

TALKING TO YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER'S MARINE CORPS RECRUITER

Becoming a Marine can be a life-changing decision, and it's perhaps one of the first adult decisions your son or daughter will make. Talking about it with the recruiter will help you understand his or her reasons for becoming a Marine.

Here are several questions to ask during your discussion, along with some responses many recruiters will offer you:

What is the role of the Marine Corps?

Possible response:

The Marine Corps exists to make Marines, to win our nation's battles and to develop quality citizens. As our nation's premiere expeditionary force, Marines stand ready to deploy anywhere in the world at a moment's notice.

What type of person is right for the Marine Corps?

Possible response:

Young people who hold themselves to the highest standards, ethically and morally; those with the mental, moral and physical strength to face fear and overcome it; those who show a spirit of determination and dedication; those who want to serve our country; and those who want to commit to something greater than themselves.

What are the character traits and values that the Marine Corps focuses on?

Possible response:

The Marine Corps instills in every Marine the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. *You may want to ask the recruiter what these values mean to him or her.*

What are the leadership and management skills of Marines? How have these benefitted Marines after service?

Possible response:

As professional warriors, Marines must know how to think, plan and execute missions quickly and effectively. The Marine Corps cultivates leadership—both the ability to lead by example and from the front. After service, the responsibility and the constant practice of being a Marine will help your son or daughter go farther in their civilian career than they would have gone without prior service.

What are the specialties and technical skills in the Marine Corps?

Your recruiter can describe and explain the fields of Combat Arms, Combat Logistics, Aviation and Computers/Communications/Intelligence/Electronics

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What educational opportunities are available?

Possible response:

The moment your son or daughter becomes a Marine, many doors to higher education will open. In some cases, Tuition Assistance is available for qualified Marines. Also, should your son or daughter leave the Corps after completing their enlistment, they can still continue their education through the GI Bill. It will pay for the vast majority of their education expenses.

What about financial security, advancement and benefits?

Possible topics include: salary, housing, health care, recreational facilities and more, along with support from a brotherhood of fellow Marines and their families.

What are the requirements for becoming a Marine?

Possible responses:

Men and women between the ages of 17 and 29 who are working toward, or have earned, a high school diploma may qualify to enlist. Enlistment generally means a commitment of four years. To become a Marine Officer, your son or daughter must have college coursework toward a Bachelor's degree under way or completed before applying for the officer commissioning programs.

What is the mission of a Marine Corps Reservist?

Possible responses:

The Marine Corps Reserve is the additional depth of force the Marines turn to in times of war, national emergency and when national security demands it. Reserve Marines are as trained and battle-ready as any other Marines and share many of the same jobs. However, with the ability to train part-time at a Marine Corps Reserve unit near home or school, these Marines can continue to pursue a full-time civilian career or education.

What can you tell me about what life is like as a Marine?

Each recruiter has the depth of experience in the Marine Corps to give you a thoughtful, complete response.

Why are you proud to be a Marine?

Each recruiter has his or her own reasons, but they will reflect the values of the Marine Corps.

Possible response:

When you earn the title Marine, you not only have the respect of your peers, you have the respect of our nation. You forever carry a unique pride you'll never have to relinquish.

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What is the Marine Corps' approach to recruit training?

How can my son/daughter prepare for Marine Corps recruit training?

Possible response:

Marine Corps Recruit Training consists of 12 consecutive weeks at one of two Marine Corps Recruit Depots (MCRD). MCRD Parris Island, SC, serves as the training location for all male recruits from east of the Mississippi River and all female recruits. Male recruits from west of the Mississippi undergo training at MCRD San Diego, CA. Recruit training is extremely rigorous. It is the most demanding test of mind, body and character. All new recruits are required to meet minimum standards for strength and fitness, making it very important that they make good use of the time before they leave for recruit training. Recruits should start physical training and conditioning before Marine Corps Recruit Training even begins.