

Chapter 11 – General Knowledge

PO.2 – General Knowledge

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EO.1 – Recite the Young Marines Hymn

“The Young Marines Hymn” is the official song of the Young Marines. Just like the Obligation, it should be memorized and sung loud and proud with your fellow Young Marines.

“The Young Marines Hymn” is sung to the same tune as “The Marine Corps Hymn.”

The words are as follows:

From the North and from the South we'll come
From the East and from the West
We will all enlist in the Young Marines
And forever do our best
From the halls of all our grammar schools
To the shores of all our lakes
We will be the finest Young Marines
No matter what it takes

Let the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts march;
Let the Cub Scouts strut and beam
Oh, you haven't seen the greatest yet
'Til you've seen the Young Marines

We salute the sailor boys in blue
And the Army in their greens
We are proud to bear the title of
The U.S. Young Marines.

EO.2 – Identify Key Events in Young Marines History

The Young Marines was founded in 1959 in Waterbury, CT by the Brass City Detachment of the Marine Corps League. By 1960, this unit of Young Marines had grown to over 300 young people and 20 adults. In June of 1962, there were over 1500 boys in ten cities and towns, sponsored by various Marine Corps League Detachments throughout Connecticut.

In 1965 Steve Zuraw, a member of the Marine Corps League Valley Detachment in Con-

nnecticut, raised more than \$5000.00 to fly an entire Young Marine unit to the League's National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri where the League adopted the Young Marines as a National Program. The official charter was issued to the Young Marines on October 17th, 1965 which is the official birthday of the Young Marines. Though originally chartered as a subsidiary organization of the Marine Corps League, the Young Marines began to function independently in 1974. In the year 1975, females were officially allowed to the join the program.

The Young Marines' first by-laws were established in 1977 followed by an election of its first governing body. These by-laws were approved in 1978 at the Atlantic City Convention of the Marine Corps League. In 1980 the organization was granted status as a youth educational organization with a 501 (c) 3 IRS classification. In 1995 the organization went international with the formation of Young Marine units in Okinawa, Japan.

Today tens of thousand of young men and women have been part of the Young Marines, but our focus has remained the same: to strengthen the lives of America's youth by teaching the importance of self-confidence, academic achievement, honoring our veterans, good citizenship, community service, and living a health, drug-free lifestyle. We focus on mental, moral, and physical development to promote strong character building and leadership development.

EO.3 – Identify the Personal, Achievement, Service, and Qualification Awards

Young Marines who distinguish themselves in areas that fall under our core values of leadership, teamwork, and discipline can earn awards. All Young Marines are encouraged to pursue and earn awards which are divided into four categories: personal, achievement, service, and qualification awards.

- **Personal awards** are awarded to Young Marines who distinguish themselves with exceptional achievement, service, and/or personal courage. For example, the **Distinguished Service Ribbon** is awarded to any Young Marine who distinguishes his/herself by going above and beyond what they are called to do and contributes significantly to the success of the Young Marines program. For example, the Division and National Young Marines of the Year often achieve this award. However, there are other personal awards such as the **Commendation of Merit Ribbon** which can be earned on a smaller scale such as going above and beyond in a single meritorious effort in your unit.
- **Achievement awards** are awarded to Young Marines or Young Marine Units that distinguish themselves with an outstanding achievement. For example, the **Perfect Physical Fitness Score Ribbon** is awarded to all Young Marines who score 100 points in each of the five events of an officially scheduled PFT.
- **Service awards** are awarded to Young Marines or Young Marine Units that distin-

guish themselves with outstanding service. For example, Young Marines can be awarded ribbons for serving as a member of a Color Guard or serving as a Young Marine Staff Member at the National Leadership Academy. These awards are the **Color Guard Ribbon** and the **Young Marine Staff Ribbon**.

- **Qualification awards** are awarded to Young Marines who meet the qualification requirements for the award. For example, Young Marines who achieve all the requirements for the **Drug Demand Reduction Ribbon**, successfully executing all of the Performance and Enabling Objectives in each guidebook pertaining to Drug Demand Reduction, are eligible to apply for this award.

