The U.S. Naval Sea Gadet Corps SEASTANCE IN THIS ISSUE GELERATING ACHIEVEMENTS

HAZEI



OPPORTUNITIES AS VAST AS THE SEA











01 MAY 2024

Cadets of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps,

Congratulations on your decision to be a part of the group that is shaping the future leaders of America's Maritime Services! Your membership as a Sea Cadet is helping to sustain the strong foundation enjoyed by the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine; but it is also building character, harnessing skills, and sharpening talents as individuals.

For more than 60 years, the Sea Cadets have excelled above their peers due to the training, mentorship, and experiences that the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps provides. As each of you continue in your journey as a Sea Cadet, I encourage you to "Chart Your Course" for the future by considering a career in the Navy. Today's Navy offers more than 80 career choices that can take you from the seabed to space. No other branch of the military offers the diverse range of opportunities the Navy provides.

During your journey as a Sea Cadet, I urge you to take advantage of every opportunity to learn about the heritage of the Navy, gain skills that will benefit you throughout your life, and interact with those who are serving today as sailors in the world's greatest Navy. In your short time, you will have the opportunity to make the decision about coming into the Navy. I encourage you to connect with recruiters in your area, talk with sailors in the fleet and learn about everything a career in the Navy can bring to you.

The future of our Navy and our nation is in your hands. As the future leaders of America's Navy, I applaud your dedication to and enthusiasm for the maritime traditions of excellence that created the greatest Navy in the world! Keep up the great work and I look forward to seeing you in the fleet!



Sincerely,

J. P. Waters, III Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy Commander Navy Recruiting Command

INS DE



06 2023 NATIONAL MEMBERS OF THE YEAR

Celebrating Excellence: Recognizing Cadets and Volunteers and Their Impact

18

2023 AREA MEMBERS OF THE YEAR

Honoring the Outstanding Achievements of Our Cadets and Volunteers

30

2023 ANNUAL INSPECTION WINNERS

The Top Units Share Their Secrets for Success

34 2023 PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

Our Dedicated Volunteers Share What Inspires Them

40 GOING ASHORE

Parting Words From Our 2023 Graduates to Current and Future Cadets

WORDS FROM REAR ADMIRAL ANDREW LENNON, USN, (RETIRED) SEA CADETS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Perfection is impossible.

Tennis star Roger Federer won approximately 80 percent of his matches. In school, 80 percent is a low B. I find it particularly noteworthy that Federer won just 54 percent of the points he played. While holding the record for most home runs, NY Yankee baseball legend Babe Ruth also held the record for most strike outs. In his rookie year, American Football quarterback Peyton Manning set the season record for interceptions. Basketball champion Michael Jordan had a 57 percent success rate, missing the basket more than 9,000 times. World champions miss a lot of shots. So will you.

Jordan credits his missed baskets and lost games for his success. What Manning learned in his rookie year propelled him to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Successful athletes recognize failures as learning opportunities.

They get right back in the game.

Demand excellence of yourself, but don't expect perfection. Make every setback an opportunity to improve. That's what champions do.

THE SEA CADET SEAFARER MAGAZINE

JULY 2024 • No. 08

COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF

Sea Cadet ENS Ed Leese, NSCC from Guadalcanal Squadron in South Carolina

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RADM Andrew Lennon, USN (Retired)

CHIEF OF STAFF

Vicki Powell

MAGAZINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & GRAPHIC DESIGN LTJG Brittany DiPippo, NSCC

MAGAZINE CONTENT EDITOR LCDR Linda Wright, NSCC



Our Seafarer Magazine is Award-Winning! 2022 28th Annual Communicator Awards Award of Distinction in Newsletter-Non-Profit for Marketing/Promotion

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



facebook.com/ usnscc

instagram.com/ americaseacadets

linkedin.com/company/ u.s.-naval-sea-cadet-corps

SEA CADET HEADQUARTERS

2300 Wilson Blvd. Suite 200 Arlington, Virginia 22201

© 2024 Naval Sea Cadet Corps, TM & © 36 USC 154106 The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, EIN 52-0808385



TU

MEADOR

2023 NATIONAL LEAGUE CADET OF THE YEAR

PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS KALL MEADOR, NLCC FROM RED RIVER BATTALION IN TEXAS

s a young child, I was interested in the military. When we visited our local mall, I would see the recruiting offices with large photos on their windows of soldiers in action, and I wanted to be just like them. I like to read, so I started reading any military books that I could find. My family and I live north of the Red River in Oklahoma on a horse ranch. After I talked about my military interest with my parents, my mom looked for some type of military group for me to join. We found the Sea Cadet Red River Battalion on Facebook. I went that weekend, met with the commanding officer, tried it out, and never looked back.

I have been in the program for two years now, and I enjoy going to every drill! The first training I attended after Navy League Orientation was Navy League Field Operations training in Oregon. I was 10 years old, 30 hours from home, and I loved it! Since then, I have attended three more training courses, including Navy League Field Operations in Missouri, Navy League Ceremonial/Honor Guard in Oregon, and Navy League Medical in Florida where I was chosen as the honor cadet.

I feel honored to be a part of my battalion. Luckily for me, it is involved with the Medal of Honor Host City Program where I have met many of my heroes. My favorite recipient of all is U.S. Army Medal of Honor recipient Allen James Lynch. I have his challenge coin!

Being chosen as the National League Cadet of the Year came as a big surprise. I try very hard to be a well-rounded example of what the Navy League Cadet Corps program is supposed to represent. I volunteer in my community. I am also involved in sports and maintain a high GPA. I raise and show rabbits. I enter every essay contest that is

available to me. My uniform is important to me, so I keep it in pristine condition. I also think it is important to be a part of a team; so when we do physical training at my unit, I cheer on my shipmates and help motivate other cadets who need help. My advice to other cadets is to be helpful to others first, take advice, learn from your leaders, keep your grades up, and get involved in everything that you can. Continually practice for your physical readiness test (PRT) so you are ready when it comes around. In the Polaris system, try to stay one rank ahead in your courses. Read and learn all about the Navy. Attend advanced trainings and meet new people.

I am grateful to my parents and the leaders in the Sea Cadets. Without support from all sides, I would not have been able to accomplish all my goals! I love being a part of this organization, and I know it will help guide me on my future path to Annapolis.



