



For many Sailors, entry into the Navy didn't begin in a recruiter's office. It started when they were members of the [Naval Sea Cadet Corps](#) (NSCC).

The Corps recently celebrated 35 years of partnership with the sea services. During those years, the "Sea Cadets" have provided hands-on training to young men and women ages 13 to 17 from across the country, while instilling the values of pride, service and patriotism.

NSCC was established in 1958 by the [Navy League of the United States](#) at the request of the Navy "to create a favorable image of the Navy on the part of American youth."

The program's goals include creating an appreciation of Navy history, customs and traditions as well as making members aware of the prestige of a military career. Because of the advantages gained by belonging to the Sea Cadets, many members join the military after high school graduation, either by enlisting or through various college and academic programs.

But the objectives of the Sea Cadets encompass more than preparing young people for a career in the armed forces. They include preparing for life by developing the positive qualities of patriotism, courage, self-reliance, confidence, strong moral character, good citizenship and a drug-free lifestyle.

The highlight of the program is the unparalleled training opportunities throughout the fleet. After two weeks of summer "boot camp," Sea Cadets have a multitude of high-adventure programs, each 10- to 14-days long.

Many successful Sailors began their career as Sea Cadets. RADM Charles J. Beers Jr., Commander, Submarine Group 10, Kings Bay, Ga., started his naval career as a Sea Cadet in southern California. Master Chief Leo Brand II, returned to the Corps after retiring from the Navy and is the commanding officer of a Sea Cadet command in central Florida.

"It's a great way to see if the sea services are where you belong," said Beers. "It gave me a leg up to decide that I wanted to go into the Navy."

Local drills take place at local military installations, veterans' facilities, community centers or schools. Training includes leadership, seamanship, aviation, marching and safety. For those who want to go further afield, the opportunities for interaction with sea cadets from other nations are available. Exchanges with Canada, Great Britain and Bermuda are routine. The advancement of e-mail and availability of computers in the home led to the development of an on-line "Sea Cadet Muster" for members of the international Sea Cadet Corps.

The web site provides the opportunity to exchange ideas on uniforms in the United States, find out about sail training classes in Great Britain or read about how members became part of the Sea Cadets. A number of friendships begin with the muster, and develop as cadets and leaders meet during training exchanges.



League cadet Sharon Wheatley, of the New England Region, Fleet Reserve Association Constitution Division, heaves a line during a flagship competition.



Sea Cadets are exposed to all types of training. Here, they begin to "learn the ropes" aboard USS Constitution.

Dedicated adult volunteers - mostly active-duty, Reserve or retired Sailors - proudly wear the uniform of a Naval Sea Cadet Corps officer and provide volunteer management of divisions, squadrons and battalions home ported in communities throughout the United States.

The Navy's Core Values of Honor, Courage and Commitment are the bedrock for the Sea Cadets' Core Values of Pride, Service and Patriotism. "We're proud to wear the Navy's uniform and are proud to be part of the Navy and Coast Guard Family," said Brand.

There are units in most major areas of Navy and Coast Guard concentration. For further information on how you or a young person you know can join, write:

**United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps
2300 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201
or call (703) 243-6910.**

And, yes, you can e-mail them at: nscchq@erols.com.



Return to the Contents Page