

US Naval Academy Football Game - Scout Day

"How-To" Handbook

by
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Pack 618

1. Point Of Contact at the Naval Academy

- The website for Navy Athletics, and the Scout Day information is: <http://navysports.cstv.com/tickets/navy-tickets-m-footbl-group.html>
- The point of contact is Ms. Lauren Esterson at (410)293-8787. She is very helpful and passed along a few tips for getting the best seats and experiencing all of the day's activities.

2. When to get started

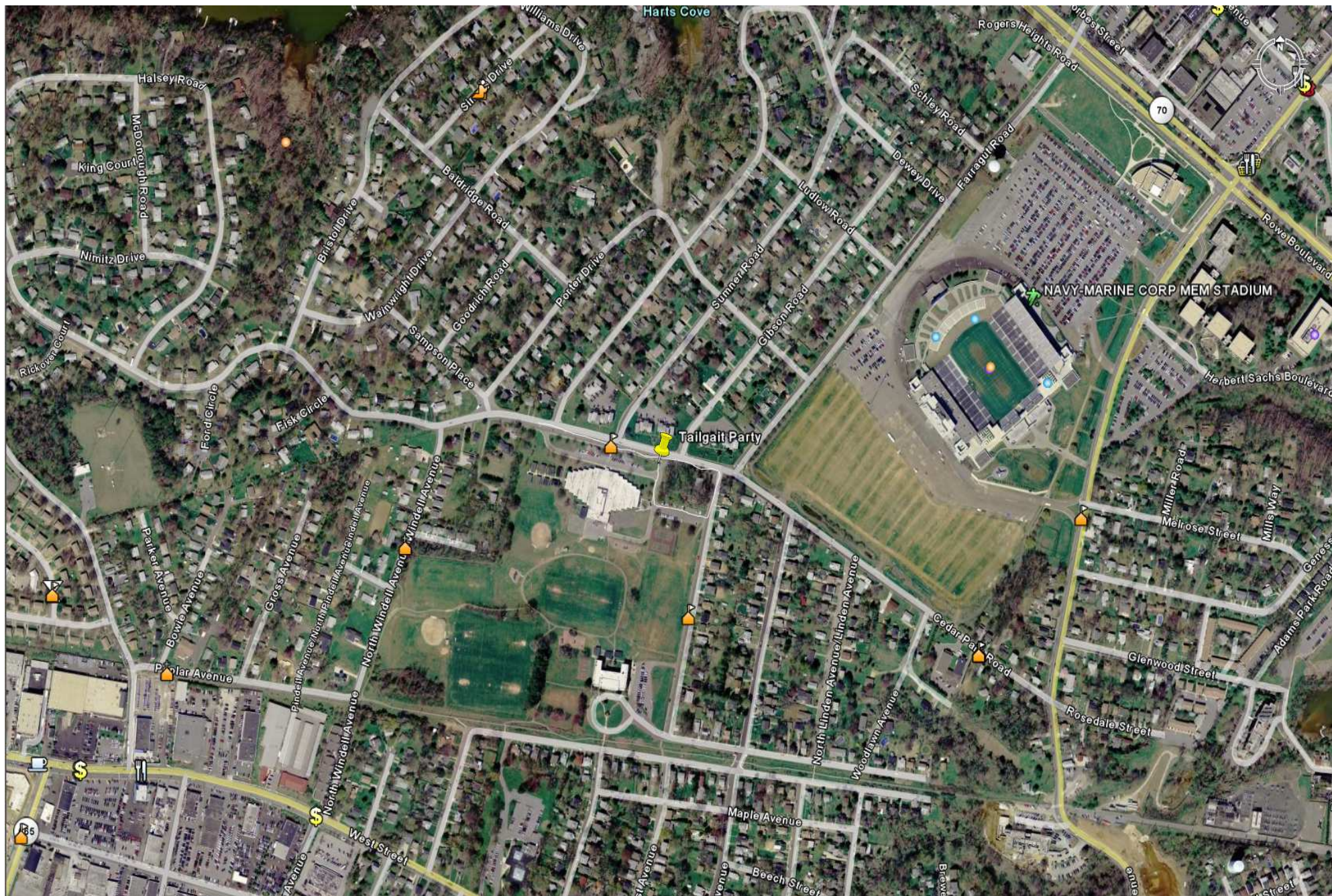
- The Game is in mid-November, so you should start getting organized in mid-September. The reason for starting early is that you have to get families to sign up for the ticket purchase.
- On-line Sign-Up – Put out an email to the Pack 618 Google group (pack618@googlegroups.com) that there is a sign-up spreadsheet that they have to add their name and number of family members that will attend the game. You can use the spreadsheet located at:
http://www.editgrid.com/user/thesuperstitions/Navy_Game_2007_Signup_%26_Payment_Sheet
 1. The spreadsheet has a sign-up tab (the first one) and several other tabs that allow sign-up for things for families to bring to the tailgate party.
 2. The password to get into the spreadsheet is “pack618”.
 3. You should edit out all of last year's information that isn't pertinent to the current year.
- Ms. Esterson can tell you where the remaining seats will be located if you ask. It's best to order the tickets early so that we can sit as a group and so that we're assured of getting patches for the boys.
- **It's best to order the tickets at least one month prior to the game.** You will be assigned a tour time when the tickets are purchased. The buses stop in front of the tailgate party location (along Cedar Park road).

