

ARIZONA MILITARY SERVICE ROADMAP

Freshman to Senior Year | Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, ROTC, and officer pathways

MILITARY PATHWAYS TO EXPLORE:

Army | Navy | Air Force | Marine Corps | Coast Guard | Space Force | Army National Guard | Air National Guard | Reserve components | ROTC / officer pathways

9TH

EXPLORE

- Learn the difference between Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, military academies, ROTC, and civilian college pathways.
- Explore military career fields that match your interests, including healthcare, aviation, technology, engineering, logistics, public safety, skilled trades, and administration.
- Build strong habits in academics, attendance, fitness, teamwork, leadership, and responsible decision-making.
- Keep college options open by taking a solid high-school course load while you explore whether military service fits your goals.

10TH

BUILD

- Research each branch's current enlistment standards, age limits, service commitments, training, and career opportunities.
- Begin learning about the ASVAB and how scores affect enlistment eligibility and available military jobs.
- Explore JROTC, leadership, athletics, community service, and other activities that can build confidence and responsibility.
- If Arizona Guard service interests you, compare Army National Guard and Air National Guard options, benefits, and unit locations.

11TH

PREPARE

- Take an ASVAB practice test and, when appropriate, arrange the official ASVAB through your school or a recruiter.
- Meet with recruiters from more than one branch so you can compare jobs, contracts, training, bonuses, education benefits, and service obligations.
- If you are considering ROTC or an officer pathway, research college admission, scholarship deadlines, fitness expectations, and application requirements early.
- Gather questions about medical eligibility, MEPS, job guarantees, enlistment contracts, education benefits, and what happens if a preferred job is unavailable.

12TH

DECIDE

- Compare your military option with college, trade, apprenticeship, and employment offers before signing an enlistment contract.
- If enlisting, complete recruiter processing, ASVAB requirements, medical screening at MEPS, job selection, and contract review.
- If joining at age 17, parent or guardian consent is required; each branch has its own maximum enlistment age and other eligibility standards.
- If using Guard, Reserve, ROTC, GI Bill, or tuition-assistance benefits, verify the exact eligibility rules and service commitment before relying on them for college costs.

CURRENT MILITARY SERVICE SNAPSHOT (2026)

Enlistment age:	USAGov lists active-duty minimum age as 17; current maximum ages vary by branch. A 17-year-old generally needs parental consent.
ASVAB:	All applicants seeking enlisted service take the ASVAB; each branch sets its own minimum scores, and results help determine which jobs may be available.
Education:	A high school diploma or GED is generally required. USAGov notes that opportunities can be more limited for GED holders.
Guard / Reserve:	Military OneSource notes that Guard and Reserve service typically includes monthly drill and annual training, in addition to initial military and job training.

ARIZONA OPTION The Arizona Army National Guard offers education-benefit resources, including federal and state tuition-assistance information.

OFFICIAL LINKS: [USAGov Requirements](#) [ASVAB](#) [AZ Army Guard Education](#)

Educational planning resource only. Military eligibility, age limits, medical standards, ASVAB scores, jobs, bonuses, benefits, contracts, and service commitments can change. Students should verify current details directly with official military sources and carefully review any enlistment or scholarship agreement before signing.

There's Just Not One Pathway to Success. | Explore carefully. Compare options. Choose with purpose.