Welcome to the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Ethics Training.

Independent Learner Instructions

This document is derived from the mandatory training of the same name. It contains both images and narratives regarding the training topic and is provided in a “presenter notes” format.

As an independent learner you are expected to read all content contained in this document to include both the text within the images and the notes below the image (if any). Some images do not have notes or are self-explanatory.

As you work through this training material, you should keep in mind that as an independent learner, you are responsible and accountable for learning and understanding the course content.

You should also understand its importance to our organization and the execution of our varied missions and be able to apply the knowledge gained through this independent training experience.
In this workshop, we will explore personal gifts from non-sources. When you have completed it, you will be able to perform those actions listed in the objectives, to include applying those rules to everyday situations encountered in federal service.
This training module explains and illustrates some of the more common rules relating to personal gifts solicited by or offered to you. These ethics rules apply to all uniformed members on active duty or in an inactive-duty-for-training status; to all appropriated and non-appropriated fund employees; and to Special Government Employees.

These rules are important because public service is a trust and because they help to ensure the public’s respect and faith in government agencies. They help you, the public servants, to maintain integrity and to avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.
When you are analyzing a situation, you sometimes need more. In the first part of this lesson, you can click on the key when it appears. You will find the paragraph numbers from 5 CFR and the Commandant’s Instructions that relate to the current topic. After all, you do not need to memorize everything...sometimes you just need to know how to find more information.

After completing this lesson, you will still not know everything. The bottom line is that whenever you are uncertain about an ethical question, you should call for help from your servicing Coast Guard ethics attorney. This may be an MLC, District, or Unit legal officer, or an ethics attorney at Coast Guard Headquarters.
Let us begin with the definition of a gift. A gift is almost anything of value not paid for by you or the Coast Guard. Gifts include services, discounts, entertainment, or hospitality that has monetary value.
Gifts can include services such as training, free transportation, or even legal services
Special discounts that are not available to the general public
Gifts can include entertainment such as tickets to an event.
Gifts can include hospitality such as free meals, drinks or lodging.
Strange as it may seem, certain items that do have monetary value are considered by the United States Office of Government Ethics to be non-gifts. You may accept these non-gifts from any source.
Approved non-gifts can include soft drinks, coffee or snack and appetizer foods.
Small mementos including trophies, branded pens, plaques, or greeting cards.
Additional approved non-gifts can include loans as long as they are also available to the general public as well.
It can also include favorable treatment such as military personnel pricing and discounts as long as they are available to all personnel, in other words, not just you.
Raffle prizes, games are okay too as long as they are open to the general public.
Also approved is anything provided to you by the US Coast Guard.
Identify all the gifts. Once complete click one time for the answers. Now identify the non-gift.
Any gift-giver who is not part of the federal government is considered a non-federal source. That source may be an individual, a corporation, an organization, or another government.
Non-federal sources include individuals
And can also include professional organizations.
And also not-for-profit organizations.
And include all foreign governments.
A prohibited source is any non-federal entity that has an ethically important relationship to the Coast Guard. Generally, prohibited sources are doing business with or are being regulated by the Coast Guard. These prohibited sources are either individuals or businesses. Read the bulleted points to learn how to identify a prohibited source.
Identify Non-Federal Sources. Once complete click one time for the answers. Now identify the Prohibited Sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Federal Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Inn Somnia Motel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Cookin' Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prohibited Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Association for Yacht Drivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncle Sam's Fishing Fleet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Patrol Boat Shipyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Inn Somnia Motel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rusty's Chemical Barge Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Cookin' Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Now that you know those definitions, let’s apply them to some situations. On the next screen and in other screens to come, you will see and hear real-life situations. See if you can help the central character make the correct decision. Just like real life, you may not always have all the information you need to decide. These situations are not a test, but a way of helping you learn more about the complexities in the rules of ethics.
Scenario 1

**LCDR Scott:** Whew that was a long meeting with the contractor. We got there at 0800 and didn't get out of there until 1300. Good thing they provided donuts, bagels, and fruit, or I would've starved to death.
Scenario 1 - Continued

**LCDR Bonini:** I can go without food but not without coffee especially when everyone gets irritable because we can't agree on a solution to that cost overrun.
Scenario 1 - Continued

