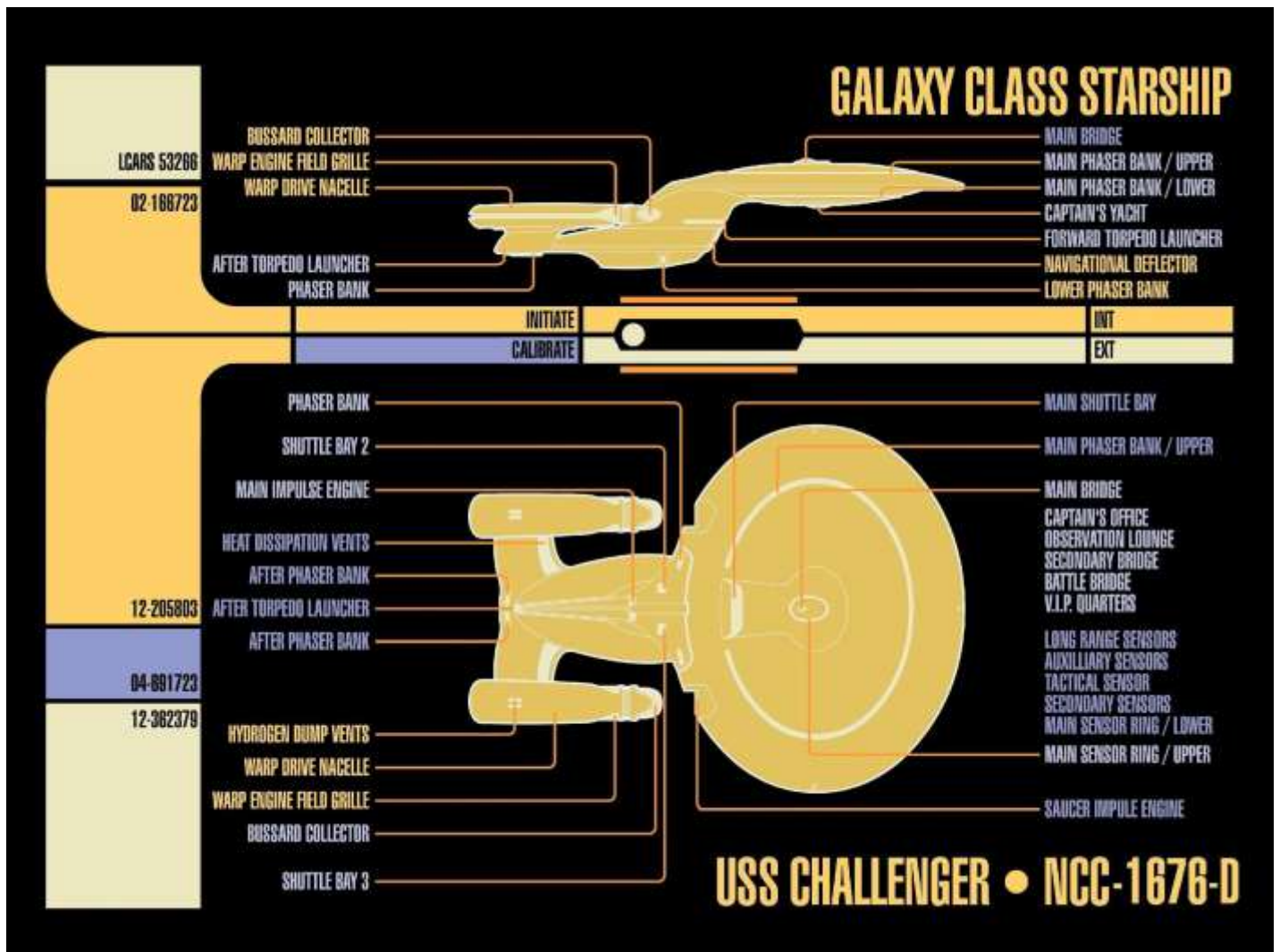
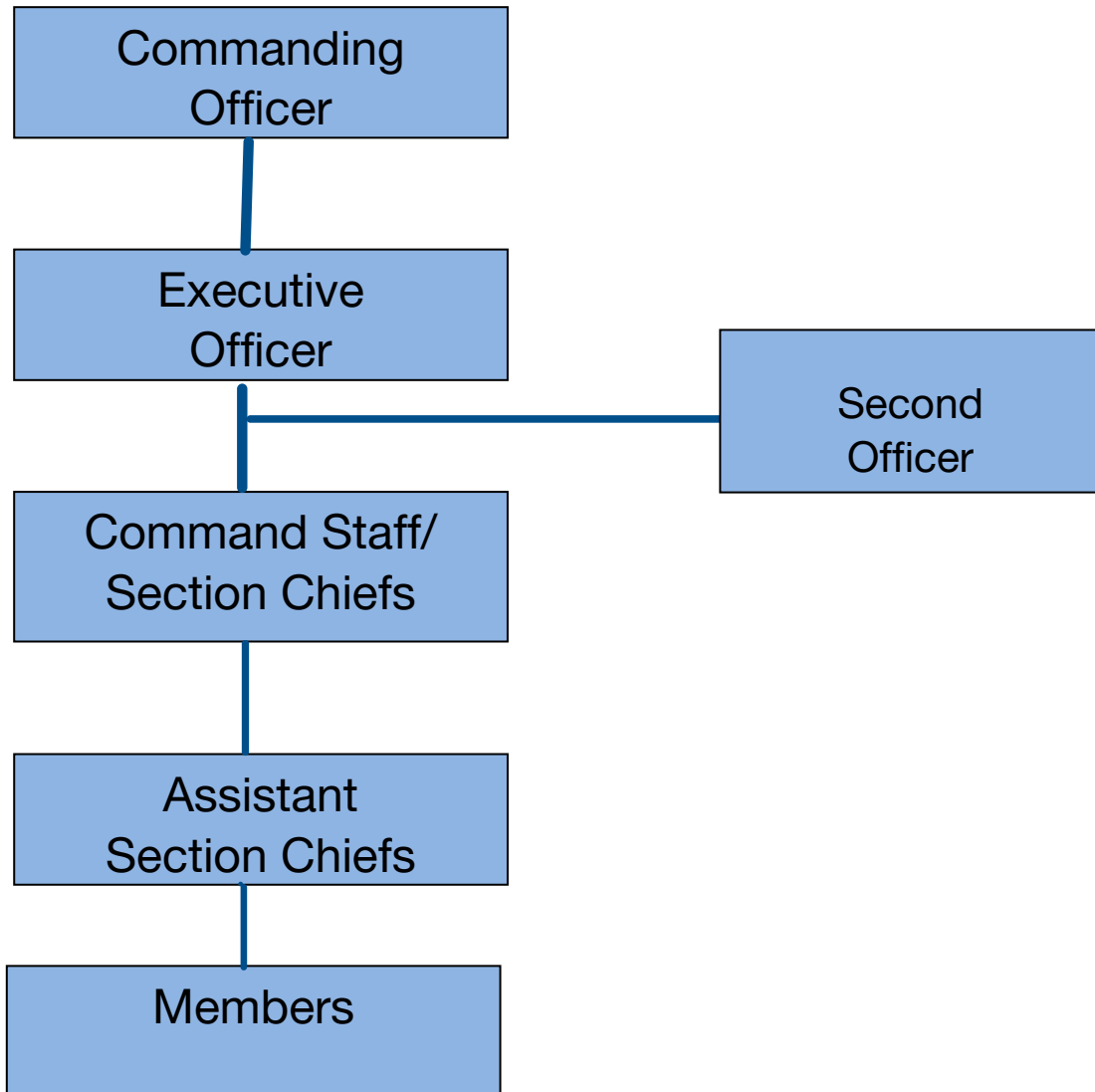


