

# Sea Cadet Quarterly

U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1, MARCH 2018





# MARCH 2018

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

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We are excited to announce the 2017 Regional Directors, Officer, Instructor, and NSCC/NLCC Cadets of the Year. Find out what makes them so impressive.

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Help us connect with our alumni by sharing your story.

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**ON THE COVER:** League Cadet Lori Ash at the commissioning of USS *Omaha* in San Diego, California. Story on Page 7.

**PHOTO BY:** LTJG Shannon Ward, NSCC

Sea Cadet Quarterly is the official publication of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Written primarily by cadets, it covers a range of topics, including stories about training, community events, and leadership experiences.

The deadline for the next issue of Sea Cadet Quarterly is May 16. Submission guidelines can be found at [www.seacadets.org/scq](http://www.seacadets.org/scq). Send submissions to [pao@seacadets.org](mailto:pao@seacadets.org).

**THIS PAGE:** USS *Omaha* Commissioning, San Diego, California, February 2018.

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## DEPUTY'S NOTE /

### DAVID I. HULL

We are now two months into the new year. Sometimes this lull between winter and summer training can seem to drag on. I'm sure you're anxiously waiting for the summer training schedule to come out – I am too. But don't waste this time; this is your opportunity to prepare yourself for the challenges ahead.

Think about these months as a different kind of training. Now is the time to set physical goals for yourself, so that you show up at summer training ready to meet or exceed the standards. If you're planning to apply for a training with special physical requirements, do your research and make a plan to achieve your goals. Work with other cadets and hold one other accountable.

You need to keep your mind sharp too. Study and stay familiar with your general military knowledge. Talk to senior cadets about their favorite trainings and be open to their advice on how to prepare yourself for success. Give advice to the cadets who are heading off to training for the first time. Encourage and challenge one another to do your best work. If you see someone struggling, support and motivate them.

All of this is part of being a Sea Cadet. You're never off-duty – you're always training.

Stay on target!

David I. Hull

Deputy Director, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

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# Calling All Alumni: We Want to Hear From You

We love hearing what our alumni are doing.

Fill out the form at [www.seacadets.org/alumni](http://www.seacadets.org/alumni) and make sure your story is heard.

Right: Naval Sea Systems Command announced its 2017 Sailor of the Year for the active-duty and reserve categories during an award ceremony. Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Brandon Elrod (second from left), currently assigned to the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Keyport in Keyport, Washington, won in the active-duty category. Elrod is a former Sea Cadet from Patriot Division. (Scott Adam Webb/Released)



Virginia, 2018



The Bronx, 1960s



San Diego, 1969



England, 1999



Atlantic Ocean, 2002



San Diego, 1970

# OUR 2017 AWARD WINNERS

## JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING OUR

### **CPO Conner Pichoff, NSCC, Andrew J. Higgins Squadron**

#### **Willis E. Reed Award for Sea Cadet of the Year**

Extremely active in the Sea Cadet program and his community, CPO Pichoff is a model of what all cadets should aspire to achieve. Always “going above and beyond and exceeding all requirements for advancement,” CPO Pichoff’s personal drive allowed him to reach the rate of SLPO in the NLCC before moving to the NSCC. After earning his chief petty officer anchors, he transferred to a new unit and led them through their first year of operations with “tremendous confidence.” In addition to his unit work and logging 117 training days, CPO Pichoff maintains a competitive GPA at a challenging school and volunteers with the Red Cross. He holds a second-degree black belt in Taekwondo, completed a boater’s safety course, passed his FAA exam, and is PADI certified. CPO Pichoff’s “performance, initiative, and motivation” are outstanding and in keeping with the highest traditions of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

### **PO1 Teagan Gue, NLCC, Antelope Valley Squadron**

#### **Keith T. Weaver Award for League Cadet of the Year**

PO1 Gue is an outstanding example of what the Navy League Cadet Corps is all about. PO1 Gue exhibits extraordinary “responsibility, drive, and ethical behavior” far beyond peers his age. He is an extremely active member of his unit and has received 14 awards in areas such as academics and marksmanship, as well as for his 94 hours volunteering to provide community service. Diligent and serious about his responsibilities as a leader, he proactively seeks out and mentors junior cadets and encourages them to strive for excellence. In addition to the many hours devoted to training with his unit, he performs impressively at school as an excellent student and dedicated athlete. Gue is the “very best the League Cadet program has to offer.”

### **LTJG Matthew Powell, NSCC, Viking Division**

#### **Nicholas Brango Award for Inspirational Leadership, Officer of the Year**

After establishing Viking Division in May 2015, LTJG Powell led the unit in earning the prestigious John J. Bergen Award for the best unit in the nation the following year. Always seeking to expand opportunities for cadets, LTJG Powell established the only CyberPatriot team in the Mid-Atlantic Area, earning fifth place among NSCC teams. Dedicated to helping cadets explore all their options, LTJG Powell brought together representatives and recruiters from each of the five branches of the armed forces, as well as the military academies. He also established a highly disciplined and recognized color guard that has performed for the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, bringing credit to Viking Division and the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. LTJG Powell’s “exceptional leadership, superior dedication, and outstanding motivation” make him a deserving recipient of the Nicholas Brango Award for Inspirational Leadership.



# BRAVO ZULU!

## TOP CADETS AND VOLUNTEERS!

### **Instructor Shannon Cameron, NSCC, Training Ship Pampanito**

#### **Judge R.T.S. Colby Award for Excellence in Training, Instructor of the Year**

While some instructors may attend drills on a regular basis, Instructor Cameron “goes miles beyond that.” Her skillful management of the unit’s administrative requirements and her comprehensive knowledge of regulations were instrumental in the unit receiving an annual inspection score of 3.72, landing her unit in the Top 10 in the nation. Instructor Cameron has also proactively assumed the duties of a financial officer, continually finding ways to be more efficient while ensuring that every cent is accounted for. In addition to these efforts, Instructor Cameron is the initial point of contact for prospective cadets, helping to identify new cadets and volunteers. Cameron’s dedication to the unit and her position, combined with her “infectious enthusiasm has served to motivate her peers and the cadets in a positive manner.” Cameron is an outstanding embodiment of the invaluable contributions instructors make to their units.

### **LCDR Todd Dunn, NSCC, Region 6-4**

#### **Fred D. Carl Award for Regional Director of the Year**

Deeply committed to the success of the NSCC, Lcdr Dunn is an exemplary Sea Cadet regional director. Managing a region with the second highest number of units in the entire program and the largest Sea Cadet enrollment of any region, Lcdr Dunn rises to this challenge by developing and engaging with the commanding officers in his region. He consistently “goes above and beyond expectations” in his duties, encouraging cooperation between regions and developing relationships with unit sponsors. Committed to ensuring the future of the NSCC, he actively identifies and develops strong leaders in his region, “engaging them with constructive feedback and encouragement.” Lcdr Dunn also devotes an incredible amount of time to the International Exchange Program, managing the outbound exchange program. Lcdr Dunn’s performance is “exceptional in every way,” and he is most deserving of this award.

