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TALKING TO YOUR STUDENT 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. When the conversation comes up, an important part of offering knowledgeable guidance is knowing which questions to ask.

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

Why is your student considering the Marine Corps?

Pride associated with the prestige and legacy of the Marine Corps

Pride in being "First to fight" as our nation's force in readiness

The immense challenge of earning the Marine title

The privilege to serve others and defend our nation

The chance to rise to a challenge for a greater purpose

Ready to take control of his or her future

What are your student's 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

Marines learn skills that can be used in 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



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Has your student talked to a Marine 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 teachers to talk with a recruiter as well

Recruiters know the roles in the Marine Corps, 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

Recruiters can help your student prepare before recruit training

Recruits experience accelerated personal growth because of the example set by their drill instructor

Is your student 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 our nation needs them

Marines can always depend on the Marines they serve alongside

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 earn 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