# USS CHALLENGER




# MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK

# USS CHALLENGER STRUCTURE & COMMAND STAFF



# USS CHALLENGER COMMAND STAFF

<p style="text-align: center;">Admiral Bob Vosseller Commanding Officer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Admiral Jeff Victor Executive Officer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Admiral Laura Victor Chief Communications Officer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Commander Julia Victor Chief Financial Officer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Commander Kevin Victor Chief Security Officer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LT Ken Ruff Chief Engineering Officer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LT Commander Joyce Terrana Chief Medical Officer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Captain Annie Brugmans Chief Science Officer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Fleet Captain Emily Vosseller Ship's Counselor</p>	 <p>The logo is a red hexagon with a yellow border. Inside, the word "STARFLEET" is written in yellow on a black banner at the top. Below this is a stylized red number "7" with a yellow outline, set against a background of horizontal red and black stripes. Two yellow stars are positioned on either side of the "7". At the bottom, the words "SEVENTH FLEET" are written in yellow on a black banner.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">LT JG Bill Schmidt Recruitment Officer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">LT JG Samuel A Saporite Command Attache</p>			<p style="text-align: center;">Ensign 1<sup>st</sup> CI Vince Ceraso Asst. Science Officer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ensign 1<sup>st</sup> CI Steve Vetrano Asst. Medical Officer</p>			<p style="text-align: center;">Col Pat Commune Asst. Security Officer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ensign 1<sup>st</sup> CL Emily Daly Asst. Communications Officer</p>			<p style="text-align: center;">Ensign 1<sup>st</sup> CL Brian Smith Asst. Engineering Officer</p>





