



International Exchange Program Application Information

THIS GUIDANCE PERTAINS TO AUSTRALIA 2024 ONLY

Sea Cadets and adult volunteers: Complete the online application package via Formstack as per application process directions at www.seacadets.org/iep.

Sea Cadet Applicants: Submit **your application** online only through https://usnavalseacadet.formstack.com/forms/2024_australia_iep_application_sea_cadet

Cadets should send this link to their **personal reference and their commanding officer:** https://usnavalseacadet.formstack.com/forms/2024_iep_application_cadet_recommendation

Note:** Participants must have a valid passport or have applied for one before submitting their application package. **Valid passports must be in hand to apply. Passports must not expire before 1 November 2024.

Participants:

Two adult volunteers have been selected from previous applications to escort cadets to Australia.

Four cadets will be selected based on their experience and contributions to the program and other factors. *Priority will go to cadets who are high school juniors.* Cadets must be at least 16 years old and must not reach their 18th birthday before the end of the exchange.

All applicants must be open to new experiences, willing to eat different foods, interested in learning about the host country's history, culture, and military, and eager to interact with peers from other countries.

Physical Requirements

Due to the demanding physical nature of some of the planned activities during exchanges, cadets and adult volunteers must be in good physical condition and able to walk very long distances and carry their own bags.

Also, participants will be exposed to new environments and unfamiliar foods. Therefore, cadets and adult volunteers who require medical accommodations, have foods/other allergies or sensitivities, and/or are not physically fit should reconsider whether this training is right for them. The US IEP Team has no control over meals served by the host country, their ability to make accommodations or access to medical facilities. Your health and safety are our #1 concern, so only personnel who can meet these basic physical requirements (not at-risk for medical emergencies; can walk long distances at a steady, normal pace; can carry their 50 lb suitcase up a staircase) will be selected.

Selection Process: There is a selection process and all applicants will compete for the opportunity to participate in an exchange. Finalists will be selected based on their application and recommendations.

These individuals will undergo a virtual interview by the IEP Selection Committee before exchange participants are chosen. Those approved for orders will be notified immediately after selection. A list of alternates will be created in case one of the selectees becomes ineligible. Those not selected as participants or alternates will receive an email notification.

Training orders for participants will be approved once the training fee is collected. Additional information on other uniform/clothing items, an updated program of events, and other items of interest as provided by the host country will be sent. *No action is required in Magellan at time of application.*

Responsibilities: Escort Officers will be provided a list of cadets selected for this exchange and will have responsibilities and tasks to prepare the cadets for their exchange experience.

All cadets will be required to attend and complete an online training course over Zoom and through Google Classroom (Sea Cadet Global Citizenship School) prior to departure.

Required Costs: Sea Cadet participants will be responsible for a training fee of \$350 and their personal spending money. Cadets selected for this exchange must submit the \$350 training fee upon selection. Adult volunteers do not have to pay a training fee. No participant will be reimbursed for any travel costs incurred (e.g., airport parking or baggage fees). All air travel will be arranged and paid for by the Sea Cadets (see next page).

Additional Costs: It is recommended that cadets take at least \$300 personal spending money to pay for personal gifts, souvenirs, and other personal items. It is also recommended that they take only a small amount in cash in the local currency (obtained before departure) and have the rest available on a debit card that can be used overseas as a credit card. Berthing and most meals will be provided by the host country. Participants may be given the opportunity to go on supervised liberty and purchase local food and snacks from their personal spending funds. They may also be required to pay for some meals and activities (e.g., museum tickets, tours). It is not the responsibility of the escort officers to cover the expenses of cadets. They are not being issued additional funds by the Sea Cadets, so parents should ensure their cadet has access to money while overseas.

Travel insurance for participants will be arranged through the IEP Travel Agent and Sea Cadets will cover the cost of the Sea Cadet-approved policy. Participants' parents must agree to pay for all out-of-pocket expenses and file for reimbursement for covered expenses (flight changes, lost luggage, medical issues). They also must agree to cover any additional costs their cadet incurs that are not covered by the travel insurance (e.g., interruption or cancellation of trip due to misconduct). The Sea Cadet accident insurance (purchased at enrollment/re-enrollment) will be secondary to this policy.

Cell phones with international phone service are not required, but cadets may bring them or a device such as a tablet/iPad. Computers are not typically authorized. It is up to the family to arrange international phone service if desired. It is recommended that the cadets have insurance on their phones or tablets if they bring them. Sea Cadets will not be responsible for loss or damage to personal devices or for international charges/fees associated with cell phone or tablet usage.

Travel: Travel by commercial air to and from the host country will be arranged and paid for by the Sea Cadets. Upgrading or changes to these flights are not authorized unless approved by IEP and Travel Agent. Flights will originate from the largest airport within 180 miles of each participant's home. A gateway city leaving the continental United States will be identified by the travel agent. This is a large international airport (e.g., LAX) where all cadets in that exchange will meet their escort officers before traveling overseas. The escort officers will be scheduled to arrive well ahead of cadets to ensure they have proper supervision upon arrival.

US cadets will be properly supervised throughout the entire exchange. *Escort officers will remain with cadets throughout the entire exchange and cannot leave the training contingent to visit with friends or*

family, or go on a personal tour, at any time. They cannot arrive at the host country early or depart later than the cadets.

Parent involvement: International exchanges require a great deal of personal responsibility on the part of those traveling. Cadets must demonstrate that they are ready and capable by being fully engaged throughout the pre-exchange preparation process. Parents should allow their cadets room to demonstrate their maturity and initiative by limiting their own interaction with the escort officers or IEP Team. Cadets should be the primary contact if there are issues, questions, or concerns during the pre-exchange preparation process. Parents will be kept informed and copied on all correspondence coming from escort officers and the IEP Team per Sea Cadet Regulations.