2023 NATIONAL SEA CADET OF THE YEAR

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER CLINT NEWNAM, NSCC FROM CORSAIRS SQUADRON IN MARYLAND

aving grown up in a military family, joining the Sea Cadets was a dream come true. I'd seen my father working and doing cool things in the U.S. Army; and becoming a Sea Cadet was my opportunity to do some fun military-type stuff, too! My future goal is to be a naval aviator, and the Sea Cadets provided me a path to attain my small, unmanned aircraft system (sUAS) Private Pilot Certificate through a Sea Cadet drone advanced training (AT). I also attended awesome Sea Cadet one- and two- week trainings such as the SS John W. Brown Seamanship Training (twice!), Field Operations, Rocketry, Petty Officer Leadership Academy (POLA), Marksmanship, and Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS).

My most memorable AT was in May 2023 sailing on the USS WASP. Having the opportunity to embark from Norfolk, VA on an active U.S. Navy amphibious assault ship and sail for 2 days up the east coast to New York Harbor was something not many kids can say they've done. I am extremely grateful to the Sea Cadets for giving me that opportunity! While on board, I met many sailors and Marines of various rates and specialties as well as officers of multiple communities such as surface warfare, medical, naval aviation, supply, and intelligence. Some of the activities we did were firefighting drills, watching rotary wing flight operations on the flight deck, a tour of the showcase of U.S. Marine Corps vehicles and weapons, as well as a full tour of the main ship spaces.

The pinnacle of our time on board the USS WASP was manning the rails in our Sea Cadet Service Dress

White uniforms alongside the active-duty sailors and Marines while sailing into New York Harbor. Passing the Statue of Liberty and seeing all the families on shore waving and taking pictures of their loved ones was an inspiring, patriotic, prideful moment.

If there's any advice that I could give to cadets who would love to be selected as the 2024 Sea Cadet of the Year next year, it would be to sign up for as many trainings as your family will allow you to attend! It is daunting at first to even fathom traveling to another state to attend a training where you don't know anyone, but it is absolutely worth it! The hands-on experience is nothing like you will ever have the chance to do anywhere else. The friendships you will make with fellow Sea Cadets all across the country are absolutely priceless.

Listen and learn from all the adult volunteers you come in contact with, whether they're prior military or civilian. These dedicated volunteers have a wealth of knowledge and you can always learn something! Strive for the next leadership position, whether you're in the Sea Cadets, JROTC, Civil Air Patrol, Scouts, sports teams, etc. Leadership roles are where you will learn the most. You WILL make mistakes, but that's where listening and learning from the adults comes in. They can mentor you from their experiences, and it is their advice that you will one day be able to pass down to others.

Lastly, remember that it is an honor and a privilege to wear the U.S. Navy's uniforms. How you present yourself speaks volumes about you without you having to say a word — so "speak" highly of yourself and represent the Sea Cadets with pride!

"THE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IS NOTHING LIKE YOU WILL EVER HAVE THE CHANCE TO DO ANYWHERE ELSE."



THE FRIENDSHIPS YOU WILL MAKE WITH FELLOW SEA CADETS ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE ABSOLUTELY PRICELESS."

2023 NATIONAL INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR



INSTRUCTOR MITSUE OKAMURA ELDREDGE, NSCC FROM TS KIHEI (NAS PUUNENE DIVISION) IN HAWAII



INST Eldredge is shown second from the left.

discovered the Sea Cadets when I was looking for a youth program to support my son's dream of joining the U.S. Navy after high school, just as his biological father did.

I am originally from Kobe, Japan. We live on the small island of Maui in the middle of the Pacific Ocean -- my home for the last 28 years. We are often distanced and isolated from other parts of America. The August 8, 2023 Maui wildfires in Lahaina and Kula killed 100 people and forever changed the island. We often get asked, "Were you affected by the fire?" We are so fortunate that our Sea Cadets and immediate families were okay; however, some of our Sea Cadet parents lost jobs while other relatives lost their homes. Our unit decided to pause our regular drills to serve our community by helping the VFW transport supplies to the Maui people, especially the veterans. It was a way for the Sea Cadets to honor and give back to the community.

Mahalo nui loa (Thank you very much) Sea Cadets for the opportunity and support of our future leaders.



2023 SEA CADET NATIONAL

WARRANT OFFICER SAMMUEL RICE, NSCC FROM BEN MOREELL BATTALION IN CALIFORNIA

n January 2022, while serving as a sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserve, I joined the Sea Cadets. After six months as the executive officer of the Ben Moreell Battalion and Training Ship Nicholas H. Anderson, I was appointed commanding officer.

The biggest lesson that I initially learned about myself as a CO was that I was unintentionally not trusting in my cadets with any actual leadership responsibilities. It wasn't until I volunteered at the Sea Cadet Region 11 Winter Recruit Training at Camp San Luis Obispo under the command of LCDR Pete Wright, NSCC, that I realized just how this program cultivates its adult and cadet leaders. I believe I learned more about leadership in that winter experience as well as in my short two years with the Sea Cadets than I have from the Marine Corps in the same period of time.

"A LARGE PART OF THE REASON WHY I HAVE CONTINUED TO VOLUNTEER IN THIS PROGRAM IS BECAUSE OF THE VALUABLE LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND CORE VALUES WE INSTILL IN OUR SEA CADETS."

The advice I would give to anyone is to volunteer for anything and everything in the Sea Cadets and pitch in wherever you can. Many of our greatest leaders in this program don't care if you aren't already an expert. The Sea Cadets wants to develop all its members. The more an adult volunteers with this program, the more they will learn and the better the experience cadets will have.



OFFICER OF THE YEAR



2023 SEA CADET NATIONAL REGIONAL DIRECTOR

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JOE MARTIN, SC, USN, RETIRED FROM REGION 13-2 IN CALFORNIA

y Sea Cadet experience started just over half a century ago. As a Navy League Cadet, my most memorable experience was spending a week aboard our unit's namesake ship, the USS Midway, while it was in port at Naval Air Station Alameda, CA. Even though we were young Navy League Cadets, each morning we accompanied junior U.S. Navy sailors to various storerooms. There we pulled 50 lb. sacks of sugar and flour and carried them on our backs to the bake shop. We then got to help make breakfast rolls for 1500 sailors. At 13 years old, I thought it was pretty cool doing the same job as real sailors.

