

South East Pennsylvania Parents Club tailgating 2014



The Navy tailgating season kicks off on Saturday, September 20 against Rutgers. Though serious tailgating for professional teams may involve lots of self-indulgence, not so for the parents club whose energy and focus is caring for midshipmen and their 4000 closest friends at USNA. We collaborate with Maryland and New Jersey parents clubs to put on the biggest and most memorable tailgate entirely for the brigade of midshipmen.

Relying entirely on the goodwill, pocketbooks, and hugs from our club members, these tailgating efforts have been in service to the Academy since 1982, when a few parents hung out in the parking lot and shared their food with the kids. As time passed, the size of the tailgate grew with more trays of food and desserts.

Today, Southeast Pennsylvania Parents Association continues the tradition of service without benefit of financial support, staff, corporate sponsorships, or Academy subsidies. It all comes from the hearts and a love for our Mids, knowing that many of these kids have not been home in months.



I am in my 4th year of involvement, and the excitement for these events grows each season. I am your chairman for the 2014 tailgating season, and it is an honor to serve you and the Mids. My role is to coordinate tailgate logistics including keeping/updating inventory, administration, providing information, coordinating set up, procuring supplies and equipment, and acting as liaison between our club, our partner clubs, and the Academy. In short, my job is to help you help the Mids have an enjoyable and memorable day at the tailgate.

Each year we have parents who participate from Hawaii and California, to Texas, New England, and right here in Philadelphia. How do they do that? They do that by committing to provide a home-made dessert for

at least one home football game. This year, each home football game has a class year (ie, class of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018) that will act as “hosts” for each week’s tailgate. If it is your particular week as hosts of the tailgate, all we ask that you do, in addition to bringing a homemade dessert, is either show up to help set up (this typically occurs around 10 AM the day of the game) or stay after the game and help tear down and clean up. Either option takes about 45 minutes depending on how many hands on deck. I have also attached a “beginner’s letter” for 1st time tailgate participants . Once set up is complete, it’s always fun to hang out with fellow alumni parents or take a stroll onto the yard, or into downtown Annapolis.

If you have been to the Mids tailgate in past years, then you know how much fun it can be and how gratifying it is. If you have never been to a tailgate, then trust me, and make a commitment to attend at least one home game (preferably the week your class is captain). Since parking can be challenging, captains who participate in the tailgates **will get priority parking passes** on a first-come first-served basis (Unfortunately, we are limited to only four reserved parking spots this year). I will send out pertinent information prior to each home game, but don’t hesitate to email me if anyone has any questions.

Go Navy !