



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVY RECRUITING DISTRICT, PORTLAND
7028 N.E. 79TH COURT
PORTLAND, OREGON 97218-2813

April 13, 2016

Dear Educator:

I want to take this opportunity to wish you well as we celebrate the completion of another exciting school year, and I want to introduce myself. I am the Executive Officer of Navy Recruiting District Portland, and will take command of Navy Recruiting District Portland in June of 2016. It is my responsibility to ensure that the naval leaders who will one day inform national security policy and the Sailors who will represent our country around the world reflect the values, ideals, and diversity of the citizens of Oregon, southwest Washington, southern Idaho, northern Nevada, and northern California.

Twenty-six years ago, as a high school senior, I dreamed of living a life of impact. The US Navy gave me the opportunity, and the education to do so. In the course of my career I've studied at the University of San Diego, and the US Naval War College. Now life brings me full circle, granting me the privilege of presenting young adults with opportunities to make a difference in ways they can't yet imagine. I want to focus on one particular career avenue - **four-year Navy ROTC scholarships I have to award**. The Immediate Scholarship Reservation (ISR) program provides me with a limited number of scholarships for the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program. As with all Navy ROTC scholarships, selectees receive **full tuition and other financial benefits worth up to \$180,000**. However, a few particulars distinguish an ISR scholarship:

The selection decision rests on my shoulders. A board of officers does not make the selection for an ISR; rather, I have the privilege of picking these future leaders directly from within our region.

I have the prerogative to focus my search on individuals who have a demonstrated history of **overcoming personal adversity**, who have succeeded despite disadvantage or hardship. I aim to find leadership and perseverance, compassion, and character in the story between the lines of a college application. However, **I can't do this without you, because you know these students best**. This - more than any other reason - is why I am writing this letter to you.

Minimum standards are high for an ISR scholarship:

- Applicants must be US citizens with no criminal record or history of drug use;
- They must be high school seniors in the top 20% of their classes;
- They must have qualifying SAT scores (530 critical reading; 600 math; 1230 combined) or ACT scores (22 English, 26 math, 54 combined).

- Applicants should exhibit leadership qualities through significant extra-curricular activities and be regarded as role models by teachers and peers. (Let me reiterate that ISR standards are higher than general Navy ROTC standards, since applicants are not subject to a formal selection board. Students who do not meet ISR standards may still be competitive for a Navy ROTC scholarship.)

Let me familiarize you with a few of the defining features of a Navy ROTC scholarship. Selected applicants must gain admittance to their university of choice on their own initiative. Their university must have a Navy ROTC unit - more than 153 of our nation's leading colleges and universities do. While selectees may major in any field and must take a normal course load required for their degree, their curriculum must also include nine Naval Science courses, and one year each of Calculus, Physics, National Security Policy/US Military Affairs, English Grammar and Composition, and World Culture/Regional Studies.

There is no service obligation incurred for the first year of Navy-sponsored college tuition. Upon degree completion, each selectee will be commissioned as an officer in the US Navy, and will serve a minimum five-year active duty service obligation. For many, like me, that is only the beginning.

I cannot easily capture the experiences of the last 26 years in a short letter, nor is that really my intent, but I do want to leave you with a few of the abiding impressions from my own career. I enlisted in the US Navy directly out of high school, and the educational opportunities provided to me, by the US Navy, have significantly changed the trajectory of my life for the better. I have experienced the tremendous personal growth that comes from seeing the world from the perspective of those in real need; I have seen the impact that a Sailor can have on the life of a refugee, of a persecuted person, of a mariner in distress, and of a victim of natural disaster; and I count among my friends many military officers and civilian citizens that I have met over the course of my naval career. I have been privileged to work beside these men and women, and many others, as we have attempted to make a better world, both locally and globally.

If you have students who desire to serve and who meet the qualifications I've described, I encourage you to refer them to my Navy Educational Specialist, Mr. Sergio Barrientos. He can be reached at 503-258-2035 or sergio.barrientos1@navy.mil. If I, or any of my local Sailors, can be of help to you in understanding the Navy ROTC scholarship program or any of the many career programs the Navy has to offer, please feel free to contact me at 503-258-2005 or scott.swagler@navy.mil.

Sincerely,



S. A. SWAGLER
Executive Officer
Navy Recruiting District Portland