**LCDR Scott:** Yeah, it certainly was tense at times, but the coffee and juice kept coming. At least we finally did come to a resolution.
Scenario 1 - Continued

**LCDR Bonini:** And at the end they gave us one of these things. What are we supposed to do with them?
Scenario 1 - Continued

**LCDR Scott:** I don't know. But now I'm wondering if we should have accepted all the free food and these things.
The Answer is C
Suppose the facts of that previous situation were slightly different and the contractor provided a complimentary meal to each Coast Guard attendee. The complimentary meal is considered a personal gift to each attendee who can accept it only if each complimentary meal costs no more than $20.00.


**Scenario 2**

**SCPO Lunt:** There must be 2,000 people here at this industry expo.
Sure am glad the Coast Guard decided to fund TAD orders so I could attend.
Too bad I couldn’t get Sean a pass, but as a science teacher he couldn’t produce a federal or industry ID.
It’s a shame because he’s so interested in the technology here.

Reviewed, DIR-T USC GAUX
Scenario 2 - Continued

SCPO Lunt: Well, well. Here’s a drawing for a Personal Digital Assistant. Not sure if I’d find it useful, but it must be a neat device.

There are hundreds of business cards in that box.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained. I’ll just throw in my business card.
Scenario 2 - Continued

**Announcer:** And our winner today is SCPO Steve Lunt of the United States Coast Guard!
Come on up here and claim your PDA.
Learning Check

Can SCPO Lunt accept and keep the prize?

A. Yes, Because he entered the contest in an unofficial capacity
B. No, Because the only reason he was at the expo was because Uncle Sam paid his way
C. No, because only industry representatives and federal employees could attend the expo

Feedback:
Correct. The SCPO can keep the PDA as his own property only if two conditions were met:
1. The Coast Guard did not require him to enter the drawing.
2. The drawing was open to the public.

In this case, Condition #2 was not met. If SCPO Lunt “claims” the PDA, it becomes Coast Guard property and he must turn it in to his command’s property section.
There is one basic rule that has no exceptions. While serving in your Coast Guard role, you are prohibited from directly or indirectly soliciting a personal gift from any non-federal source. This means you may not ask for a gift that benefits you or a family member.
The second basic rule generally prohibits you from accepting any unsolicited personal gift offered just because you hold a Coast Guard position. And the third basic rule generally prohibits you from accepting any unsolicited personal gift from a prohibited source. Several exceptions to these two general rules are explained later.
If the rules do not permit you to accept an unsolicited personal gift, you must usually return the gift, throw it away, or pay the giver its full market value. However, some special rules apply to perishable gifts and gifts from foreign governments.
## Learning Check

Match the term below with its definition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solicitation</td>
<td>To ask for a gift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect Solicitation</td>
<td>To ask for or allow a gift to be given to a charity you recommend or to a family member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Value</td>
<td>What you would pay at a store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule #1</td>
<td>Do not solicit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule #2</td>
<td>Do not accept unsolicited gift from non-federal source offered because of your federal position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule #3</td>
<td>Do not accept unsolicited gift from a non-federal, prohibited source</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reviewed, DIR-T USCGAUX
CIVILIAN: Say, Mr. Clark, are you going to the next annual Coast Guard Foundation dinner for this region?

SCPO: No, but I sure would like to. It’s the social event of the year and Joan and I have some new dance steps we want to show off. Last year I got some complimentary tickets from the Foundation, but no such luck this year. And with John in college I just can’t manage $150.00 a ticket.

CIVILIAN: I heard from Don Drake that Coastal Maritime Technology and some other companies bought large blocks of tickets and were making them available free of charge to Coasties. Maybe you can snag a pair from them.

SCPO: Thanks for the tip. Think I’ll give it a try.
Additional Scenario- Continued

Lisa: Hello, this is Lisa Fisher.

SCPO: Hi Lisa. This is SCPO Clark with Marine Safety. We met last year at Industry Day.

Lisa: Oh, yes, I remember. What can I do for you?

