

**Here are some things to consider bringing on your trip to Great Lakes for your sailor's graduation.** These are not items to bring to the Pass in Review (PIR) ceremony but are great to have at the hotel for their liberty.

**Comfortable Clothing:** Pack their favorite loungewear, underwear, pajamas, and shoes. If they get liberty and spend time at the hotel with you, they will love the opportunity to wear comfortable clothes for a few hours.

**A Small Sentimental Item:** It could be a stuffed animal, a portable game console, or a musical instrument. For example, our sailor plays the guitar and ukulele. The guitar was too big to bring, so we opted for the ukulele instead.

**Favorite Snacks or Foods:** The night before PIR, stop by a grocery store to pick up a few of their favorite junk foods, snacks, or other treats. Don't go overboard—a handful of special items will suffice.

**Unsent Cards, Letters, and Photos:** Bring along all the cards, letters, and pictures people meant to send but didn't get around to mailing. These thoughtful mementos will mean a lot to them.

**Navy-Themed Decorations and Attire:** Customized items like anchors, ribbons, or shirts are perfect for celebrating their achievement. Anchors can be hung on the doors of your hotel room and later displayed at home. There are talented crafters in this community who make these, or you can find some on Etsy.

**Patience (Plenty of It):** Bring extra if you can—it's difficult to restock once you're in Illinois!

**Avoid Large or Cumbersome Items:** They won't be able to take large items with them, so you'll need to bring everything back home. Make it easy on yourself by packing light.

**Flexibility Instead of a Strict Agenda:** While you might have a rough list of options, avoid rigid plans. Liberty will be very restrictive, and your sailor will have their own ideas about how they want to spend their time. Be open to their preferences—they might want to sleep, hang out with Navy buddies, or take you on a whirlwind tour of the Chicago area. If you're hoping for a fun-filled Chicagoland vacation, consider staying a few extra days after graduation to explore on your own.