



Foggy

Time: 8:00 am

Temp: 30

RealFeel Temp:® 34

Humidity: 100

Winds: Calm

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Marion students get military experience

By Sally Barber, Cadillac News

MARION — Garrett Rosser and Sean Taylor are getting a head start on their career while only freshmen in high school.

Both are members of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. The Sea Cadets is a semi-military youth program providing training in seagoing skills and development of virtues such as patriotism, courage and self-reliance.

“I’ve been interested in a military career for a while,” Rosser said. “If you are in it you go into the military at a higher rank.”

Rosser and Taylor are the only participating youth from Osceola, Wexford and Missaukee counties. They decided to change the equation and organized a recruiting drive at Marion High School. Dressed in full uniform, they set up an



informational station and gave classmates reasons for becoming members.

“You learn good leadership. You learn to listen and learn responsibility,” Rosser said.

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Sean Taylor is getting a head start on his military career as a student at Marion High School through the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps., a youth program that provides training in seagoing skills and virtues.

He didn't forget to mention it's fun and offers opportunities for travel.

As a result of the recruitment drive, several students are in the process of seeking parental permission to join the Navy family.

Garret and Taylor will attend boot camp at Great Lakes Ill. next summer, the same camp all Navy recruits attend.

“It's an accelerated training course. They get 10 to 12 weeks of training in two weeks,” said Lt. Commander Dan Tinney. “After they get out, they are eligible to go to trainings across the United States for training in seamanship, homeland security, firefighting and master of arms.”

Taylor hopes to take advantage of the training opportunities.

“I've been thinking about Pearl Harbor and Japan,” he said. “At Pearl Harbor you learn to put out ship fires and in Japan you learn engineering.”

Tinney's Sea Cadet unit covers the territory from south of Mount Pleasant north, including portions of the Upper Peninsula. Once a month the 40 cadets meet at Camp Grayling for weekend where they have their own mess hall and barracks.

“It's different. You can't do what you do at home,” Taylor said. “You do physical workouts, learn military words and terms and naval flags.”

The Sea Cadet program accepts youth from ages 13 to 17 who have parental permission and who have undergone a medical examination similar to a school sports physical. Annual dues are \$50. Uniforms are made available to cadets at a minimal cost. Parents are responsible for providing transportation to training meetings.

Rosser's mother, Irene, is enthusiastic about her son's involvement in the cadets and believes her time in supporting her son's involvement is time well invested.

“I think it's a good thing for him to learn about the military. It's a good experience — teaches respect and things they need to know,” she said. “The moment he puts on the uniform, it's 'yes, ma'am and no, sir.' ”

Youths interested in learning more about the cadets are invited to attend a weekend session at Camp Grayling. Call Lt. Commander Tinney at (231) 587-9204.

Your local connection

- Program: U.S. Naval Sea Cadets
- Who is eligible: Youth ages 13 to 17
- Purpose: To foster good citizenship and an interest and appreciation for seagoing services
- Membership requirements: Must be unmarried, enrolled in school, have parental consent and possess good moral character and be able to attend weekly or monthly drills
- What Sea Cadets learn: Naval history, customs, traditions, seamanship, navigation and similar subjects
- Fees: \$50 annual dues
- Opportunities: Sea Cadets have the chance to travel to Naval and Coast Guard training sites throughout the country during the summer training period.
- For more information: Call (231)587-9204

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