## INTRODUCTION:

By Admiral Robert E. Vosseller, Jr.  
Commanding Officer

On behalf of the senior officers and crew of the Galaxy Class Starship, USS Challenger, NCC- 1676-D, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to your first tour of duty onboard this vessel and this chapter of STARFLEET. You have joined an extremely active group of STAR TREK fans. This manual will serve as a guide for how we operate and how you can become involved with our organization, gain recognition for the involvement, and learn more of the procedures and programs of our ship and STARFLEET.

You may have served with another STARFLEET chapter, or another STAR TREK/Science Fiction type fan organization before. Perhaps this may even be your first foray into fandom. In any case, I believe you will find your time with the Challenger to be both interesting and unique. We have completed many ambitious projects and intend to continue that trend in the future.

Remember, the true secret of any organization's success, whether it be fan-related or not, is cooperation, team spirit and a lot of work. My hope is that you will be as active a member as you feel you can be. The purpose of this club is to bring out the enjoyment we feel for STAR TREK and other forms of science fiction. We also hope to harness that interest in a productive and creative manner.

Again, welcome aboard! Should you have any questions relating to our club's operation, please contact your section chief first. They are your first line of communication, and they can be your best guide. If you do not feel that your questions have been adequately answered, the Executive Officer, or myself are also available to help.

There is much to know and much to enjoy. For you, the adventure is just beginning!

# THE HISTORY OF THE USS CHALLENGER

The USS Challenger has a long history, rooted in Star Trek fandom and an association with STARFLEET, its parent organization.

The principal crewmembers of the Challenger began their full ship training while serving aboard the USS Avenger's Shuttlecraft Discovery NCC- 1860/01. The shuttlecraft proved to be a very active part of the ships membership and hosted a number of shuttle and ship projects. The groundwork had been set up for a long time for the shuttlecraft to expand and become a full-fledged starship and chapter of Starfleet. In 1987, after three years of serving in a shuttle capacity, crewmembers decided it was time to take the next step.

In January of 1988, the crew of former shuttlecraft Discovery had formulated its organizational structure to act as a full ship/chapter. We began producing membership materials, holding ship meetings and spearheading activities under our new name, the USS Challenger. Our name was

important to us. The name Challenger was most appropriate for us. While some people may ask why we would name our vessel after such a great tragedy. we would answer that Challenger represented an ideal and a dream to push onward and discover. That became our theme as well. To discover, and to meet the challenge of our self-proclaimed "prime directive".

To seek out new friendships and boldly go beyond being "just a fan club", to perform services for our fellow man: to promote real-life space exploration and (of course) science fiction and Star Trek: and to treat each other truly like brothers and sisters.

We must always remember the Vulcan principle of IDIC. Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations. and that it can work in the 20th century too. As long as we embrace the fact that we are all individuals and are different, and delight in that fact, we can seek out the strengths and good qualities in each of us. The Challenger has strived to reach out to fans and how them how our common interests can help us have fun. We strive also to serve our community, and to promote the dreams and ideals that Star Trek represents. It's a tough assignment, but we are "Challengers" in more than one sense of the word.

In its first few months as a club, the USS Challenger continued to grow in number. Our ship became a collection of friends and in many ways, we are a close-knit family of people of different ages, nationalities. religions, and economic backgrounds. We found each other's friendship through shared enjoyment of a SF' saga first created by Gene Roddenberry over 30 years ago and whose legend continues to this day.

We've also served as a support ship to many chapters over the course of our 20-plus years of service, including the USS Thagard, USS Lexington, USS Valiant, USS Justice, USS New Horizons, USS Ascension, USS Prevailing Wind, USS Guadalcanal, USS Belgica, USS Britannic and most recently, the USS Storm. Challenger was also awarded the Support Chapter of the Year award from STARFLEET in 2007 for its work with the USS Britannic.



