



## SEA CADET ADVANCEMENT

In our cadet-led program, each new rank represents growth in leadership and responsibility. As cadets advance—following a structure modeled after Navy and Coast Guard ranks—they mentor newer members, help plan drill activities, and develop valuable personal and leadership skills.

Advancement requires meeting specific criteria (see the provided chart) and earning the Commanding Officer's approval. These goals call for consistent effort, both during drill and outside of it. By giving their best effort, maintaining a positive, team-focused attitude, and seeking opportunities to improve, cadets make steady progress. Advancing at least once per year ensures good standing and continuous growth, helping every cadet build leadership skills that last a lifetime.

<b>Rate</b>	<b>TIR</b>	<b>TIS</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Exam</b>	<b>PQS</b>	<b>Training</b>	<b>PRT</b>
Recruit Candidate (RC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Seaman Recruit (SR)	2 months	2 months	SR PAC	SR Exam	SR PQS	None	Taken (no score)
Seaman Apprentice (SA)	3 months	5 months	SA PAC	N/A	SA PQS	None	Level 2
Seaman (SN)	6 months	11 months	E3 PAC	N/A	SN PSI	Recruit Training (RT)	Level 3
Petty Officer 3rd Class (PO3)	6 months	17 months	PO3 Course	PO3 Exam	N/A	Any Training	Level 3
Petty Officer 2nd Class (PO2)	6 months	23 months	PO2 Course	PO2 Exam	N/A	Petty Officer Leadership Academy (POLA)	Level 3
Petty Officer 1st Class (PO1)	6 months	29 months	PO1 Course	PO1 Exam	N/A	Any Training	Level 3
Chief Petty Officer (CPO)	6 months	35 months	CPO Course	N/A	N/A	Staff Recruit Training (RT) or Navy League Orientation (NLO)	Level 3



## Definitions

<b>Title</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Rate	Often referred to as rank.
Time in Rate (TIR)	How long you must be at your current rate before becoming eligible for the next rank.
Time in Service (TIS)	How long you must be in the program in total
Course	What advancement course needs to be completed in Polaris
Exam	A final timed exam. Assigned by the unit in Polaris after the cadet has completed the relevant course.
Personnel Qualification Standards (PQS)	A set of practical standards a cadet must achieve before being eligible to advance to the next rate. Ex. Salute 5 times in a row without error or assistance.
Training	The overnight camp(s) required to be completed before being eligible to advance.
Physical Readiness Test (PRT)	The Physical Readiness Test, conducted every six months, evaluates cadets' ability to perform push-ups, a plank, and a mile run, ensuring they meet national standards for the physical demands of the program.

## **SEA CADET EXPERIENCE**

The Sea Cadet Experience (SCE) is a dynamic journey that helps your cadet develop skills, leadership, and discover new interests. As they grow, the program adapts to foster discipline, teamwork, and personal growth. On the next page, you'll find a chart outlining the SCE progression, much of which is still under development. Yellow ranks highlight essential milestones every cadet will reach, building a foundation in leadership and character. Blue ranks offer advanced opportunities for those ready to enhance their leadership and tackle greater challenges.

For cadets passionate about areas like medicine, aviation, or seamanship, SCE provides specialty training tracks. Additionally, the chart includes optional activities that enrich your cadet's experience without affecting rank advancement, promoting personal growth and memorable experiences.