### **LCDR Charlotte (Gail) Ryan, NSCC, Region 6-1**

#### **Bruce B. Smith Award for Regional Director’s Recruiter of the Year**

As Regional Director of Region 6-1, Lcdr Ryan is fully deserving of the Bruce B. Smith Award for her exemplary efforts in recruiting new cadets. A member since 2003 and a regional director since 2007, Lcdr Ryan works tirelessly to support and develop the units in her region. Covering an area that spans over 300 miles, Lcdr Ryan expertly manages eight units. In the past year, Lcdr Ryan has stressed enrollment, training, and retention, achieving spectacular results. During this time, the region added 78 new Sea Cadet enrollments, an increase of 32.5% over previous levels. In addition to her recruiting and retention acumen, Lcdr Ryan helps create opportunities for the cadets in her region, actively encouraging them to engage in their communities. With her years of support and experience, Lcdr Ryan is an asset to Region 6-1 and the Sea Cadet program at large, and well deserving of the recognition of this award.

# Finding My Voice

By Chief Petty Officer Giselle Pilette, NSCC  
Massachusetts Bay Division, Boston, Mass.

My entire life, I have been a very shy person. Joining the Sea Cadets has helped me come out of my shell in enormous ways. One training that I always dreaded was staffing Recruit Training. Being shy, I found the idea of training recruits to be a pretty daunting one. But I knew that, eventually, the time would come when I needed to bite the bullet and staff RT. That ended up happening this past summer. Little did I know going into it that it would be one of the best and most defining weeks of my life. Over the course of those nine days, I learned how to lead. More importantly, how to lead by example. I learned that if I want people to do something, I need to be doing that same thing myself and to the best of my ability.

Through learning to lead, I also found my voice. I now know that I can confidently stand up in front of a room of people and present a topic or give instruction, and I know they will listen and understand me. I never thought that Sea Cadets would benefit my outside life in such tremendous ways. The lessons this program has taught me have carried themselves into every aspect of my life.



# What It Means to Wear the Uniform

By Chief Petty Officer Mathieu Bruley, NSCC  
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.



The United States military takes the security of our country very seriously. Joining the military requires weeks of intense mental and physical training. Graduate recruit training and you join the best of the best ready to defend our country. Wearing the Navy uniform is much more than just an honor. It is a way to represent the brave who fought before us and to demonstrate our pride.

The American flag reminds us of those who defend and those who have died to give us our freedom. Men and women die every year protecting our country, and we wear that same uniform. As Sea Cadets, we must honor them by wearing our uniform correctly and with pride. Paying attention to every detail shows you are serious about what you do. Wearing this uniform does not mean just covering up your skin and showing up to your job. It means that you have all parts of the uniform, it fits correctly, and you wear it correctly. You will then be ready for anything and everything. Whatever challenge

the chain of command gives you, you can do it.

“To show who we are” does not mean “in name only,” but also in character. We need to be able to hold ourselves to the highest standards, to prove to ourselves and our service members that we matter. The Navy and the Sea Cadet uniform fits snug to the chest and broad to the shoulders to stand out. This uniform was designed to be worn with pride and honor. To wear this uniform properly, you must walk with your back straight, chest out, and just a little bit of a strut. You should not be afraid to wear this uniform with pride. Instead, you should demand that you do and empower those around you to do the same.

What does it mean to wear the uniform? It means all the honor to be part of the select few who gets to wear the uniform. To call yourself a “Sea Cadet” when your uniform is not 100% on point, only degrades the respect you earn from civilians and your peers. That’s what it means to wear the uniform.





# Trailblazing Admiral Instructs Sea Cadets in Leadership

By Janet McGovern

Originally published in Climate Redwood City Online

A retired U.S. Navy rear admiral who navigated around the restrictions women once faced in the military urged Sea Cadets gathered Saturday in Redwood City to create their own opportunities, offering advice from her own life about how to transform setbacks into success.

Speaking Feb. 3 during an annual inspection ceremony for the city's unique U.S. Naval Sea Cadet unit, Rear Admiral Bonnie Potter, who is a physician, described her disappointment in 1975 when she came on active duty as a lieutenant and was told that she could not go to sea. She'd wanted to follow the path of her father, who had served the country in World War II.

"I thought, if I can't go to sea, what else can I do?" she told the young people, their families and friends during the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps Band of the West Division's inspection ceremony and performance. The event was held at American Legion Post 105, one of the sponsors for the nation's first and only Sea Cadet band.

Potter described how she focused on becoming the best she could be in her Naval assignments, which included a tour as Chief of Medicine/Residency Program Director at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, and as Director of Medical Services for the USNS *Comfort* during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. In 1997, she was promoted to rear admiral, becoming the first female physician in the military to be selected for "flag" rank.

Potter, who received her second star in 1999, retired in 2003 and is active with the Navy League.

Among the keys to success, she told the cadets, is to look for opportunities and not to allow the possibility of failure to hold them back. People who aren't necessarily "born leaders" can still be great leaders but need to continually assess their own strengths and weaknesses.

"It's not a destination," Potter said. "It's a journey. I still work on being a leader."

Demonstrating how times have changed, two female cadets – Samantha Wen and Jenna Ghaddar – were pinned as chief petty officers, a rank achieved by only about two percent of all cadets.



# USS Omaha: Bring Her to Life

By Petty Officer 1st Class Lori Ash, NLCC

TS Columbia, San Diego, Calif.



LTJG SHANNON WARD, NSCC

"Don't scratch the paint." That was the line I remember the best from the ceremony, second only to "Bring her to life." I stood on my toes, trying to see, craning my neck to look at the 69 crew members in dress uniform, waiting for the command. "Aye, aye, Ma'am!" was the reply as one-by-one, the crew took off running aboard USS *Omaha*. It was the fourth ship to carry the name Omaha, and LCS-12 was going to make our country proud. It was magical to watch. The crew emerged at the top of the vessel, standing at the edge as the ship appeared behind them. It was as if some great, beautiful creature was awakening. The giant gun on the front was spinning and swerving. All the bells and whistles clanged and blew, every little part of the ship turning on and moving as if the ship were alive. Then the horn sounded, a great resounding roar, and I couldn't help but cheer and applaud along with the rest of the crowd. Smiling, I gazed at the crew, the captain, and this magnificent new addition to this country's great Navy. I looked around and saw all these people cheering, coming out on a hot day to watch

the commissioning. I smiled with pride and thought, this is truly a great country.