SCPO: I heard that Coastal Marine has some tickets to the Coast Guard Foundation dinner. Is there any chance that I could claim a pair?
The answer is B
Let’s suppose the facts are different. Lisa on behalf of Coastal Maritime Technology contacts SCPO Clark and makes an unsolicited offer of complimentary tickets. SCPO Clark should contact his servicing ethics attorney who will ask a series of questions to determine whether he can accept these free dinner tickets.
LT Scott:  OK, that ends our last inspection for the day.

Fishing Vessel Captain:  Hey guys – take these and have a fish fry on me.  I appreciate what you Coasties do to keep us safe.

LT Scott:  What do you think Ken?  I don’t want to insult the Captain and a fish fry sure sounds good right now.  Do you suppose there’s any way we can keep them?
The answer is D.
Let's suppose the facts of that situation are different. The fishing boat captain shows up at the Coast Guard station and surprises the team and the rest of the crew with an unsolicited gift of a cooler of cleaned and cooked fish, ready-to-eat. By a specific gift rule, Station personnel can accept a prohibited source's unsolicited offer of prepared food if that food is shared and consumed by the personnel aboard the Station.
Exceptions to the prohibition permit you to accept certain unsolicited gifts offered by prohibited sources or offered just because you hold a Coast Guard position.

You may accept unsolicited, non-cash gifts from a non-federal source, provided the total market value of those gifts does not exceed $20.00 on any one occasion and provided the total market value of all gifts from that source does not exceed $50.00 in the calendar year.

Question: But if a gift is worth more than $20.00 and I really want it, can I pay the difference to the person who offers the gift?

Answer: No, not ever. Nor can you accept gifts of cash, stocks, or other investments. And be careful you don't accept so many gifts from different sources as to give the appearance of impropriety.
YN3 SUSAN DRAKE: The City of Grand Haven just informed me that this Friday it is going to present me with a very nice public service award. It's for saving a family of 4 from a burning boat last year. Can I accept the award if its value is more than $20?'

NARRATOR: Yes. Because you have no ability to substantially affect the City's interests when performing your Coast Guard duties, you may accept a non-cash award with a value of $200 or less. You may also accept a cash award and/or non-cash award with a value in excess of $200 if you first get approval from your servicing ethics attorney.
The answer is C
The answer is A.
NARRATOR: Mr. Reid is the new Chair of the Morale Committee for the base. See if you can find the ethical problem in this situation.

MR REID: Next item - plans for the annual picnic. We have enough money to purchase picnic supplies, but that leaves nothing for the Holiday party. Is there a way we can raise money at the picnic to use for that party? Anyone?

CHIEF CHARLES: Why don't we have a drawing and charge a buck for every chance at a prize?

PETTY OFFICER WHITE: Yeah, we did that last year. We asked the local merchants to donate gift certificates.

MR REID: OK. Let's each contact five businesses and ask for one or more $20.00 gift certificates.

CHIEF CHARLES: If we wore our uniforms, we might get larger donations by making a good impression.

MR REID: All right, let's do it. Now remember, you can't contact the businesses on base such as the Subway shop or the dry cleaner - they're prohibited sources. Now
who's going to take the merchants on York Street?
Picnic Scenario-Continued

**Mr. Reid:** OK. Let's each contact five businesses and ask for one or more $20.00 gift certificates.

**CPO Charles:** If we wore our uniforms, we might get larger donations by making a good impression.

**Mr. Reid:** All right, let's do it. Now remember, you can't contact the businesses on base such as the Subway shop or the dry cleaner - they're prohibited sources. Now who's going to take the merchants on York Street?
Learning Check

Is Mr. Reid practicing sound ethical principles?

A. Yes, because he told everyone not to contact any local business that is a prohibited source.

B. Yes, because the Morale Committee did the same thing last year.

C. Yes, because the Morale Committee is having the businesses stay within the $20.00 rule for each gift certificate.

D. No, because Moral Committee members should not ask any local business to donate $20.00 gift certificates.

Feedback:
Correct. All of the donated gift certificates would be gifts, meaning the committee members solicited gifts from non-federal sources while acting in their Coast Guard capacities. The caution to avoid prohibited sources is unimportant here – because soliciting is prohibited.
I am on funded orders to attend a port security conference next week overseas. Are there any special gift rules that apply just because I will be overseas?

