

TALKING TO YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER ABOUT BECOMING A MARINE

Becoming a Marine can be a life-changing decision, and it's perhaps one of the first adult decisions your student will make. Talking about it will help you understand his or her reasons to become a Marine.

Here are several questions to ask and topics to consider during your discussion.

Why is he or she considering the Marine Corps?

- Pride associated with the prestige and legacy of the Marine Corps
- “First to fight” as our nation’s force in readiness
- Only a few have what it takes to become a Marine
- Serve others and defend our nation
- Want the chance to rise to a challenge for a greater purpose
- Ready to take control of his or her future

What are their goals for the future?

- Serving as a Marine gives young people a chance to make a difference
- Marines are focused and equipped with the character and leadership abilities to succeed
- Skills learned in the Marine Corps help Marines prepare for the professional world
- Marines are leaders on the battlefield and in their communities
- The Marines and college are not mutually exclusive. The Marine Corps encourages college during or after service
- Many Marines choose to have a career in the Marine Corps

Has he or she spoken to a Marine Corps Recruiter yet?

- The Recruiter’s role is to support you throughout the decision process
- Recruiters are experienced Marines
- Recruiters have information on Marine Corps careers and jobs
- It’s important for parents to talk with a recruiter as well
- Recruiters know the roles of Marines, both active and reserve

Can they make the initial commitment of four years of service?

- Commitment to defending our nation
- Uphold freedom for future generations
- The Marine Corps will teach the skills necessary

What skills, abilities and qualities do they want to gain as a Marine?

- Marine Corps Values, including Honor, Courage and Commitment
- Marines build character and develop countless individual abilities, such as confidence, focus and physical and mental strength

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Is he or she capable of completing 12 weeks of intense training?

Recruit Training – informally known as “boot camp” – is extremely challenging, yet greatly rewarding
Motivation, determination and selflessness are key elements for success
Marine recruits should prepare for Recruit Training before leaving home
Before Recruit Training, recruits can work with a recruiter to prepare
Recruits experience accelerated personal growth because of the example set by their drill instructor

Are they prepared to live and serve as a Marine in a foreign country?

Marines may get assignments in any part of the world
Marines go wherever they are needed
Marines have fellow Marines to rely on

When will they get a chance to return home for a visit?

Marines receive 10 days of leave (the military term for vacation) after graduation from Recruit Training
Marines get 30 days of paid leave per year

Does the Marine Corps offer college assistance?

Marines are given the opportunity and resources to pursue a college degree
The Marine Corps has many financial assistance programs, such as the GI Bill and Tuition Assistance, available to all Marines

What benefits does the Marine Corps offer?

Salary, housing, health care, recreational facilities and more
Support of the Marine Corps network