At the age of 14, I moved up to the Sea Cadets in the Hancock Squadron. My most memorable experience was two weeks underway aboard the USS Coral Sea. We stood "under instruction" watches in the combat information center where we got to rotate between radar systems, use sound-powered telephones, and learn how to write backwards with a grease pencil while standing behind clear status boards – no computer displays back then. While closely supervised, we tracked real-time information while the ship was underway. The following year, I was privileged to be an exchange cadet to HMCS Quadra, British Columbia, Canada.

As a Sea Cadet adult leader, some of my most memorable experiences have been seeing former cadets do great things. Some have already retired from the military including a Navy senior chief explosive ordnance disposal technician and a Coast Guard lieutenant commander. My son, a former enlisted aviation rescue swimmer, is currently serving as a Navy officer. Today my former cadets can be found at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, NROTC and ROTC, in civilian universities, and other vocations and trades. They are all winners contributing to their communities, their families, and to our country.

The Sea Cadets provided me with an incredible opportunity to work with and respect others. To lead and to be led. The experiences provided a solid foundation for two successful, professional careers. My U.S. Navy retirement ceremony was held aboard the USS Midway Museum, now permanently berthed in San Diego, CA. The Sea Cadets allowed me to start and end my naval career on the same deck plates.

Being awarded the Sea Cadet National Regional Director Recruiter of the Year reflects the efforts of a great team: cadets sharing their experiences with friends, parents telling other adults, a dedicated regional recruiting officer, and an educator striving to broaden opportunities for his students. My role as regional director involved encouraging, mentoring, training, and answering questions from Sea Cadet commanding officers and other staff throughout the region. Travel, time away from home, research, writing, and returning calls and texts were all part of the volunteer post. As any adult volunteer in the Sea Cadets will tell you, in terms of tasks and financial reward, the job could command a six-figure salary. The real pay for volunteers, though, is watching cadets grow through their exposure to as many opportunities as possible.

"THE SEA CADETS ALLOWED ME TO START AND END MY NAVAL CAREER ON THE SAME DECK PLATES."

RECRUITER OF THE YEAR



2023 NATIONAL REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR





LIEUTENTANT COMMANDER STACY KEHOE, NSCC FROM REGION 8-9 IN TENNESSEE

While my younger sister and brother served in the Army, I really never knew the sacrifices they and other servicemen and women made for our country. Although I did not have any kind of military experience whatsoever, I enrolled to volunteer in the Sea Cadets in 2008 when my daughter, a Navy League Cadet, was almost 12 years old. I didn't know what I was signing up for at that time, but I am really glad I did! Throughout the years, I have learned and experienced so much. I have enjoyed seeing many former Sea Cadets become productive and patriotic citizens. To me, this has really been the best part of being an adult volunteer in the Sea Cadets: seeing former cadets grow up.

A year and a half ago, Sea Cadet Northwest Field Area Representative retired Captain James Jones, USN, asked me to temporarily become the regional director (RD) for Sea Cadet Region 8-9 (as I was already the regional director for 18-0, S.E.T.R.O.P.E.S). I thought I was going to be a temporary RD. As I became more involved with unit commanding officers and their Sea Cadet officers and cadets, the more I appreciated all that they did and continue to do to honor our community and country. Last year, a neighboring regional director was deployed; so CAPT Jones asked me and other regional directors to take on certain units to make sure the unit staff had someone to go to for questions and concerns, which ultimately expanded Region 8-9.

I suspect the reason I became the Sea Cadet National Regional Director of the Year for 2023 is due to my involvement in not only the Sea Cadets but also the other community activities where I volunteer. I have been volunteering in some capacity for the past 33 years, and I strongly believe it is important to give of oneself by giving back.

My advice for other regional directors is to continue to not only grow your region with new units but also look for unique volunteer opportunities outside of the Sea Cadets. By being involved in other organizations, you promote the Sea Cadet organization. Your passions are seen, and many want to help with the Sea Cadets to witness the next generation as they experience, learn, and grow.

It has been an amazing 15½ years learning and continuing to grow in the Sea Cadet program. Thank you to the Sea Cadets.





2023 SEA CADET FIELD AREA NAVY LEAGUE CADETS OF THE YEAR

SLPO RYLAN CHANG, NLCC FROM LONE SAILOR DIVISION IN FLORIDA SOUTHEAST FIELD AREA

The Sea Cadets has taught me how to keep going, which has made me a better competitive swimmer. Being a cadet has truly changed my life!



<image>

POI KAREENA KUMAR, NLCC FROM DEALEY DIVISION IN CONNECTICUT NORTHEAST FIELD AREA

"

During my time as a Navy League Cadet, I have learned the importance of responsibility and discipline, helping me not only in the program but also in my everyday life.



PO3 MACHAON WIMBERLY. NLCC FROM TS CROWS LANDING IN CALIFORNIA PACIFIC SOUTHWEST FIELD AREA

I've had the opportunity to do some really cool things as a cadet, such as go on U.S. Navy ships like aircraft carriers, destroyers, a littoral combat ship, and even a WWI submarine, which really blew my mind when I found out they went underwater with the guns mounted on the outside of it! I've gotten to climb all over different kinds of aircraft and even learned how to spool up a Black Hawk helicopter!

Rappelling training was an unforgettable experience. It was scary at first, but I learned to face my fear and push past my comfort zone, and it ended up being a lot of fun.

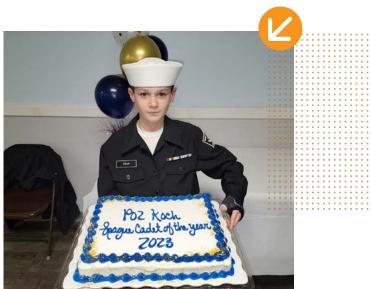


PO3 DHANANJAY GIRIDHARAN. NLCC FROM NAVAL STATION EVERETT DIVISION IN WASHINGTON NORTHWEST FIELD AREA

Whether participating in drills, seamanship training, or community service projects, I learned the value of teamwork, integrity, and perseverance.

PO2 MADDOX KOCH, NLCC FROM STARS AND STRIPES DIVISION IN INDIANA NORTH CENTRAL FIELD AREA

My summer trainings will include learning objectives, building a love for aviation, fundamentals of flight, aircraft design, aviation history, and much more. This is just a little bit of what the Sea Cadets has given me. If you're looking to be a part of the Navy or any part in the military, I recommend the Sea Cadets because it has given me so many opportunities, and there is still so much more to come as I continue in the Sea Cadet program.





