

Appendix B – Basic Young Marine Billet Opportunities²

Young Marine Team Leader

During Recruit Training you learned how to be an effective team member. Now that you can work as a team with others, you need to practice being a leader on your team. A leader is defined as “a person who has commanding authority or influence.” As a team leader, you will have the authority to direct those in your team, but you will also have the ability to influence them or act as a role model for them, someone they can look to as an example of not only a leader, but as another member of the team. They will also look to you as an example of how to treat one another. As a team leader, you will have certain duties to perform. Before you take on the task be sure to consider the kind of leader you want to be and the example you want to set for your team.

All Young Marine Privates will have the ability to serve as a team leader, so you can begin to develop your leadership skills even at this early stage in your Young Marine career. As a team leader, your job will be as follows:

- Ensure your team members are squared away for inspections and tests such as the PFT. This means more than reminding them these tests are coming up. Be prepared to help them prepare their uniforms, help them out during PT sessions, or help them study for their guidebook tests. This also means you need to be knowledgeable in these areas before you can help your team.
- Assist the Squad Leader with supervision and carrying out all orders and assignments for the squad. A good leader can still perform the duties of a team member and take orders from leaders above them. This is how you set a good example for your team members: by continuing to act for the good of the team.
- Ensure your team is taken care of before yourself. Always look out for the welfare of your team by making sure your team members have chow, shelter, and sleeping comforts before yourself, and checking in on your teammates in tough situations.

Take responsibility for your team’s actions. If your team is successful, then you are successful. This also means if your team fails, you fail. It is your job as team leader to make sure everyone in your team does their very best for the good of each individual and for the good of the team

Young Marine Color Guard Member

One of the leadership roles you can hold in addition to team leader is the role of Young Marine Flag Bearer. You must be at least Young Marine Private to hold this billet. Being selected as a Young Marine Flag Bearer is a very prestigious honor. This means you will carry the colors of our nation or the colors of our Young Marines organization and will become part of your unit's Color Guard. When Young Marines carry the colors, they do so with respect and dignity. As a color bearer in a color guard, you are also responsible for the care and maintenance of your flag. Regardless of which flag you carry, always treat it with the utmost respect. As a flag bearer, follow the protocols for carrying the National Colors or the Young Marine Colors.

Carrying the National Colors

The National Colors, also known as the American Flag, National Standard, National Ensign, or even Old Glory, always occupies the same location in a color guard. It is always to the right of all other flags carried. Below are the protocols for carrying the National Colors:

- The National Colors should never be allowed to touch the ground.
- The National Colors are never dipped or lowered except when navigating through buildings, crowds, etc. They are held aloft with pride and dignity at all times.
- In a color guard, the National Colors are held higher than the other flags. Normally the staff can be adjusted for this purpose.

Carrying the Young Marine Colors or Other Flags

In addition to the Young Marine Unit Colors, there are other flags that can be part of a Color Guard. The United States Marine Corps Flag, your state flag, the MIA/POW Flag, or others that the Unit Commander may deem acceptable. Use the following protocol when carrying these flags:

- These flags are always to the left of the National Colors in a Color Guard.
- These flags are always held at the same level or lower than the National Colors.
- When performing "Eyes, Right" or rendering honors, these flags will dip.

Young Marine Color Sergeant

Another billet option is that of Color Sergeant. This position is open to **YM/PFC** and above in good standing in the unit. This position is not required for promotion but is another opportunity for leadership. The Color Sergeant should be the senior member of the Color Guard. As the Color Sergeant, the Young Marine is responsible for carrying the National Colors and the overall success of the color guard.

Duties and Responsibilities of a Unit Young Marines Color Sergeant are:

- The continual training and preparedness of the color guard
- Ensuring all members of the color guard are notified of events with times, locations, directions, etc.
- Ensuring members of the Color Guard are appropriately dressed and well-groomed according to the Young Marines Uniform Regulations
- Commanding the Color Guard during events