# Meet John Wilson

**Former Sea Cadet from Bryce Canyon Division, Sherman Oaks, California**  
**Attended the U.S. Naval Academy ('87) and Cornell University ('02)**  
**Currently a Senior Scientist at the University of Virginia**

**Q: Tell us about your career path after leaving the Sea Cadet program.**

**Wilson:** After Sea Cadets and high school (James Monroe High School in Sepulveda, California), I attended the U.S. Naval Academy where I majored in Systems Engineering and graduated with the Class of 1987. I spent about five years on active duty in the Navy, including service aboard USS *Midway* (CV-41) during Operation Desert Storm. After leaving active duty, I worked as an engineer for about three years and then went to Cornell University where I received a Ph.D. in Applied Physics in 2002, specializing in astronomy instrumentation. Since then, I have worked at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, where I am currently a Senior Scientist in the Astronomy Department. After leaving active duty, I also spent another 15 years in the Navy Reserve, mostly in Science and Technology units, and retired as a commander after 20 years of service.



**Q: What is your favorite Sea Cadet memory?**

**Wilson:** My favorite Sea Cadet memory was my six-month trip aboard the USCGC *Glacier* (WAGB-4) for Deep Freeze '81-'82 to Antarctica. I was fortunate to be one of two Sea Cadets selected for the voyage which occurred during the middle of my junior year in high school. I essentially worked as a junior enlisted person and rotated through the various departments on the ship, from working with the quartermasters on the bridge to helping scientists core ice in Antarctica to forecasting the weather to tracing pipes in the engine room. It was an amazing opportunity and one of the highlights of my life to this day. We also visited numerous countries throughout the Pacific Rim.

"I particularly enjoy that my niche area sits at the intersection of engineering and science. Not only do I have to be adept at multiple areas of engineering and science, but I need to be a lifelong learner."

**Q: How did you become involved in the Sea Cadet program?**

**Wilson:** I had become an Eagle Scout at a young age, and I was interested in a new challenge. Since I had always enjoyed the water, the Sea Cadets seemed like a nice fit.

**Q: What do you do as an astronomer?**

**Wilson:** In my current profession as an astronomer, I specialize in building instruments, particularly spectrographs, for telescopes. I particularly enjoy that my niche area sits at the intersection of engineering and science. Not only do I have to be adept at multiple areas of engineering and science, but I need to be a lifelong learner. I really get a lot of joy when astronomers find the instruments that I have worked on, helpful for their research.





**"I essentially worked as a junior enlisted person and rotated through the various departments on the ship, from working with the quartermasters on the bridge to helping scientists core ice in Antarctica to forecasting the weather to tracing pipes in the engine room. It was an amazing opportunity and one of the highlights of my life to this day."**

**Q: What impact did USNSCC have on your life?**

**Wilson:** The Sea Cadets certainly confirmed for me that I loved the sea, enjoyed traveling to new countries and that I should indeed attend the U.S. Naval Academy. Once at the Academy, I was able to take advantage of numerous Sea Cadet experiences to help me feel more comfortable and confident with the rigors of life there, especially during Plebe year and when we had opportunities at sea. Just as importantly, Sea Cadets provided me a lot of early leadership experiences that I have built upon throughout my adult life. Being a good leader, especially amongst peers, is not easy, and requires practice. Lastly, I was extremely fortunate to be mentored by two amazing leaders in the Bryce Canyon Division — Bill Bryan and Gordon Meighan.



**"Sea Cadets provided me a lot of early leadership experiences that I have built upon throughout my adult life. Being a good leader, especially amongst peers, is not easy, and requires practice."**

**Q: Do you have any advice for Sea Cadets considering a military career?**

**Wilson:** Take advantage of all the opportunities the Sea Cadets offer for experiences with different facets of the military so you can learn what military life is like and what a career might entail. Having these experiences under your belt, you can make a more informed decision about going into the military after high school or college.

**Q: Any last words on what you learned from the Sea Cadet program?**

**Wilson:** My Sea Cadet experiences introduced me to challenges and opportunities that many young adults don't have the chance to have. Through these experiences, I learned to jump in and participate, keep an open mind, take advantage of opportunities, have confidence, and learn effective leadership skills. These are all important skills to have, regardless of one's profession, that I have honed and used consistently. 🌀

**What is Operation Deep Freeze? Operation Deep Freeze is the codename for a series of U.S. missions to Antarctica. The first mission (1955-56) prepared a permanent research station and paved the way for more exhaustive research in later Deep Freeze operations.**

# Recruit Training: Gateway to Your Future

By Instructor Maurajane Rogers, NSCC  
Squadron 7 Zulu, Quincy, Mass.

At 0600 on a cold and dark 26 December, four young men from Squadron 7-Zulu rendezvoused at Boston's Logan Airport to begin their journey south to Winter Recruit Training (RT) at Keystone Heights, Florida. With contained anticipation, displaying calm confidence, the four passed through TSA and out of sight; their parents straining to catch a final glimpse before their offspring crossed the Rubicon. It would be the last time they would see — and hear from — the boys for ten days. Ranging in age from 13 to 15, all four recruits emerged from RT as successful graduate — and seaman apprentices.

Fortunate enough to travel south for the graduation ceremony, a first-hand glimpse of the conditions under which the cadets had lived leading up to graduation day was crystal clear. Deep in north central Florida, down winding red dirt roads was where the recruits of 7-Zulu had learned about themselves and others. The typical day at Keystone Heights was, well, fairly typical of RT. Up at 0500 (toe that line!), PT, shower, dress, chow, clean, class, chow, clean, march, class, division time, shower, clean-up, clean again, and lights out. Lather, rinse, and repeat. Without knowing what to expect or how to prepare oneself (either mentally or physically), there was anxiety within our recruits.

They quickly adapted and realized the value of their efforts, previously made at drills back home, would pay dividends at RT.

In sharing their personal experiences with the unit, they collectively agreed it had been a great bonding experience. They had the opportunity to meet recruits from outside of Massachusetts and build friendships. Upon arrival at RT, all four recruits were separated and divided into different divisions, so they were instantly islands unto themselves. When asked to describe their experience, words like "teamwork", "rewarding," "communication," "discipline," "trust," "confidence," "strengthening" and "encouraging" were used. Of course, words like "loud" and "cold" and "cleaning" and "sweeping" were also used, but it was clear there was a true sense of pride in their accomplishments.