2023 SEA SEA CADETS OF THE YEAR



CPO OLIVIA RIEDL, NSCC FROM LONE STAR SQUADRON IN TEXAS SOUTH CENTRAL AND PUERTO RICO FIELD AREA



I was able to attend countless aviation trainings and was even able to attend a training where I not only learned about but also got to physically work on F-18's for two weeks. Some of the coolest things I learned during this training were how to swing engines on the jet, tighten fasteners, and even launch jets for takeoff!

Because of my passion for the Sea Cadets, I never lost my inspiration to continue bettering myself and reaching my goals. Earlier this spring, I earned my appointment to Sea Cadet chief petty officer; shortly thereafter, I obtained my Private Pilot Certificate and received my gold wings. I will always appreciate the support that my unit showed me for these two events.

PO1 KAYLI WONG, NSCC FROM NAVAL STATION EVERETT DIV IN WASHINGTON NORTHWEST FIELD AREA

Starting out as a Sea Cadet recruit, I was shy with a soft voice; but my shipmates, officers, and the leaders I have met at my unit and at advanced trainings invested their energy and time into helping me become a leader who is not afraid to speak up.





PO3 RYAN WILSON, NSCC FROM AURORA DIVISION IN ILLINOIS NORTH CENTRAL FIELD AREA

Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and take a risk. Challenges are meant to be overcome.

POI EMMIE JUSTICE, NSCC FROM CLERMONT BATTLION IN FLORIDA SOUTHEAST FIELD AREA



The guidance and wisdom the adult staff have extended to me and my fellow cadets has helped me not only advance through the Sea Cadet program but also in my schoolwork and community.

CPO AIDEN FERNANDEZ, NSCC FROM PAUL REVERE DIVISION IN CALIFORNIA PACIFIC SOUTHWEST FIELD AREA

Every training was a new experience for me and a new way for me to learn about myself. Everyone in my life was very supportive and helped me each step of the way.



2023 SEA CADET FIELD AREA INSTRUCTORS OF THE YEAR

INST JOEL DAVIS, NSCC FROM COLONEL OLA LEE MIZE DIVISION IN ALABAMA SOUTH CENTRAL AND PUERTO RICO FIELD AREA

> The Colonel Ola Lee Mize Division is building a unit family with the motto of "Failure to train is training to fail."

INST LUKE MARTEL, NSCC FROM DAN HEALY DIVISION IN MAINE NORTHEAST FIELD AREA

Sea Cadet Recruit Training had some of the longest weeks of my life, but some of the most rewarding as I was able to help guide the division's cadet leaders as well as the recruits to graduation day. Since that recruit training, my focus has been to help Sea Cadets lead with honor, respect, commitment, and service.



ENS STEVE ANDREWS, NSCC FROM PATHFINDER SQ IN GEORGIA SOUTHEAST FIELD AREA

If you are a volunteer, do your best to take on an escort officer role at a training. Time is precious, and time off work is hard to get; but donating a week of vacation to serve and to contribute to the growth in the cadets at Sea Cadet Recruit Training from Day 1 to Day 9 is well worth it. I did not join the Sea Cadets for recognition; I did it for the kids.



ENS ROB BAUGHMAN, NSCC FROM BLUE ANGELS SQUADRON IN WASHINGTON NORTHWEST FIELD AREA

I really enjoy working with the cadets, and there is nothing more rewarding than watching a Sea Cadet learn and grow and become confident in what they are doing.

INST BENJAMIN BURKHOLDER, NSCC FROM CLEVELAND DIVISION IN OHIO NORTH CENTRAL FIELD AREA



Being part of the Sea Cadets has been a great way to give back to the community and help prepare our cadets for whatever their next goals and aspirations are in life. We consistently remind our cadets that this is a unique program, and cadets should take advantage of every opportunity they can.



2023 SEA CADET FIELD AREA OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

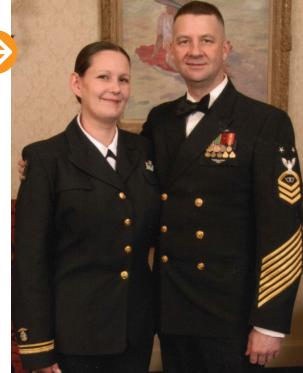
ENS ED LEESE, NSCC FROM GUADALCANAL SQUADRON IN SOUTH CAROLINA SOUTHEAST FIELD AREA



With the help of an extremely involved adult staff, we have been able to do things that some units will never experience. We've worked with helicopter aquatic rescue teams, the U.S. Coast Guard, conducted welding classes, and a myriad of other colorful drills. We have a mantra at the unit level: I say "Expectations!" The cadets reply, "And obligations!" All of our cadets actually attended their respective trainings at the same location last summer. They have a strong bond and desire to stay together and work together as a team.

LTJG SHANNA CANN, NSCC FROM BATTLESHIP MISSOURI DIVISION IN MISSOURI SOUTH CENTRAL AND PUERTO RICO FIELD AREA

Between the hours spent at monthly drills surrounded by your peers, immersing yourself and exploring military occupations at Sea Cadet trainings across the country, such as learning land navigation, practicing room clearing, vehicle maintenance, even lifesaving medical training and more, you will form lifelong friendships and self-confidence along the way. The satisfaction felt from meeting and even surpassing the expectations you and others would have believed you were capable of makes every minute spent sweating, studying, and training worth it. Helping those around you realize their strengths and challenging them to bigger and better goals allows you both to achieve what the Sea Cadet Corps is all about: Building Leaders of Character.



LCDR DANIEL WAYESHE, NSCC FROM AURORA DIVISION IN ILLINOIS NORTH CENTRAL FIELD AREA

I enjoy traveling, meeting people, and participating in Sea Cadet activities. I have also made life-long friends along the journey. I have enjoyed the experience of being able to train, inspire, and assist in the molding of so many boys and girls in the Sea Cadets to become the adults of future successes.



LCDR ANGEL USCANGA, NSCC FROM IRON SIDE DIVISION IN OREGON NORTHWEST FIELD AREA

My journey with the Sea Cadets began in 1995 as a young Sea Cadet with the Linfield Division. As an adult leader in the program, I find immense fulfillment in fostering meaningful relationships with fellow adult leaders aiming to enhance opportunities for cadets both present and future.



