From: Commandant of Midshipmen

Subj: NATIONAL OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP SCHOOL (NOLS) SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEADER DEVELOPMENT

1. Purpose. To publish procedures for the selection of Midshipmen to receive scholarships for tuition, travel, and equipment expenses associated with NOLS courses.

2. Background. National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) courses are designed to challenge individuals’ determination, resilience, adaptability, and leadership in extreme outdoor environments, providing relevant and practical leadership experiences for future officers. As part of our summer training, professional training experience (PTE) more than 200 Midshipmen take part in NOLS courses each summer. However, NOLS attendance is not funded by the Naval Academy, so costs must be personally borne by Midshipmen. This cost sometimes represents a significant barrier to participation for some members of the Brigade. Alumni have made donations through the USNA Foundation to make NOLS accessible with only minimal personal cost.

3. Information

a. Each year, LEAD Division will select a limited number of Midshipmen to receive scholarships of up to $4,500 to be used towards tuition, travel, and equipment expenses associated with NOLS courses. In determining the recipients of the NOLS Scholarships, LEAD Division will consider the following criteria:

   (1) Primary. Unique circumstances that otherwise prevent participation.

   (2) Secondary

      (a) Demonstrated ability to persevere and thrive under adverse conditions.

      (b) Potential to develop their leadership abilities from the unique challenges presented by a NOLS course.

b. Acceptance of a NOLS Scholarship represents a commitment by the Midshipman to successfully complete the full NOLS course. If a
recipient fails to complete the course for any reason other than injury or illness, he or she will be expected to reimburse the Foundation for up to the full amount of the scholarship. Recipients of the scholarships will be expected to cover expenses above the scholarship amount.

4. Action

   a. Interested Midshipmen. Interested Midshipmen will submit essays to their Company Officers describing the importance of the NOLS experience to their leadership development, and the importance of the scholarship in enabling their participation no later than 9 February 2015.

   b. Company Officers. Company Officers shall screen Midshipmen and nominate two candidates per company who qualify for the scholarships using criteria in paragraph (3).

   c. Battalion Officers. Battalion Officers shall each nominate two candidates to be considered by Chair, Department of Leader Development and Research not later than 20 February 2015.

   d. Chair, Department of Leader Development and Research. Chair, Department of Leader Development and Research will confirm Midshipmen availability with CD&T for NOLS summer training. With CD&T approval, a board will be convened no later than 27 February 2015 to review the candidates, and determine which Midshipmen are most deserving and most likely to gain the greatest benefit from the experience. They will forward the board results to the Commandant of Midshipmen for final approval.

   e. Commandant of Midshipmen. The Commandant of Midshipmen will approve and announce scholarship recipients no later than 15 March 2015.

5. Scholarship Awardees. No later than 24 August 2015, Midshipmen awarded scholarships shall submit to Chair, LDR, an after action report and a thank you letter to the scholarship donor.

W. D. BYRNE, JR.

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