Cadet Steven Roche (Bravo Division) described that at times it was stressful but it “teaches you a lot about yourself; you can figure out what you're capable of and you realize you can do a lot more than you previously thought.” For his part, a skill he possessed but previously had gone undiscovered was his ability to control his emotions, which went hand-in-hand with the mastering of military bearing. While Cadet Gregory Guempel (Alpha Division) advised “Don't take advantage of granted opportunities!,” cadet Samuel Rogers (Charlie Division) strongly suggested that every recruit learn the 11 General Orders, “long before you start RT because you need to know it, down pat... and try to be the first one ready every day!” Cadet Andrew Silva had perhaps the sagest advice of all (which may explain why his division — Delta — was chosen as Honor Division): Do. What. You. Are. Told.

Whatever challenges they faced (cold, relentless rain, day in and day out, an unseasonable historic cold snap, faulty temperature maintenance in sleeping quarters, early mornings, mentally and physically challenging across the board), they faced them with determination, grateful to the leadership that worked them with effectively commanding and highly motivating individuals. One takeaway the four cadets heartily agreed on was that when it comes, you take a hit as a team, for the individual.

The four young men left Boston as wide-eyed recruits, but they returned home confident cadets, grateful for the experience. No apologies, no excuses. BZ!





# A Winter Tour of Valley Forge

By Petty Officer 1st Class Rachel Griffith, NSCC

George Washington (CVN-73) Division, Bronx, New York

During the American Revolution, a battle against disease took place at Valley Forge. While many soldiers died at this location, it was here in which the Continental Army was finally standardized under one drill manual, and all soldiers were trained to use their bayonets with the help from the French. George Washington also stayed at Valley Forge and rented the house he used as headquarters from a farmer since he had ordered his officers to rent the houses from their owners if they were going to stay there.

Today at Valley Forge there are memorials, artifacts, and reconstructed versions of the cabins built by the soldiers during the American Revolution. The house that George Washington stayed in is still standing, and people can go inside thanks to the repairs that were done on it to make it safe. Inside the house, there are many artifacts and documents. While my unit was there, we looked at the different monuments and structures that have been rebuilt over the years. We also saw the different items that had been discovered during digs.

We climbed parts of Mt. Misery and Mt. Joy — which were named based on how hard they were to climb. While at Valley Forge, we walked at least seven miles, making this experience both physically challenging and educational. I recommend visiting Valley Forge if you want to learn more about the American Revolution and the events that took place at Valley Forge.



## Why It Matters

By Petty Officer 1st Class Brendan Hawk, NSCC

Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

My promotion to chief petty officer is what I have been working to achieve for the previous five years. This December, all of my hard work was about to pay off. I was so close to receiving my khakis and entering the brotherhood of chief petty officer. All I had to do is complete this training, and then I will have made it. I had culinary training lined up in Tennessee for 26-30 December. I cut my Christmas festivities short with my family and traveled down to Tennessee for my training to learn the ins and outs of culinary.

On the trip down, we ate at a restaurant, and a few hours later, my stomach began to hurt. As I experienced this untimely illness, I slowly watched my promotion to chief fading away. As morning came closer, it became more and more evident that I was severely ill. My parents made the executive decision to take me to a medical facility because I could barely stand without getting sick and was not getting any better.

Away I went to be assessed by a medical professional, hoping to still do my training. So much was resting on this single moment. They hooked me up to their fancy machines and ran a series of tests which all confirmed my worst fear that I was medically unfit to attend my training due to food that I unsuspectingly consumed. As the second bag of fluid dripped into my veins, the reality of this disastrous news sank in. I relayed my dilemma up to the chain of command and began the journey home.

I was devastated. I decided not to let this setback hold me down. I was going to continue to develop myself and become the best possible leader. The next time you hear from me, I will be a chief petty officer in the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps.



# My First Eagle Flight

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Iris Fountain, NLCC  
 Training Ship B.W. Sandburg, Yuma, Ariz.

This December, I assembled with my fellow League Cadets to experience aviation from the seat of a small aircraft. This was all thanks to an invitation from our local Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) private pilots in what they call "Eagle Flights" and coordinated by our local Navy League council. Cadets met near Yuma's General Aviation (GA) terminal. Looking out at the main runway was interesting as we saw private planes, big jets, and even new F-35 fighters as our airport is a shared facility with Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. Inside the senior EAA pilot's hangar, we received our safety briefing, and also learned how to get permission to depart and land the air-craft from the runway. The pilots also taught us how to "Pre-Fly" our aircraft to make sure that no malfunctions occur when flying. We had three small single engine planes to choose from. After our pre-fly checks, we also learned how aircraft are named, and how to properly board and depart the aircraft.

Once in the air, the pilots showed us the flight controls. Foot pedals on the deck controlled the flaps at the back of the plane, the hand handles that turn the flaps in the middle of the plane; causing the aircraft to lift, dive, and turn. This was exciting for us as many cadets had never flown before — especially in such small planes. We saw our community from the air; city streets, farm fields, and mountains. Many of the cadets were really impressed and may look for aviation training opportunities when they fleet up to Yuma's Naval Sea Cadet squadron. After our first flight, some cadets had the opportunity to take a second flight along with a few parents. Meanwhile, as we waited for them to return, we were escorted to the terminal, given a quick tour of the pilots lounge, and treated to welcoming hot chocolate. It was a great way to end a terrific adventure.



## Heading to Recruit Training This Summer? Get Ahead Now

#1

**Read the Welcome Letter! Read it again. With your parents. Again. Not three days before training starts, either. You don't want to show up a day late with the wrong uniform.**

#2

**If there is a training website or Facebook page, join it. Read it. Ask questions if you can't find the answers in the Welcome Letter... because you read it, right? Right?**

#3

**Break in your boots early — at least 30 days before the start of training. Wear them every day. Blisters are the worst. You don't want to have to sit out because of them.**

#4

**Get in shape now. There are published minimums, but do you really want to go through life hitting the minimums? *Sea Cadets strive for the max.***

#5

**Now is the time to stop drinking caffeine. There are no sodas, coffee, or sugary treats at Recruit Training, so stop now. Your future self will thank you.**

#6

**Have a vision of yourself at graduation. Believe in yourself! We do. Thousands of cadets have done this and they're no better than you are.**

#7

**Listen to the message, not the delivery. This is probably the first time you've been in an environment like this. Remember: the staff wants to help you succeed.**

#8

**Give it your all and just keep up with us! At RT, you'll make new friends, learn invaluable skills, and you'll truly earn that sense of accomplishment on graduation day.**





# Toe Line to Victory

**By Seaman Kyle Wallace, NSCC**  
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

“Who am I?” I ask myself. Well, I’ll tell you! I am a United States Sailor. I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, and I will obey the orders of those appointed over me. I represent the fighting spirit of the Navy and those who have gone before me to defend freedom and democracy around the world. I am committed to excellence and the fair treatment of all. I think about the creed again and again, as the massive graduation garage door creaks open to reveal the awaiting parents’ newly-trained cadets, all marching in a professional formation. The garage door is now agape and I can see the light grey floor of the graduation hall.