NARRATOR: Yes. There is an additional rule that applies just because you will be performing official Coast Guard duties in a foreign area. Under this special rule, you may accept complimentary food, refreshments and entertainment during a breakfast, lunch, or dinner meeting, or any other meeting provided the gift items are not offered by a foreign government (or its representative). Also, the total market value of the food, refreshments and entertainment at the meeting must not exceed the per diem rate for that foreign area; the meeting must include non-U.S. citizens; and your attendance at the meeting must be part of your official duties.
I know someone who was given a huge china doll dressed in the native costume of the country where she was TAD. Is there any way she could keep that doll?

NARRATOR: If the gift doll was not offered by a family member, a close personal friend, or a foreign government (or its representative), she can keep the doll only if its value does not exceed $20. If a foreign government (or its representative) offered the gift doll as a souvenir or traditional mark of courtesy, she can keep the doll if it’s U.S. market value is 'minimal'. Otherwise, the doll is Coast Guard property and must be turned in to the local property manager for disposition. See your servicing ethics attorney to find out the current 'minimal' market value.
DELEGATE: In my country the traditional demonstration of appreciation is a sword like this. I present you this sword to thank you for your assistance in providing a most instructional tour of five Coast Guard facilities.

USCG LT: Wow: I don't know what to say! I enjoyed meeting you and showing you around. And, uh, thank you for the sword.

DELEGATE: Now we must say goodbye. I hope to show you around my country some day.

USCG LT: Did I do the right thing? And what am I supposed to do with this? I sure would like to hang this on my wall.
The answer is C.
## Gift Exception Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$20/$50 Gifts</th>
<th>$20,000 per item or $50,000 per year from same source</th>
<th>If over dollar limit, cannot pay excess to source</th>
<th>Multiple gifts OK if within $20,000 limit.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Service Awards or Honorary Degrees</td>
<td>Prohibited and Non-Prohibited</td>
<td>See Requirements</td>
<td>Silence can never have interests substantially affected by your job performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Area Meals, Refreshments, or Entertainment</td>
<td>All except a foreign government</td>
<td>Meals, refreshments, or entertainment</td>
<td>Awards may be non-cash gifts with total value of no more than $200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Gifts</td>
<td>Foreign governments</td>
<td>Any personal gift of &quot;minimal&quot; value</td>
<td>Your ethics attorney must provide written acceptance determination for all cash gifts and all gifts with a total value of more than $200.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- You must be assigned for duty or traveling officially in a foreign area.
- Non-U.S. citizens or representatives of a foreign government or entity must participate.
- Your attendance must be part of your official duties.
CPO DAN BROWN: You know, now that I'm working on my professional engineer certification, I need to know more about professional organizations and their conferences.

NARRATOR: All right, let's talk about gifts relating to organizations that are both prohibited and non-prohibited sources. For example, you may accept a discounted membership fee offered by a professional organization to all military or all civilian government employees.
Let's assume the Coast Guard assigns you to be an official speaker or panel participant or to provide Coast Guard information at a meeting, conference or other non-federal event. You may personally accept an unsolicited offer of free attendance, regardless of the total market value of that free attendance. And that can represent a lot of money. The term 'free attendance' includes a waiver or reduction of any event fee, including all event materials, meals, refreshments, and entertainment furnished to the attendees as an integral or essential part of the event.

Well, there are limitations. The 'free attendance' offer must come from the event sponsor (and only that sponsor). Also, it only applies for the day or days that you are speaking, acting as a panelist, or otherwise providing Coast Guard information to other attendees. Remember, ‘free attendance’ does not include payment of expenses such as transportation, lodging, per diem, or related entertainment and meals furnished to some, but not all of the attendees.

On the bright side, you do not have to qualify the event as a Widely Attended Gathering or WAG.
Well, there are limitations. The 'free attendance' offer must come from the event sponsor (and only that sponsor).

Also, it only applies for the day or days that you are speaking, acting as a panelist, or otherwise providing Coast Guard information to other attendees.

Remember, ‘free attendance’ does not include payment of expenses such as transportation, lodging, per diem, or related entertainment and meals furnished to some, but not all of the attendees.

On the bright side, you do not have to qualify the event as a Widely Attended Gathering or WAG.

