



UNITED STATES NAVY  
**SEABEE  
MUSEUM**

**CAPTIVATE AND BUILD**





# What is a Uniform?

The US Navy Seabee Museum exhibits many uniforms. These uniforms tell a story of the men and women who wore them. Before you come to visit, here are some things you can work on to learn about uniforms and why they are worn.

## Vocabulary

**Camouflage:** the natural coloring of an animal which allows it to blend in with its surroundings and/or the disguising of military equipment and people by painting or covering them to make them blend with their surroundings.

**Uniform:** style of dress typical of a certain group.

What is a Uniform? Why do people wear uniforms? Do you wear a uniform?

- Uniforms help identify to tell us about someone's job or an organization they belong to. When you see a uniform it tells you something about the person wearing it. Sometimes a uniform can help protect the wearer with its design. When you think about it, you see uniforms every day.

Can you list people who wear uniforms?

- Create a list of people who wear uniforms

What does a uniform tell you?

- Uniforms can tell you that a person is there to help you. It makes them look different from other people so you can identify/recognize them more easily. Think of doctors, nurses, police, firemen and soldiers. A uniform, as opposed to a costume, is clothing of a certain type, style, and make up that is required by the organization the person belongs to. A Navy uniform is actually described in Navy regulations and Federal law allows military uniforms to be only worn by persons serving in the military.
- Uniforms tell you not only that a person belongs to a certain group but also that person has skills other people don't. A police officer is only allowed to wear this uniform if he/she has completed specific training. A nurse is only allowed to wear this uniform if they have completed nursing school. You wouldn't ask a police officer to stitch a cut on your arm and you wouldn't ask a nurse to arrest someone.
- People in the armed services are different from other people. The Navy uniform tells you that the person wearing it belongs to a specific country and organization: The United States Navy. This means the person wearing it has taken an oath to the government of the United States to defend the nation, even if it means they might get hurt or even die.
- The Navy has two major types of uniforms, one for dress and one for work. The Navy work uniform is like a fireman's uniform - it helps protect the wearer.



Let's look at the working uniforms below and see what pieces we can identify.

Name and rank



Long sleeve shirts provide cover for the arms

Covers protect the head from the sunburn as well as providing increased visibility due to the brim. Sometimes, a hard hat will be worn with the uniform while doing work with danger of things falling or hitting the head



Uniform boots have steel toes to protect the feet from falling or crushing items that might otherwise injure the user. Sometimes uniforms will include brown boots instead of black - a difference in durability







Here are more uniforms. Can you tell what some of the pieces do to help protect the wearer?



- Masks
- Gloves
- Shin Guards
- Helmets
- Boots
- Protective Vest
- Eye Protection
- Shoulder and Chest pads



Draw a picture below of someone in uniform. Talk or write about what protective equipment your person might be wearing, or how the uniform you draw helps to identify the wearer.