“You have ten seconds to be on the toe line! 10...9...8...7!” The deep threatening voice startled me out of my sleep. I thought to myself “Where am I?” Then it hit me, it was the first official day of recruit training. I knew I had to get up and get to the toe line as fast as I could. I slid my bare feet into my sandals as fast as I could. I ran to the toe line and waited for the day to start.

After the second day, everyone adapted to the routine of waking up to the demanding voice of the Recruit Division Commander (RDC), and having 15 minutes to brush their teeth, shave, and hygiene; we then marched to breakfast, completed bunk drills for two hours, marched to lunch, completed inspection drills, marched to dinner, took showers and went to bed. Minutes felt like hours and days felt like weeks.

I marched for four hours around the base and then straight to medical. Then I proceeded to walk back to my barracks with a fresh new pound of tape on my heels. The barracks reeked of exhaustion. I looked at my bunk and day-dreamed of laying down or at least sitting for a second. I knew this couldn’t happen. There was too much left to do in the day and it needed to get accomplished.

I woke up and imagined myself standing proudly at attention in front of my friends, and family wearing my dress whites (Navy dress uniform), showing my two chevrons, which represent the ranking of a seaman apprentice (the second enlisted ranking in the Navy). The idea of coming home to show my family and friends the skills I had learned from waking up at five o’clock every morning and doing everything you wouldn’t want to be doing in a week, ran through my mind every second, every day.

The garage door is now halfway up. All I can think is how many people lie beyond the blocked view in the balcony. The creaking comes to a halt and I know it is time. “Forward march!” yells the Recruit Petty Officer in Charge. Aye, petty officer, forward march indeed, a new way of thinking, a new me, and a new purpose. As I see the crowd of friends and family in the balcony, the feeling of success and victory overtakes me. Now I know who I am.





# RT: Learning From Your Mistakes

By Seaman Apprentice Sarah Kaleta, NSCC

Cincinnati Division, Blue Ash, Ohio



I am excited to write about an experience that helped me grow as a leader and learn more in nine days than I could have ever imagined. For background, this past winter break, I had the opportunity to go to the 2017-18 Recruit Training in Marseilles, Illinois. It was a challenge for me, but I was quick to learn through trial and error. The most memorable mistake I made was at the shooting range, using M-4s with the two Marine sergeants on staff. When I stepped up to shoot, I had the worst aim out of everyone in line. Seeing how I was struggling, one of the Marines approached me and tried to find out what the problem was; after all, my groupings were pretty close, yet my aim was off. It turns out, there was a circle on the gun I was supposed to look through; I had aimed along the 'T' but had no idea there was a circle. I felt so dumb, and of course, the sergeants gave me a hard time for it. But, by the next round, I was hitting most of my targets in the center

and walked out with a 'sharpshooter' level. Long story short, I improved at something by learning from my embarrassing error. But my learning did not end there. The experience allowed me to take on a new role of leadership as "Guide-On" for our RT group. My responsibilities as a "Guide" were to carry a USNSCC flag everywhere 24/7, give commands to our unit with a clear voice and concise directions, assign tasks to squads, and take head counts whenever we left or entered a building.

Even on the day of graduation, when I received the award of "Honor Cadet," which was surprising to me considering all the mistakes I made during the training, I was still learning from my mistakes. As I approached the presenter for my award, I saluted in front of everyone, received my award, and turned to return to the line, when I heard a "Ahem" behind me. Immediately, I turned around and realized that I had forgotten to salute her! When I walked back to my position in ranks, I told myself I would never forget to salute an officer again. As much as leaders are made out to be people who never make mistakes, they are only human and make mistakes too. The difference between a follower and a leader is the ability to learn from mistakes and do your absolute best to not repeat them.

The RT experience made quite an impression on me, and what I learned will last a lifetime, giving me a tiny glimpse of what the real military life would be like. Since 7th grade, I have wanted to go to the Naval Academy, and I am so thankful for the Sea Cadet program for preparing me and helping me to go after my dreams. After only being in the program for five months, I have grown as a leader, a student, and a person, and I am so thankful for the volunteers who take time out of their day to make that happen.

**On Dec. 25, I went to Norfolk for Petty Officer Leadership Academy (POLA). My training was great, but it was physically and mentally challenging. We had a lot of hands-on training. This training taught us the importance of being a petty officer. In our trainings, we learned about leadership, teamwork and completed class work. Our COTC, LCDR Golden, took us on trips to see a Seahawk helicopter squadron, on an aircraft carrier and to the NEX. Finally, this experience taught me to be leader and more importantly, to believe in myself. I am so thankful to be a part of Naval Sea Cadet Corps.**

**-PO3 Zion Hilton, NSCC  
Warrior Division, Douglasville, Ga.  
POLA, Norfolk, Va.**





PHOTOS BY INST JENNIFER WUEST, NSCC

# My Winter Training Experience

By Instructor Jennifer Wuest, NSCC  
Orion Squadron, Oak Harbor, Wash.

“Ears... OPEN!”

This refrain, among others, rang across the galley, the grinder, and the barracks during winter training at Camp Casey, Whidbey Island, Washington. Cadets from Washington, Oregon, California, Utah, and Texas attended the following trainings: Navy League Orientation; Honors & Ceremonies; STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics); Basic and Advanced Medical; and Petty Officer Leadership Academy (POLA).

I'm new to volunteering with the USNSCC, and winter training was a fantastic way to see the organization in a different light. Additionally, I was fortunate to serve as the Public Affairs Officer for the CTC, so I was able to watch all the cadets in action throughout the week.

It was especially inspiring to watch the League Cadets grow and mature over their five days of training. Young men and women who started out shy and quiet, blossomed and thrived during their time at camp. Marching in step and memorizing the 11 General Orders of a Sentry were tough at first, but by the last day, they were marching like pros and able to recite the general orders on command.

The cadets in medical training spent a lot of time in the classroom, which can push the limits of the best of us; for active teenagers, it may be even more difficult. However, they worked hard, learned a lot, asked great questions, practiced their skills, and walked away with a CPR/First Aid certification at the end of training. Same for the POLA cadets — they spent more time in the classroom than anyone else. However, it paid off. A polished group of young men and women left camp on that first day of 2018 as our next generation of leaders.

I think the cadets who had the most fun were those in STEM — they got to fly drones! Their excitement was a joy to watch. Capturing photos of them with their drones was an extra fun challenge for me, too.

Honors and Ceremonies cadets worked hard, both in and out of the classroom. When they weren't learning about

close-order drill, they were practicing marching, folding flags, raising and lowering the colors every day, and coming up with their own exhibition drill routines.