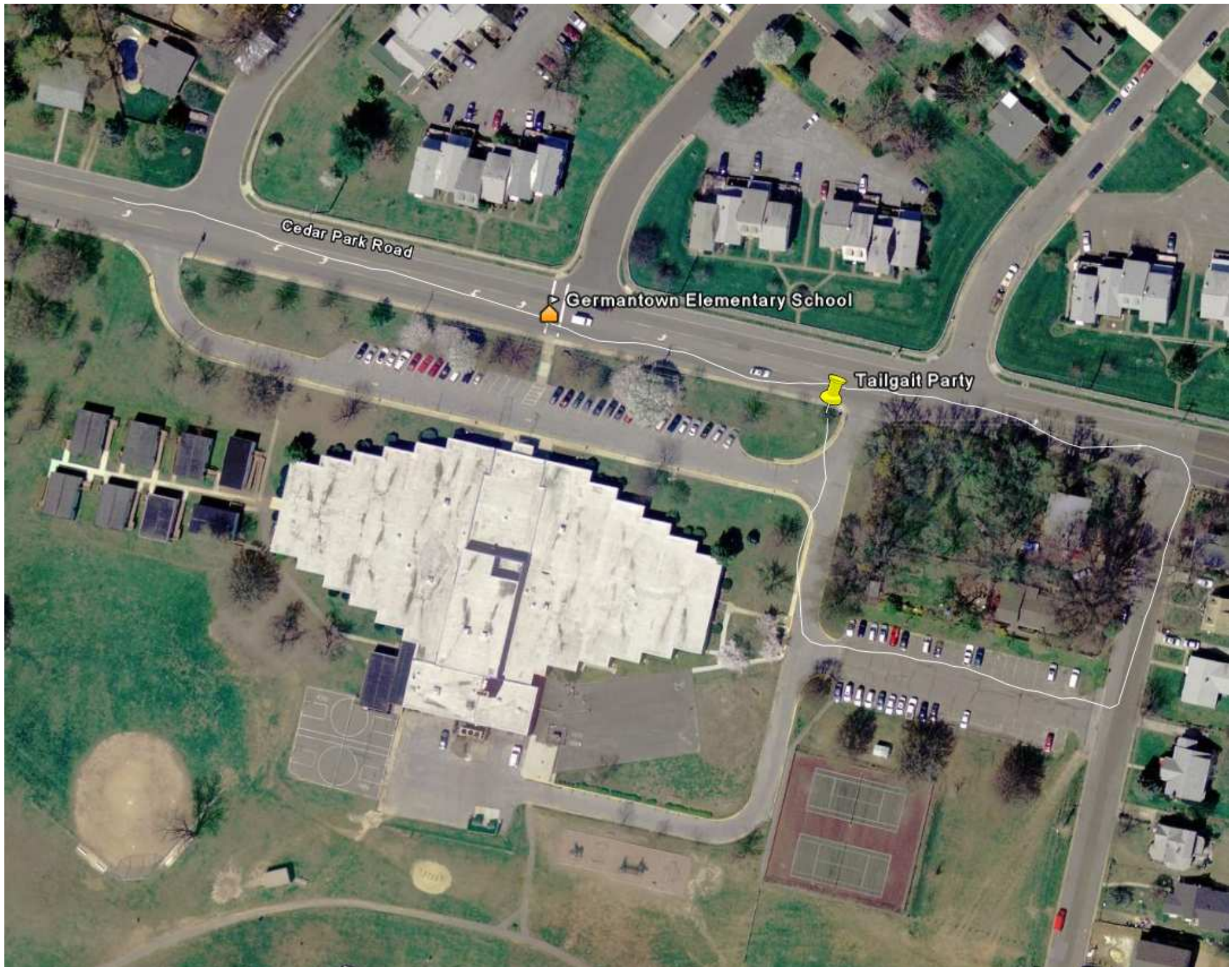
3. How to get families to sign up

- Send out periodic emails to remind those that haven't signed up, to do so. Do this in the guise of updating the Pack about the status of the event. Always put in a reminder and the details of how to sign up.
- Construct a list of food that you'd like them to bring. It's usually cold at this time of year, so make sure there's hot chocolate on the list!
- Send out emails to the group to get them to sign up for food items.
- Tout the many great things to be experienced during the outing, such as:
 - Tailgate party prior and/or subsequent to the Academy tour. Food, hot and cold drinks, tossing footballs around with their friends, tall tales and general merriment!
 - Naval Academy tour. Visit many of the important buildings that make up the Academy. See John Paul Jone's tomb. In 2007, we were taken to a ship that was docked at the Academy, and allowed on board. There were all kinds of displays set up and the boys got to climb up on some of the equipment. They LOVED it! The ship was a huge tri-hulled vessel, similar to a catamaran. Truly a great event for the boys! The tour is given by a Navy Midshipman.
 - The Naval Academy Football game. Prior to the game starting, there is traditionally a fly-over by a squadron of Naval combat aircraft. Very exciting for the boys! You'll want to get everyone to head over to the stadium (just across the street) about 45 minutes before game-time.

4. Budget

- The Leadership Committee has a budget cap for this event. They will pay for the “main course”, which includes hot dogs + buns, hamburgers + buns and chicken wings. In 2007, this came to about \$50.00.





Cedar Park Road

Germantown Elementary School

Tailgait Party

5. Where to park on game-day

- We park at Germantown Elementary School, which is across the road from Navy-Marine Corps. Memorial Stadium (where the game is held). They always put as many of the Scout families as possible in front of the school, in the lot that parallels Cedar Park Road. The entrances along Cedar Park Road are blocked off, so you have to continue past the school, heading East. Turn right at Locust Avenue and enter the first driveway to the right. The parking attendants will take your money and will show you where to park. We'll try to get the front area, right next to Cedar Park Road. (see picture)

6. The tailgate party

- The site - In 2007, the parking lot opened around 0600 (6:00 AM). We got there about that time and were the first to arrive. We took the location indicated by the yellow push-pin in the picture above. This worked out to be an excellent spot as the buses that transported us to the Academy stopped right in front of our vehicles. There is a port-o-john located across the blocked entrance from the tailgate site. It worked out perfectly for our needs. Everyone else can park where ever they can on the school grounds.
