Serving your country through the military service can be very rewarding, educational, and life-changing.

**Here are some tips to help guide you through the process:**

- The U.S. Armed Forces are made up of six military branches: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy and, most recently, Space Force. Explore the best option that suits your interests the best.

- Joining the military is a very serious commitment which takes a lot of sacrifice and dedication. It includes physical, mental, and emotional discipline. Make sure you are ready and confident with your decision.

- Before you visit a local recruiter, ensure you meet the **minimum qualifications** for serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. You may also want to consider and rely on your Big for support and advice through the process.

- Once you have decided to join, you will need to contact a recruiter of the preferred military branch to start the process. The appointment can be made by phone or online.

- It is always a good idea to write down questions to ask the recruiter and ensure you’re getting all the information you need to make an informed decision. Click **HERE** for sample questions.

- You will be required to take the **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude (ASVAB)** exam. It is composed of four critical areas and your score will determine whether you’re qualified to enlist in the U.S. military.

- Being physically fit is of the utmost importance and this can mean between life and death. Learn more about "tactical fitness" and start working out. The better prepared you are, the more successful you will be.

- Explore the possibility of enrolling in the **Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC)** program as an elective in high school. It will help you develop leadership skills and give an insight into the military. For more information, visit [www.military.com](http://www.military.com).

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