JOIN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY

1. **Research the Different Branches:** Each branch of the military has its own mission, job opportunities, and culture. Spend some time researching the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard to see which one aligns best with your interests and goals.

2. **Meet the Basic Requirements**: Generally, you must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, at least 17 years old (with parental consent if under 18), and have a high school diploma. Some branches have additional requirements.

3. **Contact a Recruiter:** A recruiter can provide detailed information about life in the military, benefits, and the enlistment process. They can also answer any questions you have.

4. **Take the ASVAB**: The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a test that determines your qualifications for enlistment. It also helps identify which military jobs you might be good at.

5. **Undergo a Medical Examination**: You'll need to pass a physical exam to ensure you're in good health and physically capable of serving.

6. **Choose a Military Job**: Based on your interests and ASVAB scores, you'll choose a job (also known as a Military Occupational Specialty, or MOS).

7. **Sign the Enlistment Contract**: This legally binding contract outlines your commitment to the military, including how long you'll serve and your job.

8. **Attend Basic Training:** Also known as boot camp, this is where you'll learn the basics of being a soldier, including physical training and military customs and courtesies.