Sea Cadets also honors LTJG Gregory Peters, NSCC from the Harlan R. Dickson Division in New Hampshire who was awarded the 2023 Sea Cadet Field Area Officer of the Year, Northeast Field Area.

LTJG PATRICIA WASHINGTON-GORDON, NSCC FROM REGION 12-5 IN CALIFORNIA PACIFIC SOUTHWEST FIELD AREA

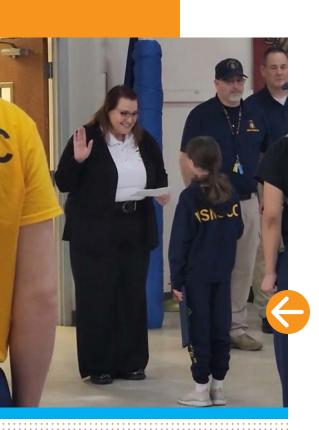
I am in awe of how our service members, cadet families, and those in our communities are willing to donate their time to help mentor and support the Sea Cadet program. I am entering my 10th year in the Sea Cadets and have enjoyed every moment. My mission will always be to mentor, encourage, and empower our youth. I have come full circle and am so proud to be a part of today's Sea Cadets.

2023 SEA CADET FIELD AREA FIELD AREA REGIONAL DIRECTOR RECRUITERS OF THE YEAR



Sea Cadets also honors LCDR Melva Cordova, NSCC from Region 03-5 in New York who was awarded the 2023 Sea Cadet Regional Director's Recruiter of the Year, Northeast Field Area.





LCDR JENNIFER WEGGEN, NSCC FROM REGION 5-3 IN VIRGINIA SOUTHEAST FIELD AREA



I encourage fellow adult volunteers to leverage their unique skills and experiences to enrich the Sea Cadet program. Effective recruiting is more than just handling referrals, it requires us to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone feels integral and valued. Together we can build a thriving organization that not only grows but also leaves a lasting impression on the lives of our cadets.

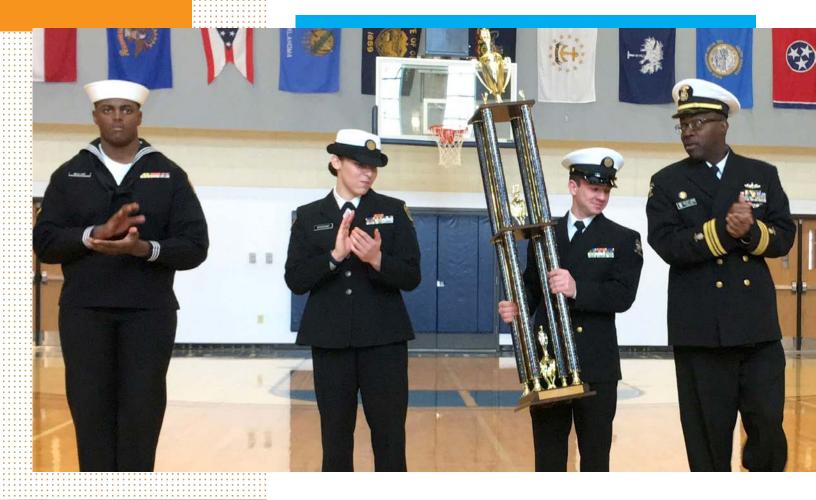
LCDR TONIA PEACH-LERNER, NSCC REGION 9-4 IN MICHIGAN NORTH CENTRAL FIELD AREA

The most rewarding aspect of being an adult volunteer has been working with our Sea Cadets, seeing how they develop within the program, and then watching how they continue to do other things such as pursuing military colleges, enlisting in a branch of the service, or moving on to a college or trade school.

LCDR JEFF ANDERSON, NSCC FROM REGION 5-3 IN VIRGINIA SOUTHEAST AREA



I would like to thank my late mother for forcing me to join the Sea Cadet program in 1985 at age 15 and not allowing me to quit. That was the greatest decision of my life because I would not have been successful in life or in my 24-year U.S. Navy career, retiring as a chief petty officer, without the Sea Cadet program.





LCDR SHANNON MONTGOMERY, NSCC FROM REGION 9-9 IN KENTUCKY NORTH CENTRAL FIELD AREA

Thanks to the Sea Cadets and their adult leadership courses and support, I've had success because the Sea Cadets is about providing opportunities for cadets and adult volunteers.

I've watched so many start out as young League Cadets and grow into men and women serving in the military or in civilian jobs, which may have all started with the exposure to a Sea Cadet advanced training. I am as proud of these cadets as if they were my own. How can I walk away from that?!

2023 SEA CADET FIELD AREA REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF THE YEAR

LCDR DOUG ANDERSON, NSCC FROM REGIONS 4-4, 4-5, 4-6 IN MARYLAND NORTHEAST AREA



I've allowed adult volunteers and cadet leaders to auide their units. Adult volunteers don't spend their entire weekend with us each month or drive or fly to trainings because we pay them, they volunteer because they want to make a difference. This program is doing more than building tomorrow's leaders, it's also enhancing today's adult leaders.

LCDR RAMON CASAS. NSCC FROM REGION 11-20 PACIFIC SOUTHWEST FIELD AREA

While teaching a Sea Cadet Petty Officer Leadership Academy in California after COVID, I realized the effects of isolation were farreaching throughout our youth. Seeing the needs of our cadets, listening to them, and working alongside them has given me the greatest insight as to what we as a national program need to provide for our cadets.

It's awesome meeting cadets from across the nation and working with the adult volunteers. I love the camaraderie that is built among the cadets as well as the adult staff both at trainings and within units.



2023 ANNUAL INSPECTION WINNERS

TRAVIS MANION BATTALION IN NEW JERSEY 2023 JOHN J. BERGEN TROPHY AWARD Highest annual inspection score among all inspected Sea Cadet units in the nation

Our driving motivation has been to develop leaders. Despite the prestige of the John J. Bergen Award, our goal remains to develop leaders and citizens who positively impact their communities and nation. Inspired by 1stLt Travis Manion's words, "If not me, then who," we empower cadets to lead their own development with adult staff providing guidance and support.

Our dedicated cadet and adult staff's commitment to our mission is truly inspiring. This award recognizes their tireless efforts and our cadets' achievements.

