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U.S. Navy and Sea Cadets Volunteer for the Governor's Run

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BREMERTON, Wash. (NNS) -- Sailors from Navy Region Northwest and Sea Cadets from Naval Base (NB) Kitsap Bangor volunteered at Washington's 25th annual "Bob Merriman Memorial Governor's Run" at the Kitsap Pavilion on May 5 and 6.

The charity event started in 1983 when Bob Merriman kicked off the first Chapter "B" Benefit Run for handicapped children. Since then, the event has evolved into a fund-raiser for the Infants and Toddlers Program of Holly Ridge Center Inc. of Kitsap County and the learning and assistance program for developmentally disabled children.

"For the past 24 years, the event has raised more than \$295,000. This year, I think it will be bigger," said Mike White, Governor's Run coordinator. "We got a lot of active-duty service members to register for the motorcycle event. Many volunteers from the Navy helped out with security."

More than 3,000 people from all over Washington state attended the event. Participants had the chance to enjoy music, food, games and a motorcycle light parade in the evening.

The Governor's Run was sponsored by international, national and local businesses.

Chief Machinist's Mate (SS) Daniel Hasting, Navy Submarine Support Center, said the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets helped with parking assistance and provided security for the motorcycles parked in the lot.

"I think it's a great event for everyone in the community to enjoy together as well as contribute to those in need," said Hasting. "The children get a chance to enjoy the motorcycle shows and also do something positive for the community."

"This is my third year volunteering for the Governor's Run and we have fun being here," said Joseph Handly, volunteer from Olympic High School. "I enjoy learning about the motorcycles and knowing the money raised is going to a good cause."

The United States Naval Sea Cadets Corps provides leadership and hands-on training to youth, ages 11 to 18. The Navy has been supporting and sponsoring the program since 1958.

Ensign James Byass-Roscoe, operations officer from United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, said the Governor's Run is a great experience for the kids.

"The kids love volunteering for local events, and they get to interact with veterans who served in the military," said Byass-Roscoe. "The kids are motivated to become our future military service members and they get a head start with this program."

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