Recently, our chapter celebrated our 25th anniversary in September 2013 and was STARFLEET's Chapter of the Year in 2014.

## MEET THE CHALLENGE OF BECOMING A "CHALLENGER"!

You are a new officer of the USS Challenger; a chapter of STARFLEET, the International STAR TREK Fan Association. STARFLEET has chapters all across the U.S. as well as around the world where STAR TREK is popular.

Within the structure of STARFLEET, all chapters are referred to as "Starships" or "Star-bases/Space Stations" to give an added feeling of being part of the STAR TREK universe. Consequently, the members and group leaders are given military-style ranks like those of Starfleet Officers in the Star Trek franchise.

The president or chapter chairperson is called the Commanding Officer. The vice president or vice-chair-person is the Executive Officer, also known as the First Officer. The rank structure will be discussed later in this manual. For now, we'll concentrate on the different ways that you, as a new member, can become involved immediately with our club. You have the option to pick a section that appeals to you.

Each section (Communications, Engineering, Helm & Navigation, Medical, Sciences, and Security) has a Department Head who will head up projects for their members and lead special duties designated to that section. This person is called your "Section Chief."

One way that you can get involved is by helping your section in whatever capacity you can through ideas, support and generally lending a hand with projects and getting involved. Ship-board projects are another level of activity. These are projects and events in which members from all sections are encouraged to participate. They might include charity fundraisers, conventions, meeting attendance, and any other kind of general-membership gathering. Many projects that you can participate in can be initiated on your own.



## MEMBERSHIP MATERIALS:

When you join the CHALLENGER, you receive the following:

**WEB SITE ACCESS** - Our Web site is the main communications and information tool for the chapter. You can find out what's new with Star Trek and other Sci-Fi shows, what's going on within the chapter, upcoming events, as well as the newest versions of this handbook, promotion points form, the history of the Chapter in fiction, fictional character bio sheets, and other great information. You can visit the Web site at: <http://www.usschallenger.org>.



## USSCHALLENGER.ORG:

## USS CHALLENGER COMMAND OFFICER DUTIES:







**COMMANDING OFFICER (CO):** The Commanding Officer is the president of the chapter and the leader of the ship. They shall direct the activities of all crew members and preside over all ship meetings of the crew and command staff, unless he/she designates otherwise.

During Command Staff meetings, the CO acts as Chairman but only votes on matters in times of a tie. The CO also presents ship proposals and can use their veto power over the Command Staff to suspend action on any given matter during a Command Staff session. This can be described as calling for a 30-day de-liberation period. However, at the next session, the matter will be decided through a vote of the Command Staff.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER (XO):** The Executive (or First) Officer is the Vice President of the chapter and the second-in-command. The Executive Officer shall assist the CO in the administration of the ship and direct the crew in the CO's absence.



# PROMOTIONS AND POINT SYSTEM

RANK		POINTS NEEDED
Cadet		Anyone under age of 13
Ensign		200 points
Lieutenant Junior Grade		400 points plus completion of OTS
Lieutenant		600 points
Lieutenant Commander		1200 points plus completion of OCC
Commander		2400 points
Captain		4800 points, plus the approval of the CO, XO & Regional Coordinator

SFA – courses and credits can be found on SFI.org.



# DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND OTHER POLICIES:

When a member acts in a manner which is deemed a detriment to the fun of the rest of the group, then the Commanding Officer and Command Staff must take action to ensure that the rest of the group can continue to function correctly. Many problems stem from personal arguments between members. An example of this can be a member talking out of turn during meetings, creating arguments amongst the membership, attempting to cause disharmony among the club and so on. In addition, absolutely no alcohol or drugs are permitted at meetings or club events.

When said incidents occur, a member of the Command Staff (usually the member's section chief) should speak to that individual. A verbal warning is issued. If it goes ignored, then a stronger action is taken including demotion or reduction of promotion points total based on the problem and agreed upon by members of the Command Staff.

What if a Command Staff member is involved? The same rules apply. After a verbal warning, members of the C-Staff agree on a form of punishment, which would cause the member to respond in a positive manner. Starfleet does not have court-martials, but we do want to see our chapter run in a fun manner. Those who seek to hurt the group through the spreading of mistruth or in other harmful ways will find their way to the airlock if such behavior persists. A member who is accused of a misconduct is allowed to present their side of the story and to give their view of what happened.