Throughout the year, cadets lead training exercises, community service projects, and peer mentoring programs. Initiatives like Operation Toy Train, Wreaths Across America, and Decoration Day instill civic responsibility.

Our training program challenges cadets with handson training, team-building exercises, and leadership discussions, preparing them for future success. As we celebrate, we reaffirm our commitment to our guiding principles, continuing to shape tomorrow's leaders, and always asking, "If not me, then who?"



TS PAMPANITO IN CALIFORNIA 2023 MORGAN L. FITCH, JR. AWARD *Highest annual inspection score among all inspected League Cadet Training Ships in the nation*

TS Pampanito, based at Camp Parks in Dublin, CA, has earned the distinction of being the top Navy League Cadet Corps (NLCC) unit. This recognition, driven by exceptional recruitment and retention rates, highlights the unit's commitment to excellence, community engagement, and cadet development. TS Pampanito's recruitment success is rooted in its strong community ties. Active involvement with organizations like the American Legion and Veterans

of Foreign Wars in Pleasanton, CA, has boosted the unit's visibility. Participating in three color guard or public events monthly, the unit effectively attracts new recruits.

Proximity to schools and historical performance also play a crucial role. Cadets share their enriching experiences, creating a powerful word-of-mouth promotion that draws new members.

The unit's focus on the Seamanship Challenge has been pivotal for retention. Victories in recent challenges inspire continuous improvement and foster a competitive spirit.

Winning the top NLCC unit award underscores TS Pampanito's dedication to community engagement, cadet development, and high military standards. The cadets' achievements bring immense pride to the community.



2023 ANNUAL INSPECTION WINNERS

LONE STAR SQUADRON/TS LONE STAR IN TEXAS 2023 GEORGE S. HALAS AWARD

Highest annual inspection score among all inspected combined Sea Cadet units and League Cadet Training Ships sponsored by the same organization

The unit was thrilled to be recognized as the top Sea Cadet combined unit in the nation, a testament to our cadet-led approach. Cadets plan and execute drills under adult oversight, providing a safe environment to learn from failures while teaching leadership and teamwork.

RADM CHARLES W PARKS BATTALION IN CALIFORNIA 2023 ANTHONY H. MURRAY, SR. SEAMAN AWARD Sea Cadet unit with the most cadet advancements to E-3 during the calendar year (Award tied with Grey Ghost Division)

Our unit's success relies on four key ideals: focused adult staff, disciplined structure, community involvement, and motivated cadets. Adult staff lead by example, engage with local veterans' groups, and support cadets in developing leadership skills, consistently placing us in the national Top 10 Sea Cadet units.

7 ZULU SQUADRON IN MASSACHUSETTS 2023 NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA CHALLENGE AWARD

Sea Cadet unit that ranks in the top ten for annual inspection scores in the NSCC and shows the most improvement from the previous year

Our committed cadets formed a strong foundation, excelling in coursework, training, and leadership roles. They welcomed and onboarded new recruits, driving our success. Embracing a "minds-on, hands-on" mantra, each drill was mentally stimulating and physically engaging, ensuring continuous development and high achievement.





GREY GHOST DIVISION IN CALIFORNIA 2023 ANTHONY H. MURRAY, SR. SEAMAN AWARD Sea Cadet unit with the most cadet advancements to E-3 during the calendar year (Award tied with RADM Charles W. Parks Battalion)

Our successful annual inspection was due to diligent adult volunteers and input from chief petty officers and senior cadets. We restructured the chain of command for better communication and accountability, opened new leadership positions, encouraged community service, kept cadets informed about promotions, and promoted additional training opportunities.

7 ZULU SQUADRON IN MASSACHUSETTS 2023 CHAIRMAN'S AWARD FOR RECRUITING/RETENTION

Sea Cadet unit with the most cadets recruited/retained during the calendar year

Squadron 7 Zulu boosted recruitment by partnering with local military recruiters and designating a volunteer solely for recruiting. This volunteer followed up on leads, answered questions, and welcomed families. Partnerships with Navy, Army, National Guard, and Coast Guard recruiters provided productive event invitations and promoted us to interested high school students.



TS PAMPANITO IN CALIFORNIA 2023 PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR RECRUITING/RETENTION League Cadet Training Ship with the most cadets recruited/retained during the calendar year

Our cadets are truly the most important aspect of our success. We recruit motivated cadets who embrace the military structure. Guided by our dedicated Sea Cadet petty officers, cadets receive personalized mentorship, fostering a supportive environment. Cadets progress, gain leadership skills, and take pride in their unit and success, demonstrated by many being named honor cadet at advanced trainings.

2023 PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

The Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) is an award given by the President of the United States to recognize Americans who have contributed an extensive amount of community service hours in a 12-month calendar year.

Here is how many of our volunteers won bronze, silver, or gold awards in 2023:

- 1,042 bronze awardees contributed 100–249 hours
 - **358** silver awardees contributed 250–499 hours
 - **69** gold awardees contributed 500+ hours

335,967

total community service hours our volunteers contributed in 2023

ENS GABRIELLE STEWART, NSCC FROM AMERICAN VICTORY DIVISION IN FLORIDA SILVER AWARD

They are not all my children, but during promotions and on graduation day, if only for a moment, they all feel like my kids because I was a part of helping them get to that point. The most rewarding part of the Sea Cadets for me has been watching cadets be promoted and graduate from trainings.

ENS ROBERT HUBER, NSCC FROM CENTURION BATTALION IN FLORIDA BRONZE AWARD

10

of our 2023 PVSA winners wrote about

why they volunteer for our youth program

Seeing the positive results increases my motivation and sense of contribution. The most impactful moment as a volunteer this year was competing with our SeaPerch ROV team, especially since it was our first competition.





INST TONY ALMON, NSCC FROM SOUTHEAST AREA TRAINING GROUP 2 SILVER AWARD

The Sea Cadet NSWOC staff adopted the mindset that we all CAN and WILL make positive changes in cadets' lives. My most memorable experience with this program was a telephone call I received from a father stating that he had never seen such a positive transformation in anyone's life like he saw in his teenage son because of the Sea Cadets.





LCDR ANDREW NASH, NSCC FROM NORTHEAST TRAINING GROUP 1 SILVER AWARD

No matter who you are, you can be a value to your cadet's unit and the entire Sea Cadet program. My children are well into adulthood and I am still here doing my best because I want to continue that course of action of making good kids great in the Sea Cadets.