WAG stands for Widely Attended Gathering. To qualify as a WAG, a non-federal event must expect to have a large number of attendees with diverse views and interest. Contact your servicing ethics attorney to help determine whether such an event qualifies as a WAG.

The attorney will ensure that your attendance at the WAG is in the Coast Guard’s interest. Also, you must attend the WAG in an unofficial capacity.
Speaker Events-Continued

- Definition for Widely Attended Gathering: To qualify as a WAG, a non-federal event must expect to have a large number of attendees with diverse views and interest.
  - Contact your servicing ethics attorney to help determine whether such an event qualifies as a WAG. The attorney will ensure that your attendance at the WAG is in the Coast Guard’s interest. Also, you must attend the WAG in an unofficial capacity.
  - If an event qualifies as a WAG, you may accept an unsolicited offer of free attendance from the WAG’s sponsor. The value of that attendance and the number of expected attendees does not matter.
    - If you receive an unsolicited offer of free attendance from a non-sponsor, you may accept if more than 100 attendees are expected and if the value of the offered free attendance does not exceed $305.
    - Remember to contact your servicing ethics attorney for help deciding whether your attendance at a WAG is in the Coast Guard’s interest.

NARRATOR: To continue, if an event qualifies as a WAG, you may accept an unsolicited offer of free attendance from the WAG’s sponsor. The value of that attendance and the number of expected attendees does not matter.

CPO DAN BROWN: What if I get asked to attend by someone other than the sponsor?

NARRATOR: If you receive an unsolicited offer of free attendance from a non-sponsor, you may accept if more than 100 attendees are expected and if the value of the offered free attendance does not exceed $305. Remember to contact your servicing ethics attorney for help deciding whether your attendance at a WAG is in the Coast Guard’s interest.
The answer is C.
Learning Check

When you are an official Coast Guard speaker at a conference, you may accept an elaborate luncheon if it is:

A. Included on one of the four days of the conference
B. Included on the day of your speech
C. A complimentary ticket to a $100/plate fund raiser hosted by a prohibited source
D. A separate fee at the conference where you are a speaker

Feedback:
Your answer is CORRECT!
Answer B is correct. Answer A does not limit the luncheon to the actual day of your speech. Answer C would be correct if your brother-in-law hosted the fundraiser. Answer D would be correct if the luncheon was included in the registration fee.

The answer is B.
The answer is B.
COASTIE A: So I'm probably going TAD to the New Technology and Policy Conference in Miami next month. The Commander wants me to see what they're up to.

COASTIE B: Cool! The one sponsored by Fun in the Sun Cruise Lines?

COASTIE A: Yup. They called last week and offered to waive the conference fee for someone from here. The Commander's still checking out whether we're allowed to accept that.

COASTIE B: Hmm... Sure hope it's okay. Frank went to one of those conferences two years ago. Think he told me he gained 5 pounds. Look out - it's not just the free buffet at the reception but also the morning and afternoon refreshments they throw at you.
The answer is C.
## Gift Exception Summary: Non-Federal Meetings and Conferences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name of Rule</th>
<th>Acceptable Sources</th>
<th>Acceptable Form of Gift</th>
<th>Maximum Cash Value</th>
<th>Requirements Relating to Gift</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discounted Professional Fees</td>
<td>Prohibited and Non-Prohibited</td>
<td>Discounted or free membership fees</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>Offered to all employees or uniformed members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker/Panelist Engagements</td>
<td>Prohibited and Non-Prohibited</td>
<td>Free attendance (includes waived or reduced admission fee and all meals, refreshments, entertainment, and training material integral to the event, but not transportation or lodging)</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>Coast Guard must assign you to be a speaker, serve as a panelist, or otherwise present information about the CS “Free attendance” acceptable only for the day you give a speech, serve as a panelist, or provide CS information to attendees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widely Attended Gatherings (WAGS)</td>
<td>Prohibited and Non-Prohibited</td>
<td>Free attendance (includes waived or reduced admission fee and all meals, refreshments, entertainment, and training material integral to the event, but not transportation or lodging)</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>Large number of attendees expected Expected attendees have diverse views or interests Your attendance is in Coast Guard’s interest You attend in unofficial capacity You must obtain advice from ethics attorney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LT KATY FORD: I saw this great deal from a local bank for a car loan at 6 ½%. It caught my attention because the sign just outside the gate said 'Attention: Coasties Only'. Can I take advantage of this?

