cadet coursework and examinations will be administered through Polaris starting on that date, including the first of our new Polaris Advancement Courses, for E-2/SA. This new Advancement Course will replace the BMR.

Starting on 15 June 2020, all cadets and volunteers will log in to our internal systems (Magellan and Polaris) using the **Quarterdeck**, via a link on our main seacadets.org website. *We will be providing additional login details as we approach that date.*

In order to access these systems, all parents, volunteers, and cadets must have a **unique email address**.

What is Polaris?

Starting on 15 July 2020, all NLCC and NSCC coursework and exams will be administered through Polaris, our new learning management system.

We are excited to announce that we will be publishing our first Polaris Advancement Course, for E-2/Seaman Apprentice, on 15 July 2020. This new Advancement Course will replace the BMR. As the year progresses, we will be publishing more Advancement Courses in Polaris for NSCC rates E-3 through E-7, and NLCC rates LC-2 through LC-7.

In the meantime, all current NSCC correspondence courses, NLCC Syllabus assignments, advancement exams, and the OMSG will be available to complete through Polaris.

Sea Cadets and Volunteers enrolled in NSCC Recruit Training Phase 1 will gain early access to Polaris later this month.

Using Polaris will ensure each of our members can easily find and submit all of their coursework in one location. *It also means no more bubble sheets for our volunteers!*

What will happen to NOTS and CCMS?

On 8 July 2020, we will be decommissioning NOTS, CCMS, and members.seacadets.org. In order to prepare for this digital shift, we ask you to wind down the use of these systems.

Please schedule any advancement exams in NOTS well before 8 July. Please warn your cadets to submit all completed correspondence course bubble sheets early enough for a Unit Course Administrator to enter them into CCMS before the system's closure on 8 July. Remind your cadets that they must complete all assignments for the entire rank specific course that they are currently working on before 8 July, or their progress will be lost.

Cadets who have not started their BMR may wish to wait and take the new E-2/SA Advancement Course in Polaris instead of the BMR. Either will count for the correspondence course requirement for advancement to E-2T or E-2. We will also publish the BMR within Polaris for cadets who have started, but will not finish the BMR before 08 July. Cadets can opt to complete the BMR rather than starting the new E-2/SA Polaris Advancement Course until 31 August 2020, when the BMR will be permanently removed.



Correspondence courses which are not submitted to CCMS by 8 July 2020, will need to be retaken in Polaris.

What is the new login system?

We will begin using a new single sign-on system for volunteers and cadets starting on 15 June 2020. We will be closing members.seacadets.org in favor of this new all access login page. This new system, called the **Quarterdeck**, will require only one login for users of Magellan and Polaris (and any additional secure systems we roll out in the future). Cadets will access Polaris through the Quarterdeck, which will include a landing page with a ribbon rack, an advancement check-off, and other features. Volunteers will be able to access Polaris, Magellan, and D2L directly through the Quarterdeck.

Use of a single sign-on will also ensure that Magellan and Polaris are fully integrated to provide a seamless experience. The Quarterdeck will be accessed via a link found on seacadets.org; more details will be published about our new login system in the next two weeks.

Unique Email Address Required of all Members and Parents

In order to log in to our new system, **each of our cadets, parents, and volunteers must have a unique email address** – families *cannot* share an email address. Volunteers may complete this form to receive a unique [Sea Cadet email address](#). Parents and cadets must provide their own unique email address. Effective immediately, you will not be able to save a cadet or volunteer profile on Magellan unless that member has a unique email address; cadet email addresses must be different from his or her parents' email addresses.

We appreciate that many parents/guardians may be uncomfortable establishing an email account for their cadets. Gmail and iCloud offer family plan options for emails—this allows parents/guardians to create unique email addresses for children under 13. The following three companies offer products specifically aimed at providing safe email addresses with parental controls for children.

- <https://tocomail.com/>
- <https://www.zoobuh.com/>
- <https://www.kidsemail.org/index.php>

It's best to keep your cadet's email account simple and professional with some variation on their name, such as "firstinitial_lastname@url.com". If those addresses are already taken, avoid adding numbers that include personally identifiable information such as your child's birthday, birth year, street address, or area code. Instead, try reordering the names and initials until you land on an available username.

For cybersecurity reasons, choose a password that is different from other accounts your child may have. Should one online account be compromised, the others will still be secure. Strong passwords include a mix of numbers, letters, and symbols.

Make sure to add your email address and your cell phone number as a backup should your child forget their password or get locked out.

We also suggest looking into [Bark](#), an email account monitoring system that can alert parents to any worrisome content or dangerous activities. Bark monitors AOL email, Gmail, iCloud email, Outlook, Xfinity email, and Yahoo! Mail for signs of cyberbullying, online predators, adult content, depression, acts of violence, suicidal ideation, and more. Bark will also alert you if your child attempts to create another email address or social media account without your permission.

We are excited to share this news with you. This is a major step towards our plan to update the educational content for our cadets and volunteers. We look forward to sharing our continued progress with you in the upcoming months. Should you have any additional questions, please contact your chain of command.

Thank you,

The National Headquarters Team