LT MAURICE DAVIS, NSCC FROM ORION SQUADRON IN WASHINGTON SILVER AWARD

Being an adult volunteer with the Sea Cadets is my personal responsibility to the next generation. Celebrating and sharing unit successes is invigorating.

2023 PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD WINNERS



LTJG KEITH CROSS, NSCC FROM NAUTILUS 571 DIVISION IN CONNECTICUT SILVER AWARD

Seeing cadets learn and grow into young adults is an amazing thing, but being part of it is even better. Every adult volunteer does what they do so that they can see cadets grow and succeed in what they want to do in life, and it is worth all the countless hours we put forward to see it happen.



of the good that the Sea Cadets does for our cadets and what all of our volunteer hours have done to guide and prepare them for the next

phase of their lives.

LTJG AMANDA CHASE, NSCC FROM AMERICAN VICTORY DIVISION IN FLORIDA SILVER AWARD

I enjoy mentoring youth and giving them experiences to help shape their future. It's even further gratifying for me to encourage young women to help find their voice and contribute to leadership roles.

WO DAVID SHEETS, NSCC FROM CLEVELAND DIVISION IN OHIO SILVER AWARD

As a Sea Cadet volunteer, I have the privilege to make a difference in another's life. In a way, it has helped refine me and gives me a continued purpose.

LCDR JARED MORAVEC, NSCC FROM REGION 13-4 IN WASHINGTON GOLD AWARD

I encourage you to consider the positive impact you can have on this generation of future leaders and recall the impact others have had who helped you in your own life. The Sea Cadets cannot exist without volunteers.

BUILDING GIANTS ONE SEA CADET AT A TIME!









Join us at ATDM in Danville, Virginia for

WAYES & WRENCHES HANDFACTURING AMP

Work one-on-one with skilled trades experts and get hands-on experience with:

- Welding
- CNC Machining
- Additive Manufacturing
- Non-Destructive Testing

29 July - 2 August

Requirements: Attendees must be between 14 and 18 years of age. No prior manufacturing skills required.









GOING ASHORE: SENIORS SHARE ABOUT THEIR TIME IN SEA CADETS

CPO NATHAN MURRAY, NSCC FROM VETERANS PRIDE BATTALION IN ARIZONA

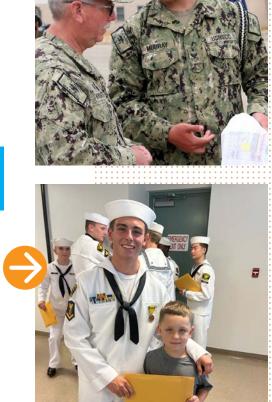
The Sea Cadets changed my life by pointing me in the right direction with discipline, attention to detail, leadership training, camaraderie, music, and so much more! I am thankful to have had the opportunity to pursue many once-in-a-lifetime trainings, leadership experiences, and regional events.



I took it on headfirst, and it has been the most rewarding experience I have ever had watching cadets develop to be better people and the best versions of themselves. If you give one hundred percent of yourself at all times, you will find yourself succeeding in places you would never have thought possible.

POI ADRIANA VISCONTE, NSCC FROM ROCHESTER (CA 124) DIVISION IN NEW YORK

This has been my dream since I was seven years old. The Sea Cadet program nurtured my aspirations of wanting to serve. I was selected by my fellow cadets to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was a rainy day, and our entire unit solemnly walked through the cemetery in our dress blues.







PO2 EVAN NEWCOMER, NSCC FROM MARYLAND (SSBN 738) DIVISION IN MARYLAND



I am thankful for the leadership examples and experiences within the Sea Cadets that have helped me grow and achieve my dreams. My advice to other Sea Cadets is to take advantage of all opportunities: drills, trainings, color guard, cadet staffing, etc., and to network with everyone you meet! It will have an impact on your future goals.

PO2 FISCHER SKROCH, NSCC FROM BLUE ANGELS SQUADRON IN WASHINGTON

My plan is to enlist into the Navy as a hospital corpsman. The Sea Cadets was one of the deciding factors why I wanted to join the Navy. The Sea Cadets is a gateway to many opportunities, so explore it to the best of your ability.

GOING ASHORE

PO3 ETHAN VAIANI, NSCC FROM FT LAUDERDALE DIVISION IN FLORIDA



Extraordinary experiences in this youth program is why I have become more confident in myself, as these experiences have forced me out of my comfort zone and helped me develop as a person. Enjoy what you have and take advantage of all the opportunities that the Sea Cadets present. Time goes by fast, and time does not wait for anyone.

CPO JOHN KUEHNE, NSCC FROM BOCA DELRAY DIVISION IN FLORIDA

The Sea Cadets taught me that you can do anything you set your mind to. Witnessing the growth and improvement of the cadets we mentored was immensely fulfilling. It was through the Sea Cadets that I learned the importance of exploring new opportunities, as they may lead to unexpected passions.

POI KYLE STODDARD, NSCC FROM THE SULLIVANS DIVISION IN NEW YORK

It all changed for me when I went to a Sea Cadet Color Guard training at SUNY Maritime College. The Sea Cadets helped me come to this decision by showing me the fun in drill and ceremonies as well as the importance of education and knowing how to do your job to the best of your abilities. My advice to my fellow cadets is to go to as many trainings as possible, specifically out-ofstate trainings.

PO2 AMBER MILEWSKI, NSCC FROM THE SULLIVANS DIVISION IN NEW YORK



Once I joined the Sea Cadets, my mind changed, and the military was on my mind. I would have never chosen to enlist in the U.S. Navy without being a part of this youth program. Don't hold yourself back by being afraid or unsure. Anyone can do anything if they want it badly enough. Take what you can from this program. You can learn and see so much; and if you have the chance, take it.





GOING ASHORE



CPO BELLA CABATIT, NSCC FROM RADM CHARLES W PARKS BN IN CALIFORNIA

The Sea Cadets really opened me up to a lot of opportunities teenagers don't usually get the chance to experience. Joining the program brought me out of my shell. The Sea Cadets will help you grow as a person, strengthen your character, develop routine in your day-to-day life, and enhance your leadership skills in both your academic and personal life.