NARRATOR: You can accept the discounted loan rate because the local bank is not a prohibited source and the offer is not restricted in a way that discriminates among government personnel in favor of those who have a higher grade or rate of pay.
ET1 SAM HALL: You know, I got an invitation to a charity ball sponsored by the Daily News - entertainment, dancing and a very nice dinner. There is no admission charge for anyone but there will be a fundraising auction and raffle during the evening; and I'm sure that all of the folks from the ferry companies that we inspect will be at the event. I wonder whether I can accept the invitation.'

NARRATOR: You may accept a social invitation to an event that includes complimentary food; refreshments and entertainment (regardless of the total value of those items). Of course, the person who extends the invitation must not be a prohibited source and no fee can be charged to any attendee. This invitation satisfies all of those elements, so you can accept it. The fact that a fundraising activity will be part of the event or that prohibited sources will attend does not change anything.
# Summary of Refreshment Exceptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Constraints</th>
<th>Rule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incidental Refreshments</td>
<td>Prohibited and Non-</td>
<td>&quot;Snacks&quot; on any occasion</td>
<td>Non-Gift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prohibited</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Prohibited and Non-</td>
<td>$20 per occasion/ $50 per year</td>
<td>$20/$50 Rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prohibited</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refreshments and entertainment</td>
<td>Non-Prohibited</td>
<td>Social event free to all attendees</td>
<td>Social Invitation Rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals, refreshments, entertainment, and</td>
<td>Prohibited and Non-</td>
<td>• Day of your speech or panel</td>
<td>• Speaker/ Panelist Rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>training materials</td>
<td>Prohibited</td>
<td>participation for speaker or panelist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-Prohibited</td>
<td>• WAG rules apply</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign area meals, refreshments, or</td>
<td>All except a foreign</td>
<td>• Part of official duty</td>
<td>Foreign Area Meals, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>entertainment,</td>
<td>government</td>
<td>• Foreign citizen participation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• No more than per diem for that area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The answer is No.
# Summary of Rules for Discounts and Social Invitations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name of Rule</th>
<th>Acceptable Sources</th>
<th>Acceptable Form of Gift</th>
<th>Maximum Cash Value</th>
<th>Requirement(s) Relating to Gift</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discounts &amp; Similar Benefits</td>
<td>Prohibited or Non-Prohibited, depending on Requirements</td>
<td>Discount or benefit opportunity</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>Discount/benefit acceptable from any source if:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Offered to group whose membership is unrelated to government status</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Offered to members of organization in which membership is related to government status, e.g. agency credit union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Discount/benefit acceptable from non-prohibited source only when offered to any Government group not defined by high rank or grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Invitations</td>
<td>Non-Prohibited</td>
<td>Meals and entertainment</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>Free to all attendees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MR. BRACKETT: I just found out a friend of mine will be working in my office as a contractor. We've exchanged gifts since high school. Do all those rules about gifts mean that I can't accept a birthday gift?

NARRATOR: You may accept non-cash gifts of any value that are clearly given because of a family relationship or a personal friendship. This applies even if the individual works for a prohibited source.
MRS JANET JONES: I'm flying cross-country next week - it’s my first trip in five years. I heard that the rules for frequent flyer miles have changed. How does that affect my trip?

NARRATOR: Until 2003 travel promotional benefits, such as frequent flyer miles, seat or class upgrades, rental car or hotel upgrades, VIP lounge access, and so on, resulting from official Coast Guard travel automatically became Coast Guard property. If the Coast Guard traveler accepted these, they had to be turned in to the local property manager or used for official Coast Guard travel at a later date. You may now generally accept and use all such promotional benefits for subsequent travel, either official or unofficial (that is, personal travel) at your option. The only exception to this rule is that if you obtain such benefits from a travel service as a result of planning a Coast Guard meeting or conference, the pre-2003 rule applies.
COMMANDER ADAM HUNT: I’m getting out next month. I applied to a company whose website says they fly top applicants across the country, put them up in a motel and provide meals during an all-day interview. They’re a prohibited source. If my application is selected, can I go and take advantage of these benefits?