I can't say enough about how wonderful this experience was for me as an escort officer — and it must have been even more so for the cadets. It brought back many memories from my years in the Navy. I wish I had known about the Sea Cadets when I was young. I would have joined!





# From Grandma to Volunteer: Sea Cadets Through My Eyes

By Instructor Tina Davis, NSCC

Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

Certain things in life can make a person proud and bring emotions to the surface. For example, buying your first house, getting married, graduating or maybe starting a family, singing our national anthem or hearing the soft playing of Taps in the far distance. These will always hold a special place in my heart, but I have one more significant experience to add: grandchildren.

When you have grandchildren, you can then have the luxury of time. Uninterrupted time. Time to play. Time to teach, time to listen and time to tell family stories, family history.

I never considered our family to be a “military family” until one of my grandsons, Ryan Talbot, wanted to follow in his older brothers' footsteps and join the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets. I had two brothers who had served, one in the Navy the other in the Army, my husband was in the Air Force, and other family members, but now I have two young grandsons who were Sea Cadets. When Ryan wanted to transfer to the Wolverine Division, it was such a long distance from his house that his parents had a difficult time taking him. I asked Ryan, why change to the Wolverine Division? What was so special? He said he was grateful for what he had already learned with the cadets, but

when he was at CMU for POLA, he met other cadets from other divisions and at that time knew the Wolverines was where he wanted to be. They could get him where he wanted to go. He talked about the opportunities they could give him, the discipline, the military training he could have. He talked about his future with the cadets and how someday he just might be working at the Pentagon. He had a plan, he had a vision, and he knew this could be achieved with the Wolverines. It was at that point I told his parents if they could get Ryan to my house, I would drive him back and forth both days.

And so this journey for me begins. I didn't know a lot about the program, but that was about to change. When you have four hours of drive time on a weekend with someone like Ryan, you learn. And learn I did. Over the next few years, I watched this young boy grow into a young man. Dedicated with a direction. It was at that time, and after all of those talks we had, that I began to feel the deep impact the cadets would have on me. I retired last June, and Ryan told his CO that he thought I might need something to do with my time and volunteered me. I chuckled at him doing that but, yes, that is Ryan. I knew I wanted to “be involved” somewhere, and after getting to know the leaders of the Wolverines, seeing their dedication and the love they have for the program and for these young cadets, I knew that Ryan was right. Ryan achieved the rank of chief petty officer with the cadets and has now joined the Marines. His brother is currently serving in the Navy. I can't say either of these young men would be where they are today without the influence of the Sea Cadet program.

I was asked if I would still be volunteering since I don't have any grandchildren in the program and without a doubt, the answer was yes. My dedication to our youth and this program goes deep into my soul. Maybe it was just a smile, maybe a little encouragement, maybe just sitting in the room while they were taking a test but somehow, somewhere I am making a difference. I feel proud that I might be just a small part of the life of one of these cadets and truly grateful for this opportunity. This is just the beginning of the journey.



## Are you a graduating senior?

Don't miss your opportunity to apply for the NSCC Scholarship Program! You are eligible to apply if:

You are a Sea Cadet who has achieved the grade of NSCC E-3 or higher and has been in the program for at least two years at the time of application; an excellent student with a B+ average or above; accepted into an accredited university, college, or technical school.

### How do I apply?

Read Information Letter 03-18 on Homeport for application instructions. Applications are due on April 23 at midnight Pacific Time.



## Fireman Blaine Bradley, USN



Starting at age 10 as a League Cadet, Blaine Bradley completed his time as a Sea Cadet eight years later as a chief petty officer leading the Wolverine Division. His time as a cadet included many trainings: Navy League SEAL, Seamanship aboard USS *Ronald Reagan*, Advanced Sub, SCUBA, CERT, UCOIN, and more.

After graduating the USNSCC in 2017, his journey led him to Navy Recruit Training at Great Lakes where he graduated in the top 3% of his training group of over 700 Sailors earning him the Honor Graduate Ribbon. He credits his success at recruit training directly to his time and experience as a cadet.

He is currently stationed in Goose Creek, South Carolina in one of the military's most challenging training programs as a Nuclear Propulsion Operator. He is looking forward to serving out his career in the Navy on a nuclear submarine.

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Make sure you're on track.

Navy League Cadet Corps	Rate/Grade	Time in Rate	Time in NLCC	Course Requirements	Exam
No Insignia	Recruit Cadet (RC) (LC-1)	None	None	None	None
	Apprentice Cadet (APC) (LC-2)	4 Months	4 Months	Part I	Part I
	Able Cadet (ABC) (LC-3)	4 Months	8 Months	Part II	Part II
	Petty Officer 3rd Class (LC-4)	4 Months	12 Months	Part III	Part III
	Petty Officer 2nd Class (LC-5)	6 Months	18 Months	Part IV	Part IV
	Petty Officer 1st Class (LC-6)	6 Months	24 Months	Part V	Part V
	Ship's Leading Petty Officer (LC-7)	6 Months <small>(Must be at least 12 1/2 years old)</small>	30 Months	BMR Assignments 1-6	None

Advancements in the Navy League Cadet Corps require passing the Physical Readiness Test.

Naval Sea Cadet Corps	Rate/Grade	Time in Rate	Time in NSCC	Course Requirements	Exam	Training Requirements
No Insignia	Seaman Recruit (SR) (E-1)	None	None	None	None	None
	Seaman Apprentice-Temporary (SA-T) (E2-T)	3 Months	3 Months	BMR	None	None*
	Seaman Apprentice (SA) (E-2)	3 Months	3 Months	BMR	None	Recruit Training*
	Seaman (SN)/Airman (AN) (E-3)	6 Months	9 Months	SN or AN	None	Advanced Training*
	Petty Officer 3rd Class (PO3) (E-4)	6 Months	15 Months	P03/P02 (Assignments 1-2)	P03	Advanced Training*
	Petty Officer 2nd Class (PO2) (E-5)	6 Months	21 Months	P03/P02 (Assignments 3-5)	P02	Petty Officer Leadership Academy*
	Petty Officer 1st Class (PO1) (E-6)	6 Months	27 Months	P01	P01	Advanced Training*
	Chief Petty Officer (CPO) (E-7)	6 Months <small>(Must be at least 16 years old)</small>	33 Months	CPO	No Exam	Staff at NSCC Recruit Training or NLCC Orientation*

\*Advancements in the Naval Sea Cadet Corps require passing the Physical Readiness Test.



# A Day of Remembrance

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Westin Daniels, NSCC  
Top Hatters Squadron, Norfolk, Va.