- Set up at least one of the collapsible awnings that our pack owns. We did this as soon as we got to the site and it prevented others from parking behind my truck and gave our group more room.
- If you can bring a camp-stove, it's great to get a pot of water heated for hot chocolate. When pack members arrive, the boys will want something warm to drink. It's good to have some instant coffee on-hand also, for the parents.
- Depending upon when the tours start, you will have to adjust the tailgate party time-table. In 2007, the game started around 3:30 PM and our tour was around 10:00 AM (I believe). We socialized until it was time to go on the tour. After the tour, we fired up the grills and put out everyones food contributions and started eating.
- The bus drops everyone off at the stadium. If it's still early and your tailgate party is scheduled to start after the tour, you'll have to walk back to the tailgate party area.
- You'll want to be at the stadium and settled in your seats about a half and hour prior to the game so that you don't miss the fly-over and all of the Navy's game-day traditions.
- You'll want at least one grill for the event. Two is better, and gas is more manageable than charcoal since you can start it up and put it out quickly. As mentioned, it's good to have a gas camp stove for providing hot water and heating up anything that needs it.

7. Food

The Pack will buy the main course, which consists of hot dogs, hamburgers and chicken wings. It's up to you whether you buy the buns, catsup, mustard and relish. I believe that we bought the buns in 2007. Everything else was donated by Pack families who attended. It worked out very nicely with the sign up sheet on line. You'll want to construct a list (or use the one already on the spreadsheet) of things to bring and quantities so that correct amounts of everything are brought.

8. The Game

In 2007, the Midshipman had a good season, so there were a lot of people at the stadium. Our seats were in the North End-zone. In 2006 when they weren't doing as well, our seats were on the 50-yard line! Anywhere you are seated though, you'll have a great view and a great time! It's a good idea to get to the stadium at least 45 minutes early so that you can get to your seats and get settled. About a half an hour prior to the start, the Midshipman march on and there is a flyover, as mentioned previously. I believe the marching band plays also. All of this is pretty impressive for the kids.

This IS a winter (OK, technically it's not winter yet!) activity, so inform your parents that they should dress their children in warm clothes, bring seat cushions and warm blankets for the game. The kids will likely be active during the game and stay warm, but be prepared to keep them warm. It would ruin an otherwise wonderful event if they were miserable due to cold.

The stadium is very nice, very clean and a safe environment for families. Our pack allows siblings, and indeed encourages families to bring siblings to events such as this. It certainly helps to build a feeling of "community".