NARRATOR: When leaving government service, you can accept transportation, lodging, and meals in connection with genuine employment discussions as long as the employer usually provides these benefits to prospective employees. But, if the performance of your duties could affect the prospective employer’s interests, you must first get approval from your servicing ethics attorney before accepting such benefits.
The answer is A.
LCDR MOORE: Twelve hours in Coach! Don't know how I’ll stand it. That's TAD for you.

GATE AGENT: Sorry fellows, the plane has a mechanical problem and it will be at least 6 hours before the flight can take off.

CWO BAER: Of all the rotten luck!

GATE AGENT: Because the delay is so long, company policy awards all passengers on this flight 10,000 frequent flyer miles, access to our VIP lounge across the hall, and an upgrade to business class on a future flight. You know, of course, that the lounge has free pastries, coffee and juice?

CWO BAER: Sounds like a deal to me. Let's go!

CWO BAER: Of all the rotten luck!

GATE AGENT: Because the delay is so long, company policy awards all passengers on this flight 10,000 frequent flyer miles, access to our VIP lounge across the hall, and an upgrade to business class on a future flight. You know, of course, that the lounge has free pastries, coffee and juice?

CWO BAER: Sounds like a deal to me. Let's go!

LCDR MOORE: I don't know. I just took annual ethics training and all these benefits sound like gifts to me. I'm not real sure we should accept any gifts from an airline while traveling at taxpayer expense.

CWO BAER: Aw, c'mon, don't be a grouch.
The answer is A.
## Gift Exception Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name of Rule</th>
<th>Acceptable Sources</th>
<th>Acceptable Form of Gift</th>
<th>Maximum Cash Value</th>
<th>Requirement(s) Relating to Gift</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Relationships</td>
<td>Prohibited and Non-Prohibited</td>
<td>Anything except cash</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>Clearly motivated by friendship or family relationship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Travel Promotional Items  | Prohibited and Non-Prohibited | FF miles, upgrades for seat/ class, rental car, or lodging, VIP lounge access, etc. | No Limit           | Items must be obtained:  
  • Under same terms as offered to general public  
  • At no additional expense to government  
  If items offered because of your official role as conference planner, they become CG property when accepted and must be turned in or used for official travel  
  • Benefits must be related to genuine employment discussion  
  • If prospective employer's interests can be substantially affected by your CG job performance, do not accept benefits without advice from your ethics attorney |
| Prospective Employer      | Prohibited or Non-Prohibited | Transportation, lodging, meals          | No Limit           |                                  |
Congratulations!

You have completed the Personal Gifts from Non-Federal Sources Training
Knowledge Check

If you won a free month of groceries in a contest you had entered at your local grocery store, would that be a gift?
1. Yes
2. No

Big Boat Builder, Inc. (BBBI) sells patrol boats to the Coast Guard, and consumer boating items at retail stores. This week BBBI is offering a 10% discount on all its consumer products. To take advantage of the discount, customers just mail a rebate coupon to the company. May you take the discount by mailing the rebate coupon to BBBI?
1. Yes
2. No

Answer: NO, NO
Knowledge Check

Fly High Company sells passenger aircraft to civilian airlines and rotary wing aircraft to DOD and Homeland Security components, including the Coast Guard. What type of organization is this?
1. Federal
2. Non-Federal, Prohibited
3. Non-Federal, Non-Prohibited
4. None of the above (prohibited)

While you were traveling on business, the hotel at which you stayed offered a "free" dinner after a 5-night stay. The source of this gift was:
1. Federal
2. Non-Federal, Prohibited
3. Non-Federal, Non-Prohibited
4. None of the above

Answer: None of the above (prohibited), Non-Federal, Non-Prohibited
Knowledge Check

When is it unlawful for Coast Guard personnel to solicit a gift from a non-federal source? Check all that apply.

1. When the gift is given in exchange for a federal employee's performance of his or her job.
2. When the value of the gift exceeds $100.
3. When the gift is poorly wrapped.
4. When the gift is given on one's 40th birthday.

