



Swab Summer: at the United States Coast Guard Academy

By Markham Starr

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Swab Summer is the United States Coast Guard Academy's version of boot camp for those incoming cadets granted an appointment to one of the most competitive military schools in the country. In the course of a seven-week period, appointees are transformed from civilian teenagers into fourth class cadets, ready to take on the challenges of their first academic year. This book follows incoming swabs through the highs and lows of their indoctrination into military life along the banks of the Thames River. The author captures the spirit and drive of those who survive this grueling summer with interviews and over a hundred black and white photographs, following them on endless runs over hilly terrain, up and over obstacle courses, and into formal lectures on the Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty. Swab Summer is the beginning of each cadet's personal journey towards the day they graduate as ensigns, ready for their first assignments as officers in the United States Coast Guard. This book is invaluable not only to students headed for the Academy, but for parents who want to understand the challenges their children will face as they begin their new lives.

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