

COMMAND SPOUSE LEADERSHIP COURSE AND NAVAL SERVICES FAMILYLINE...

The Command Spouse Leadership Course made its debut in October 1997. It was designed for spouses of first time Commanding Officers by Navy spouses who had been through the command experience. Their aim was to develop a course to better prepare the Commanding Officer's spouse for the leadership role inherent in the command team.

The CSLC Steering Committee is responsible for input to the curriculum, management, and delivery of the course. The Chief of Naval Personnel is responsible for oversight and funding of the course. The Steering Committee has been in existence since the conception of the course. Its members are spouses representing different Naval regions throughout the nation and the world.

The Steering Committee members attend the course annually as mentors, recruit students and mentors to attend the course, make suggestions regarding the curriculum, and keep in touch with the students as they enter the fleet as CO spouses. By staying connected with the students and mentors, the Steering Committee can stay abreast of current issues CO spouses are facing. The Steering Committee is the course's main Advocate.

Mentors are positive role models
with command spouse leadership
experience.



The 2 main areas of responsibility mentors undertake are...

1. Responsibilities directly associated with the week in the classroom.
2. Long range mentoring responsibilities that continue throughout the students' command experience

Prior to your arrival...

- Become familiar with the history of the course and the role of Naval Services FamilyLine.
- Familiarize yourself with the suggested readings prior to your arrival in Newport.
- Mentors are encouraged to visit the CSLC website.

During your mentoring week in Newport...

- Please be punctual. Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to each class. Please help the instructors keep the classroom clean and organized.
- Be prepared for each day. Please review each day's agenda the night before.

- On the first day of class, introduce yourself to each student and establish a rapport with the group. Informal conversations are encouraged during breaks and before and after class each day. This will help you build a foundation of trust so that the lines of communication will remain open. Attend all out of classroom group events, such as the all hands social on Monday evening.
- Mentors are considered the resident experts. You are encouraged to share your personal experiences as a CO spouses during your group mentoring sessions and in one on one conversations. Be an active listener and offer to provide your thoughts, opinions and experiences relevant to the students' concerns and issues of interest.
- You are encouraged to contribute to class discussions. Listen to the students' ideas first and then offer words of wisdom when appropriate. It is important that mentors not monopolize the time and remain sensitive to finding the right balance of input.
- The dress code for the week is business casual attire. Professionalism must be maintained at all times in your language and demeanor.
- Mentors are volunteers and leaders. While mentoring for the course, you are a guest of the United States Navy.
- If you have issues during the week with course content or class management that you feel cannot wait for the feedback form, you should approach the instructors in private to discuss these issues. If there is a problem or concern with a student, address this through the Lead Instructor.

On the final day of Class...

You are asked to complete two detailed course feedback forms as a method of providing feedback on your week's experience. Please be prepared to turn in both forms to the Lead Instructor. The goal of the CSLC is to provide information that is current and relevant, and although the curriculum has proved itself over and over again, the feedback is the appropriate place for you to make suggestions for changes to the course and/or the curriculum. At the end of course the Lead Instructor will ask the mentors to share their "Pearl of Wisdom" before the class is dismissed.

Post Course Responsibilities...

The CSLC staff will provide you with a post-course contact information for your class as your role as mentor continues after graduation and during the command tour.

Please establish a network with the students by contacting them within the first month and again at the six month point. Contact can be via which ever method works best for each student. Remind students that your role as mentor is ongoing, and that you are available to assist when needed. Make certain the students have your contact information – especially if it changes.

Good ideas...

Plan to meet with your fellow mentors via phone or in person before Monday. This will give you an opportunity to get to know each other and plan for your upcoming mentoring week in Newport.

Recognize any Changes of Command being celebrated by spouses with a short email.

Email the group a short time after class reminding them you are an ongoing resource.

MENTORING SESSIONS... TOPICS AND TIPS

At the beginning of the first mentoring session, please offer information including your active-duty spouse's community, the unit he/she commanded and any overseas or otherwise unusual assignments. Mentor session topics should come from the concerns/questions raised by the students. Students find it particularly helpful to address non-curriculum topics during these sessions. Possible mentor session topics can include but are not limited to the following...

- Rank and Role
- Spouses group development/issues
- Deployment activities
- Transitioning as XO/CO spouse
- Changes of command
- Community specific issues (always recommend local and regional CO/XO Spouse Seminars for more community specific guidance.
- Common geographical locations
- Interacting with enlisted spouses and groups
- Etiquette and protocol issues
- Budgeting for Command
- Entertaining ideas

Please contact the Mentor Liaison with your feedback and suggestions following your mentoring week at CSLC.europe.mentors@nsfamilyline.org

Websites

<http://www.nsfamilyline.org>

<https://usnwc.edu/naval-leadership-and-ethics-center/Courses>



Mentor Guidelines And Helpful Hints

Course Mission...

The Command Spouse Leadership Course's mission is to promote a team building approach to the command tour recognizing that engaged, inspired, and educated spouses of commanding officers directly impact the morale and success of the command as well as create an environment where sailors and their families can thrive.

