A dark blue submarine, the USS Iowa (SSN-797), is shown on the surface of the ocean. The submarine's conning tower and two masts are visible against a dark, overcast sky. The water is dark blue with some white foam from the wake.

THE IOWA FAMILY READINESS GROUP GUIDE TO THE

# **USS IOWA (SSN-797)**

# **COMMISSIONING**

# **WEEK**

**A one-stop shop resource for the friends of  
the USS IOWA SSN 797**

# Overview of Events

ALL SPONSORED BY THE IOWA COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE

## THURSDAY, APRIL 3RD 2025

**Outerlight Brewing Company**

**266 Bridge St, Groton, CT 06340 | 5PM-9PM**

Families and crew members are invited to join us for a night of drinks, Moe Cason BBQ, and presentations!

## FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH 2025

**Submarine Veterans Club**

**40 School St, Groton, CT 06340 | 5PM-9PM**

Everyone is invited to join us for a Friday night social at SUBVETS! Willie Ray's Q Shack BBQ and drinks will be available.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH 2025

**Commissioning Day!**

# KINDLY RSVP

*for Commissioning Week Events*

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Thursday, April 3rd  
1600-2100 | 5-9pm

and

Friday, April 4th  
1600-2100 | 5-9pm



DRESS CODE: CASUAL/WEATHER DEPENDENT

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PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS OR COPY  
THE URL TO ACCESS:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUcYYhoA1v2nm52hFrwHxJbrRu4Aj4OfyUifjdZF1xsxeoTw/viewform>

# Commissioning Day

## April 5th, 2025 | NSB New London


9:30 am - 11:15 am  
Commissioning Ceremony, Naval  
Submarine Base, New London.  
Lower Base.

(Ceremony starts at 10am)

11:30 - 2:30 pm  
STATE FAIR themed Reception,  
Pierside

1 Naval Submarine Base,  
Groton, CT 06349

Dress Code: Casual - Weather Dependent



# Commissioning Day FAQ



# When will I receive my physical ticket?

Your physical ticket will arrive in your mailbox anywhere from 1-3 weeks before the ceremony, after you RSVP through your email invitation.

There have been some issues with the DOD system that distributed the invitations. If you did not receive an email invitation, please send your name, email and online confirmation number for ALL individuals who requested tickets to: [ssn797reply.fct@us.navy.mil](mailto:ssn797reply.fct@us.navy.mil)

Please note that there are protocols in place for tickets that do not arrive in the mail on time. The protocol office has a series of backup methods to ensure everyone that should attend does attend, to include a will-call process and having a CPO from the crew at check-in to help with any last minute issues, even to include very last minute change of plans and people that didn't properly RSVP.

## **What if my ticket is not mailed to me on time?**

We appreciate everyone's patience, as the DOD ticketing process has been slower than predicted. About a week before the ceremony, the Iowa Commissioning Committee will get a count on who has received their ticket in the mail and who has not. There will be a will call process for these individuals. Will call will be held at the Mystic Marriott Hotel lobby April 2nd, 3rd, and 4th from 1pm - 5pm EST.

**If you would like for your ticket to be sent to will-call due to mailing concerns/travel plans/etc, please email: [ssn797reply.fct@us.navy.mil](mailto:ssn797reply.fct@us.navy.mil)**

## How do I get on base?

Every person will need a print invitation with their name on it and a driver's license/government issued ID to get onto base if you do not have a base-issued Military/Dependent ID! **PLEASE bring your physical invitation with you. The email invitation will not get you through the gate.** Minors/children ages 17 or under may come onto the base without an ID as long as their name is on the invitation. Your print invitation will come in the mail after you RSVP via email invitation.

## What time should I arrive?

There are going to be a lot of people trying to enter the base at one time! **We recommend arriving to the gate around 7am** for the 10am ceremony. You will enter through the North Gate and be directed to the Alpha parking lot. From there, you will hop on a shuttle that will take you through the lower base security. Buses will run as often as possible.

### Gate 3/North Gate Address:

Located at the end of Military Highway (Shark BLVD)  
<https://www.navalsubmarinebasecthousing.com/gates>



## What accessibility accommodations will be made for this event?

As stated, there will be buses that take all attendees from the parking lot to lower base. The walk from the parking lot to the buses should be about a couple hundred feet. **The shuttles are ADA assessible for walkers, wheelchairs, scooters, and power chairs.** The walk from the buses to the ceremony space will be approximately 150 yards, depending on where your seat is. Attendees who have concerns about exhaustion, instability, and/or falling should plan accordingly to bring their walkers or wheelchairs.

## Can I tour the boat?

The submarine will be open to the public to tour on Saturday following the ceremony. Please wear good close-toed shoes and pants. Skirts/ dresses are NOT recommended. You WILL climb up/down a vertical ladder approx 12 feet to enter/exit the boat.

## **What time will buses start running back to the parking lot after the ceremony?**

Buses will start to run again immediately following the ceremony. However, we encourage you to join us for the post-ceremony fun!

## **More questions/concerns?**

**797 Commissioning Committee**  
**[info@ssn797.com](mailto:info@ssn797.com)**

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you all in  
April!