CPO JASMINE CHAPIN, NSCC FROM COURAGEOUS DIVISION IN INDIANA

Joining the Sea Cadet program has brought me closer to my father, a master chief in the Navy, allowing me to learn alongside him as both a cadet and Sea Cadet chief within the program. The volunteers' determined commitment has significantly strengthened the program's learning environment and their investment of personal time has truly uplifted the educational experience for all involved. Seize the chance to develop new skills and broaden your horizon of knowledge and leadership concepts.

CPO AIDEN FERNANDEZ, NSCC FROM PAUL REVERE DIVISION IN CALIFORNIA

My Sea Cadet experience helped me discover who I am as a person, to learn who I wanted to be, and what I wanted to do from firsthand experience. Enjoy your moments and smile to everyone you come across. Stay humble and flexible so you can work with anyone because you can never do anything alone, and ask for help when you need it.



PO3 CAMILLE GUEVARA, NSCC FROM HANCOCK SQ IN CALIFORNIA

Every experience, training, event, and drill in the Sea Cadets has played a pivotal role in shaping me into the person I am today. It reinforced my belief in the power of community and the importance of lifting up one another. To all the aspiring cadets out there, I urge you to follow your heart, persevere in the face of challenges, never fear failure, and always believe in yourself.

GOING ASHORE

CPO DERREK BITNER, NSCC FROM ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG-51) DIVISION IN INDIANA

Over these past six years, the Sea Cadets has helped me develop the grit to push myself further than I could have ever imagined. My advice to cadets is to keep moving. Persevere. Life will always throw challenges your way, but facing them is what makes you grow. Leadership in the Sea Cadets isn't about barking orders, it's about taking what you have learned and putting it into practice in such a way that those around you can learn from your work.

PO2 LUIS D. SANCHEZ, NSCC FROM PASADENA DIVISION IN CALIFORNIA

I will be reporting to Cal Maritime Academy this August. My Sea Cadet career has been nothing short of an adventure full of opportunity and fun.

CPO HOPE EHLERS, NSCC FROM SOC STEPHEN M. MILLS BATTALION IN TEXAS

If you come across something that you think you might be interested in, go ahead and do it. There are so many different opportunities to travel and experience at Sea Cadet trainings. After my time in the Navy and while finishing college, my intention is to continue towards a forensics degree and get a job as a medical examiner.



Dear Seniors,

Congratulations on your remarkable achievements! Your dedication, hard work, and perseverance have not only set a high standard but also inspired everyone at Sea Cadet Headquarters.

As you embark on the next exciting chapter of your lives, know that we are incredibly proud of all you've accomplished. We wish you the very best in your future endeavors.

> Fair winds and following seas, Sea Cadet Headquarters Staff

THE SEA CADETS LEADERSHIP SOCEITY

Sea Cadets Leadership Society recognizes donors who give \$1,000 or more annually. The extraordinary generosity of Leadership Society members enables our Cadets to enjoy life-changing experiences and prepare for life as young adults. Thank you to our Leadership Society members!*

Anonymous (4) Keith Larson, J.D. **Richard and Linda Ashbey** Dr. Christopher M. Lehman, Ph.D. The Lennon Family Lynn Atkinson, M.D. Robert E. Love William Bass Brightfunds - Vmware Luke McCollum Rear Admiral Timothy Moon, USN (Ret.) **Benjamin Brown** Rear Admiral Michael Browne, USN (Ret.) Ken O'Keefe CDR Thomas O'Malley, USN (Ret.) Anthony Cowden **Thomas Fitzpatrick** Vincent Vince Patton Mike Quilty John Fluke Peter Gaudet Brian Smith John Sutter Michael Gill Rear Admiral Robin Graf, USN (Ret.) Kelsey Swerdfeger Jennifer Gregg Tom and Allison Vranas Rear Admiral JR Haley, USN (Ret.) Karen Virtue Ronney & Donna Wright, FORCM (Ret.) Scott Hamilton Sarah Higgins **Ron Higgs Hirth Family Foundation** Steve Karoly Patrick Joseph Kearney Anju Kettish **Thomas Klomps** George Kovatch Ms. Rene' Kretovics

*Leadership Society members June 1, 2023–June 20, 2024.

Scan the QR code to join the Sea Cadet Leadership Society. To learn more and join the Leadership Society, visit www. seacadets.org/donate-now. If you have any questions contact Jennifer Gregg at development@seacadets.org.

WE SALUTE OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

Becoming a corporate partner for Sea Cadets offers numerous benefits for social responsibility and business goals.





Corportate Partners as of March 15, 2024

To learn more about the corporate partnership program, contact Jennifer Gregg at development@seacadets.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ARTICLE BY: LCDR LINDA WRIGHT, NSCC & LTJG BRITTANY DIPIPPO, NSCC SEA CADETS HQ, PAO DEPARTMENT

We welcome you to write us a short note sharing your thoughts, experiences, and questions! This is a great way to practice your writing skills. Submit your letters to the editor via email to pao@seacadets.org We look forward to hearing from you!



SEEKING ARTICLES FOR OUR NEXT SEAFARER MAGAZINE

Email all articles to us at: pao@seacadets.org

CADETS, VOLUNTEERS, AND ALUMNI: YOUR WORDS COULD BE HERE!

Article Topics We're Looking For: Summer Training Experiences & Local Navy League Partnerships

All articles are good articles and we can also help you write your story!

Articles are 300-500 words long and must be submitted with 3-5 photos.

SEA CADET CHIEF PETTY OFFICER LIST

Bravo Zulu to these exceptional leaders of character! Advancements from **01 MAR 24 to 30 MAY 24**

| Ching-Ying Chen | Nathan Keeney | Alexsander Roshto |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Brianna Cutler | Olivia Keesor | Jaxon Shipley |
| Matthew Davila | Emily Kiesel | Vaden Smith |
| Trenton Dees | Alexander Landry | Ashok Tanner |
| Jiannah Faith DeGuzman | Krystin Lidster | Ashok Tanner |
| Mario DeNicola | Jonathan Manuzon | Ashok Tanner |
| Rebekah DeOliveira | Liam McKelvey | Colby Townsend |
| Daniel Desmarais | Iroda Muhammadiyeva | Jacob Trimble |
| Nora Farkas | Nehemiah Nguyen | Gabrielle Virtue |
| Sarah Fleischer | Yosefa Orloff | Adriana Visconte |
| Leah John | Michelle Peck | Leyna Vo |
| Emmie Justice | Shelby Roberts | Maguire Weiland |

JOIN FORCES WITH US AT SEACADETS.ORG