If any criminal action takes place (such as bringing any illegal items or substances to an event or meeting) this officer will be placed on automatic suspension and in this case, can be removed from the club by a majority vote of the Command Staff alone for the protection of the chapter and its members. Though we like animals, we discourage members from bringing their pets to ship events or meetings unless it is cleared with the CO or their section chief first, as well as the event venue.

The Challenger is not a forum for you to solve any personal problems you might have. We are a forum for fun, recreation, and creative expression. We want to have a friendly carefree atmosphere, but certain rules of conduct and decorum do apply. The rules of conduct of a Starfleet officer are the ones we operate by. We ask that you follow them. In regards to actions of prejudice or sexual harassment, we defer to the law, as such is not proper in any organization.

The Command Staff of the USS Challenger in cases shall follow the following guidelines where disciplinary procedures are considered necessary:

## Verbal reprimand:

A verbal reprimand may be issued by any Challenger member to any fellow member who is conducting him/herself in a way detrimental to others: examples of this kind of conduct may be talking out of turn, using profanity at club functions, arguments between members. etc.

## Formal reprimand:

The Command Staff shall issue A formal reprimand if the verbal reprimand is not obeyed or is considered to be inadequate to the violation. These violations shall be entered into club records and held for a period not exceeding 6 months. In order to issue a formal reprimand, the Command Staff must receive a written warning sponsored by one Command Staff member. The Command Staff will discuss the need for the formal reprimand and vote on it. Such a vote must pass by at least a majority

of C-staff members voting and enough CS members must be present to make a quorum, although the presence of the offending member is not required. Club members receiving formal reprimands must be notified within one week of the Command Staff's vote.

#### Suspension:

Should three formal reprimands accrue to a member's record within a six-month period, this person shall be subject to a mandatory 6-month suspension from club membership and shall be excluded from all club activities and functions. Suspensions shall be entered into the member's permanent club record and shall not be removed. Should a serious code of conduct infraction occur, the CO, XO or a Section Chief may temporarily suspend a member until the command staff can meet to discuss the issue. As suspension is a serious step, and it is considered necessary to protect club members from the actions of an individual who cannot conduct themselves in a manner befitting an officer, suspensions shall include the loss of all rank and promotion points, as well as any position of authority within the club held by the offending officer.

#### Expulsion:

Once a club member has received his third suspension, that member shall be required to be expelled permanently from the club. If a serious code of conduct or policy infraction occurs, the command staff may expel any member at any time by a simple majority vote.

In all legal matters, US federal laws and New Jersey State laws will apply.

#### Code of Conduct:

The Starfleet Code of Conduct will apply, but simply stated, treat your fellow crewmember with the same respect that you would wish to be treated.

1. I will always behave in a manner that brings credit to the Fleet, my ship, and myself.
2. I will always praise in public and critique in private.
3. I will show courtesy to my subordinates, fellow officers, and superior officers at all times.
4. I will never assume, but always verify.
5. I will be resolute in the performance of my duty and the execution of Fleet policy and regulation.
6. I will always diffuse confrontations, not cause them.
7. I will listen to both sides of a dispute and act upon fact, not innuendo.
8. I will strive for impartiality and fairness in judgment and disqualify myself from decisions where my judgment may be compromised.
9. I will be the first to praise and the last to criticize.
10. I will always strive to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.



# SHIP POLICIES:

## Alcohol:

No alcohol will be present at any ship-organized function. Any member introducing alcohol to any ship event that is not designated will be summarily ejected and disciplinary action will be taken.

## Drugs:

Any discovery of illegal drug use or possession by a crew-member at a ship function means an automatic discharge from the club, with no exceptions!

## Hygiene Policy:

All members are expected to maintain good hygiene in consideration of other members. Members who do not follow this policy will not be allowed to attend meetings and events until they comply.

## Member/non-member policy:

A nonmember of the USS Challenger is invited to attend either three meetings or three events of the ship (events which are not generally open to the public) in which to decide whether they wish to join the chapter or not. After that it will be necessary to collect their membership or renewal fee by Starfleet on SFI.org

## Minors:

For everyone's safety, all minors must be accompanied by their adult guardians. Challenger cannot take responsibility, nor will be held liable for any minors or their actions.



## SHIP POLICIES (Continued):

### Renewal Policy:

A renewing member has a month grace period between their Starfleet expiration date and their renewal date should they forget or are unable to renew.