“Wreaths Across America”, or WAA, is dedicated to the remembrance of fallen veterans in cemeteries around the country. On Dec. 16, myself and nine of my shipmates from Top Hatters Squadron volunteered with WAA to lay wreaths for U.S. veterans buried at Hampton National Cemetery, Hampton Virginia. It was something that I had wanted to do for a long time. Much of my family served in the military, and my great-grandfather served in the Army. When I was asked to lay a ceremonial wreath for those who had served and who are serving in the U.S. Army, I could not have been more honored.

As Americans, we seldom think about the sacrifices that others have given in defense of our freedom. Though, as a Sea Cadet and the son of a Sailor, I am reminded of these sacrifices often. Each night at my squadron’s monthly drill, myself and the cadets whom I have the privilege of leading, recite the Sailor’s Creed. In this creed, it is said that “I represent the fighting spirit of the Navy and those who have gone before me to defend freedom and democracy around the world.” I was reminded of that today, as my fellow shipmates and I volunteered to lay wreaths at the graves of those who have done just that.

During the ceremony, I heard something that will stay with me for many years: “A person dies twice: the first time when they take their last breath and the second time when their name is said out loud for the last time.” This saying held much significance because many of the soldiers buried there served in the Spanish-American War. All their families had passed on as well. So, if not for us, or those who volunteered, their lives would be soon forgotten. As each of us placed a wreath on a tombstone, we said their name, ensuring that they would not be forgotten.

So, I encourage those reading this to take a moment to remember those who have gone before us to defend this great nation. Do not do so in remembrance of their deaths. Rather, do so in remembrance of their lives, their legacies, and the high standards of personal conduct, integrity, bravery, and courage that they left for us to live by. As said by the WAA, “Remember our fallen U.S. veterans, honor those who serve, and teach your children the value of freedom.” To all who have served this great nation, I thank you. To those who have served and died for this great nation, I thank you. May God bless America and all her fallen warriors.





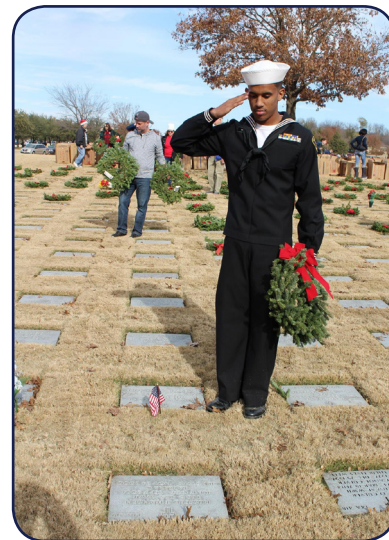
# My Duty and Honor

By Seaman Malachi Farrell, NSCC  
Lone Star Squadron, Fort Worth, Texas

I feel privileged to be part of the Lone Star Squadron. It has enabled me to be a part of a growing team and has taught me self-discipline. Every December, we are invited to lay wreaths on the graves of veterans and fallen soldiers.

I always enjoy the ceremony before the wreath laying. The Sea Cadets line up the walkway, giving us a unique view as the wreaths of each branch of the military and POW/MIA are honored and remembered. After the ceremony, we divide into groups and from there, we are each given wreaths to lay on our assigned graves.

If a cadet has a relative buried there whom they wish to lay a wreath upon, they can do that as well. My great-grandparents are buried there. My great-grandfather, Russell James Hansen, served in the Army during World War II. I never had the privilege of meeting my great-grandfather, so I feel it is my honor and duty to place this wreath out of respect for the sacrifice he provided to this country. I look forward to this event every year, but this year I was able to be the unit photographer, using the skills I learned at the photojournalism training I attended earlier this summer at Camp Pendleton in San Diego. Being a part of this program and events like these gives me a greater appreciation for God, my country, and my fellow man.



# Stories Worth Remembering

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Sophie Grassel, NSCC  
Fort Spokane Battalion, Spokane, Wash.

On October 19, four Sea Cadets from the Fort Spokane Battalion loaded into our cars and set off for an adventure. We were on our way to a retirement home where three World War II veterans were waiting for our arrival. When we got there, it hit all of us that we were about to interview several people of great importance. People who had seen it all, been through it all, and were about to tell us all. When we arrived, we received a briefing from a representative of Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers' office. We were told what was going to happen and how we should proceed with our questions for the impending interviews. These interviews were documented via iPad recordings, and stored indefinitely for future generations at the Library of Congress as part of the Veterans History Project.

Initially, we met the three military service veterans in a casual setting where we learned their life stories. Such things were discussed as, "Where were you born and raised?" "Do you have any children?" "What kinds of things did you do in life after your years of military service had ended?"

Once the cordial introductions were completed, approximately every half-hour, two Sea Cadets and one of the three veterans were led away for a more formal interview process. These interviews were intended to last no more than 30 minutes, but this actually proved to be very difficult. We found these veterans, who were in their nineties, to be very engaging and quick-witted. They greatly enjoyed having a group of young people so interested in hearing what their life experiences had to offer our generation. I am unsure who had a more enjoyable afternoon during this very special time: the wise, elderly veterans or the young, eager Sea Cadets. Regardless, I highly recommend seeking out these American heroes. Their stories are worth remembering!





## Bravo Zulu



Clermont Battalion Petty Officer 3rd Class Kurt Schindele was one of the exceptional members of the Montverde Academy's powerlifting team which won the jackpot at the Las Vegas, Nevada World Bench Press and Deadlift Championships. Schindele won three individual gold medals out of the total 33 gold medals won by the team. The six-day tournament was hosted by the World Association of Benchers and Dead Lifters (WABDL).

Schindele competed in both Bench Press and Dead Lift events in the under 97-pound class. His Deadlift was 187 pounds — nearly twice his body weight. He is an 8th grade student at Montverde.

According to his coach Eric Pauli, the powerlifting team is all about staying humble, working hard every day, and most importantly, excelling in their academics more than their athletics. These standards are right in line with the Sea Cadet values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

"Unfortunately, there are no scholarships in powerlifting," said coach Pauli. "However, these athletes don't do it for that; they do it for bragging rights, they do it because they love to push themselves to be better, and above all, they do it because they have a lot of fun."

Schindele started as a League Cadet with Centurion Battalion when he was 10 years old. When Clermont Battalion was founded in January 2017, he transferred over to be closer to home. Schindele's ambition is to become an aerospace engineer with sights set on Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

## Cadet Performs Taps for Veterans

By Commander Robert Languedoc, USN (Ret.)

In the fall of 2017, Aidan Languedoc joined Nautilus (SSN-571) Division which drills out of the Naval Submarine Base in Groton, Connecticut. He has played trumpet for three years in the middle school jazz band and honors orchestra in high school. He has been selected twice to perform in the Connecticut Eastern Region Band. This year, he is auditioning for the state level ensemble.