See the Awards Manual for more information on specific awards and their requirements.

EO.4 – Observe Military Customs and Courtesies

Military customs and courtesies exist to ensure every member of a military organizations is properly recognized and respected based on their rank or position. The same applies to the Young Marines program. This section will discuss how to address other Young Marines and Adult Staff members, how to enter Young Marine offices, and how to render honors to our National Colors (Flag) and National Anthem.

Addressing Junior, Senior, and Advanced Young Marines

When the Basic Young Marine addresses a senior Young Marine, anyone from junior to advanced ranks or any Young Marine who is senior or above you in rank, the Basic Young Marine will:

- Approach the senior Young Marine and address them by their rank or their rank and last name before stating your business.
- When the conversation has ended, say thank you and return to your business.

Addressing Adults

When addressing any adult either during or outside Young Marine activities, all Young Marines will:

- Approach the adult.
- Address the adult by their appropriate title and their last name. Use sir or ma'am if you do not know their title. If the adult is active duty, in the reserves, or retired from the armed forces and their military rank is known, all Young Marines will address them by their rank and last name. If the adult is a Military Officer, either active, retired, or reserve, render a salute and an appropriate greeting (Good morning Sir, etc.).
- Render a hand salute when outdoors and in uniform to all adults who are

retired, active, or reserve commissioned officers in the United States military. You do not salute adult volunteers in the Young Marines if they do not meet the criteria above.

- State your business.
- When the conversation is ended, the Young Marine will return to the position of Attention if placed earlier “At Ease” by the adult.
- The Young Marine will say an appropriate parting remark such as “Thank you/ Good Morning/Afternoon/Evening, Sir/Ma’am.” If a military officer, as stated above, render a salute and appropriate parting remark.
- The Young Marine will take one step back, an about face, and continue to move away from the adult. The Young Marine will move off and carry on with their business.

Entering a Young Marine Office

- Before entering an office, Young Marines will knock loudly three times and stand at attention in the doorway.
- When ordered to enter, enter the office and take the most direct route to the adult present.
- Focus your position and attention on the adult present. Remain in the position of Attention and report by saying, “Young Marine (Rank and Last Name), reporting as ordered, sir/ma’am.”
- Do not leave the office until given the command “Dismissed.”
- When given the command “Dismissed,” respond to the adult by saying “aye, aye, sir/ma’am.”
- Take one step back, do an about face, and take the most direct route out of the office.

Note: Young Marines do not salute indoors unless otherwise directed by the Unit Commander.

Note: In all instances, Young Marines and Young Marine Recruits will always address adults as “sir” or “ma’am” if they know or do not know their title.

Rendering Honors to the National Colors and National Anthem

Young Marines in and out of uniform will always come to their feet and stand at attention for the United States Flag and the National Anthem.

- National Colors (Flag)
 - o Young Marines will come to Attention when the flag approaches within six (6) paces of them.

- o In uniform and outdoors, Young Marines will stand at Attention and render the proper hand salute until the flag is six paces past the Young Marine. If indoors, Young Marines will stand at Attention until the flag pass six paces beyond. If covered by direction, Young Marines will salute.
- o Out of uniform, Young Marines will stand at Attention until the flag is six paces past the Young Marine. Young Marines will place the right hand over their heart. If the Young Marine is wearing a cap, the Young Marine will remove the cap with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.
- Playing of the National Anthem
 - o In uniform and outdoors, Young Marines will stand at Attention, face the flag, and render the proper hand salute until the music stops. If indoors, Young Marines will stand at Attention until the music stops. If there is no flag, the Young Marine will face the music at Attention and remain that way until the music stops.
 - o Out of uniform, Young Marines will stand at Attention and face the flag until the music stops. Young Marines may place their right hand over their heart. If the Young Marine is wearing a cap, the Young Marine will remove the cap with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. If there is no flag, the Young Marine will face the music at attention and remain that way until the music stops.