CPO Rob Armstrong, a Fisheries inspector, was talking to a fishing boat captain about transmission problems he'd had with his pick-up truck. The captain tells Rob to bring the truck to the dock the next evening because his son moonlights as an auto mechanic and can fix it free of charge. What ethical options does Rob have? Select all that apply.

1. Politely decline the manager's offer.
2. Accept the offer, but pay the fair market value for the repair.
3. Count himself fortunate to get transmission work done free of charge.

ANSWER: It is NEVER acceptable to solicit a gift.

1. When the gift is given in exchange for a federal employee's performance of his or her job.
2. When the value of the gift exceeds $100.
3. When the gift is poorly wrapped.
4. When the gift is given on one's 40th birthday.
5. Politely decline the manager's offer.
6. Accept the offer, but pay the fair market value for the repair.
Knowledge Check

Assume that you have never accepted a gift from a particular prohibited source. On one occasion an employee of that source offered you three items: a $15 T-shirt, a $10 baseball cap, and a $5 framed baseball card. Could you accept the $15 T-shirt and the $5 framed baseball card as they were offered?

1. Yes
2. No

Shirley is a purchasing agent for the Coast Guard. She has been involved in the National Purchasing Association (NPA) for a number of years. This year she is invited as a guest speaker to their annual conference, which is held over the weekend. She will be speaking about her work at the Coast Guard. As a token of her meritorious public service, the NPA presents Shirley with a book valued at $30 and a fountain pen worth $50.00.

May she accept these items?

1. Yes
2. No

ANSWER: Yes, Yes
Knowledge Check

While surfing the Internet, you find a website for a professional society that has books that will help you do your job. You also find titles of interesting articles, but you would have to join the society to get them. When you look up the membership fees you find there is a 75% reduction for federal government personnel. You want to join. Can you take advantage of the reduced membership fee?

1. Yes
2. No

An environmental industry association that is a prohibited source sponsors an industry-wide, two-day seminar. Registration is $400 and attendance is expected to be approximately 400. A Coast Guard environmental contractor pays $2,000 to the association so that the association can extend free invitations to five Coast Guard officials named by the contractor. May the Coast Guard officials accept the invitation?

1. Yes
2. No

Answer: Yes, No
Knowledge Check

You've earned enough frequent flyer miles from your Government travel that you could take a free trip to Hawaii. You want to take leave and use those miles for your vacation. Can you use those miles for your vacation?
1. Yes
2. No

Coast Guard Credit Union is offering its members discounted loans on car purchases this month. Only Coast Guard personnel and civilian employees are eligible for membership in the credit union, and you're a member. Credit unions of similar size for employees of many nonfederal organizations offer the same kinds of discounted loans. May you take the discounted loan?
1. Yes
2. No

You're planning to go to the theater. Tickets are $80. A contractor friend sells you a ticket for $50. Have you received a gift?
1. Yes
2. No

Answer: Yes, Yes, Yes
The mandatory training that you have just completed reflects the Core Values of the U.S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary. As a member of this organization, you have taken an oath to uphold those Core Values. In order to receive completion credit for this training, please read, understand, and sign this document. Once completed, keep a copy for your records and provide a copy to your Flotilla Staff Officer for Information Services (FSO-IS) for AUXDATA entry.

In regards to the selected mandated training modules, Codes: ____________________________

I, _____________________________(print name) as a member of District_____

Division_____ Flotilla _________ attest that I have completed and understand the course contents.

Signature:__________________________, Member ID _________________

Date: ________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>502379</td>
<td>Building Resilience and Preventing Suicide</td>
<td>Every 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>810030</td>
<td>Security Fundamentals</td>
<td>Every 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>810015</td>
<td>Privacy at DHS / Protecting Personal Information</td>
<td>Every 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>810000</td>
<td>Sexual Harassment Prevention</td>
<td>Every 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>810045</td>
<td>Sexual Assault Prevention and Response</td>
<td>Every 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502319</td>
<td>Civil Rights Awareness</td>
<td>Every 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>502306</td>
<td>Ethics 1 / Personal Gifts</td>
<td>1 time only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502290</td>
<td>Influenza Training</td>
<td>1 time only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reviewed, DIR-T USCGAUX