A year ago, Aidan read an article concerning the lack of live buglers to play Taps at military services. The military has to resort to digital bugles for funerals for veterans. Aidan thought the faux bugle was an inadequate substitute for a live rendering of Taps so he auditioned with Bugles Across America (BAA), an organization that provides live buglers to play Taps at military functions and services. He was the youngest bugler to be accepted in Connecticut and the second youngest in the nation.

To date, Aidan has played Taps at 20 events including a Flag Day service for the Town of Stonington, Connecticut and the Providence WaterFire Salute to Veterans on November 4, 2017.

For the latter event, Aidan arrived on station at Memorial Park in Providence, Rhode Island in his cadet service dress blues. He derived great pride in veterans of all branches of the military, shaking his hand while recalling their fond memories of their time in service. Aidan was positioned at the World War I Memorial and was designated as the second of five buglers to render Taps along the river. He stood at parade rest for 45 minutes in the cold November air while hordes of on-lookers snapped pictures. Aidan's military bearing was outstanding with one veteran saying that Aidan didn't move a muscle the entire time. After the first rendition of Taps, Aidan played solemnly and deliberately, rendering Taps as it should be played. He executed a slow and crisp salute, following his bugling. A veteran recording the event shouted, "Bravo Zulu, sailor!"

Recently, the organizer of the Taps portion of the event, retired Air Force Sergeant Mike Jackson, who personally enlisted Aidan for the event, informed me that the state house issued a letter of appreciation to Aidan for his participation in the event.





# Community Service Should Be a Priority

By Petty Officer 1st Class Brian Sheets, NSCC

John T. Dempster, Jr. Division, Lawrenceville, N.J.

In Sea Cadets, community service could be an activity that might be overlooked. Many of the Sea Cadets I know are focused on the requirements of the Sea Cadet program. There is a lot of work one has to do to be part of the Corps. From drills to coursework to trainings, there is a lot going on. Community service to me is one of the most important things that anyone can do. It is, in essence, when people decide to help other people by making a better place for everyone.

The first challenge is where to start. I chose a local organization that depends on volunteers for their operations. This organization focused on physical activities that benefited the participants and kept me motivated. I volunteered with the Special Olympics of New Jersey.

My first volunteering event was the Special Olympics New Jersey Summer Games. This big event was held at The College of New Jersey. When I was at this event, I saw how much my participation mattered and how people with different abilities could strive through competition.

This single event was the genesis of my community service actions. This made me feel good, but I believed that I had to involve other Sea Cadets. I started to involve other members of our division so they could share my same feeling of satisfaction and participation. Community service shouldn't be overlooked. It should be a priority. I recruited other cadets from my unit so we could make a larger impact.

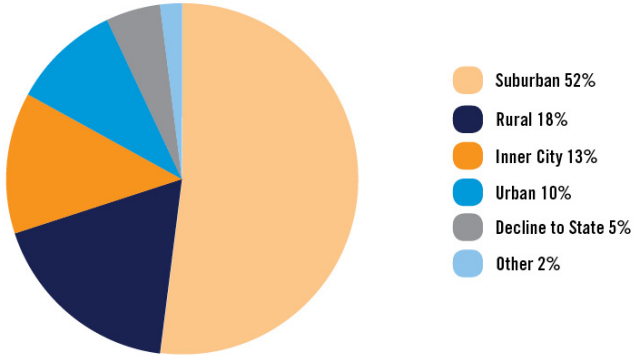
As a division, we decided to help at the "Jingle All The Way 3K" in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. This activity is a major sporting event held by the Special Olympics around the holidays. Athletes and their families ran together in costumes to celebrate the season and to engage in physical activities. Our Sea Cadets were stationed along the track to provide motivation and ensure safety. This is something we know how to do very well. This event was the one that helped me realize what community service is all about. It's not just volunteering. It's helping others and making a difference.

Community service is a stepping-stone to empowering everyone in your community to live a better life together. Before, I thought that community service was just another nice thing for people to do for others. But now I know community service is more than that. From now on, I will continue to inspire everyone in my division to take part in community service events so that it remains a priority within the Sea Cadet program.



# Looking Back on Last Year

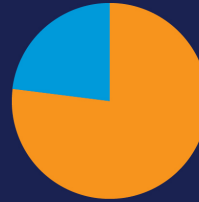
In **2017**, we proudly served **12,731** cadets in **45** states, Guam, and Puerto Rico.



## WHO WE ARE

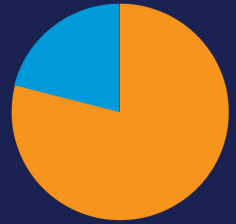
**77% Sea Cadets**  
(ages 13 and up)

**23% League Cadets**  
(ages 10 to 13)



## WHO WE ARE

**79% Male**  
**21% Female**



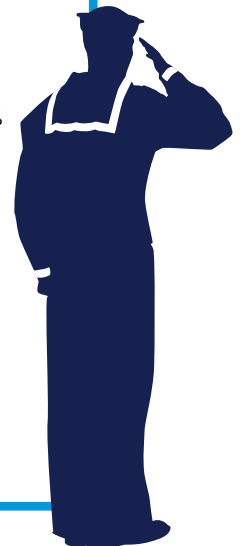
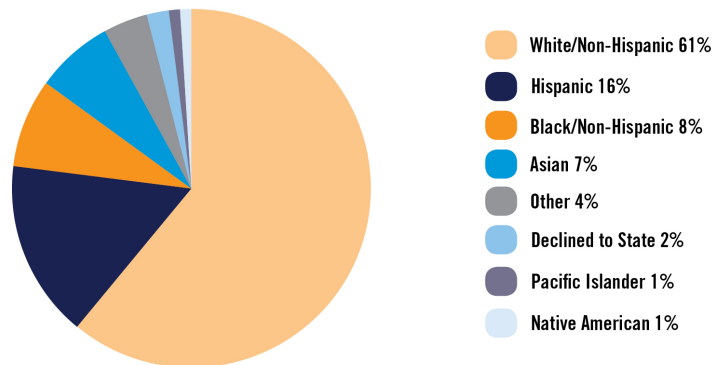
Thanks to your support, we raised **\$43,446** in **2017**. We are so thankful to the **216** donors who supported us during our **first** national fundraising campaign.



## SEA CADETS ARE GOING PLACES

2017 Graduation Plans	# of Cadets
U.S. Naval Academy	136
U.S. Military Academy	5
U.S. Air Force Academy	7
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	10
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy	7
State Merchant Marine Academies	13
Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)	88
Other ROTC	33
Intend to Enlist in the Navy	263
Intend to Enlist in Other Services	146
2-4 Year College or University	300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,008</b>

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