

# United States Naval Sea Cadet Program, The Adventure of a Lifetime

"Our Mission"...through organization and cooperation with the Department of the Navy, to encourage and aid American youth to develop, train them in seagoing skills, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues."

- NSCC Charter - 36 USC 1541

Since 1958 the Naval Sea Cadet Corps has been committed to providing American youth with a drug and alcohol free environment to foster their leadership abilities, broaden their horizons through hands-on training and guide them to becoming mature young adults.

Sea Cadet organizations exist in most of the maritime nations of the world. Recognizing the value of these organizations in educating youth in maritime matters, the Department of the Navy requested the Navy League of the United States to establish a similar program for American youth. The Navy League agreed to do so and formally establish the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) and Navy League Cadet Corps (NLCC) in 1958. Recognizing the importance and benefits of the NSCC, Congress on September 10, 1962 federally incorporated the Naval Sea Cadet Corps under Public Law 87-655 (36 USC 1541).

Today, the NSCC has formed partnerships with organizations such as the Foundation for Teaching Economics and the Flying Midshipman Association to offer cadets broader opportunities in areas of leadership and aviation. The NSCC also took an active part in the creation of the International Sea Cadet Association (ISCA). The ISCA is an association of Sea Cadet Corps' from around the world, whose main objective is to facilitate exchanges of cadets between member countries.

## **What is the Navy League?**

The Navy League Cadet Corps (NLCC) is for boys and girls, at least 11 but not yet 14 years old, who are interested in the sea and ships, and our nation's seagoing services. The Navy League program is designed to introduce young people to maritime and military life, and to prepare them for later entrance into the Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

## **Navy League Units**

Cadets meet or "drill" at their local unit weekly or monthly throughout the year. A unit is structured along military lines and is headed by a Commanding Officer. Units may drill on military bases, at reserve centers, local schools, or community centers.

Navy League units are organized as Training Ships or companies. NLCC training ships and companies are affiliated with Sea Cadet units and most often drill on the same day and at the same location as their sister unit.

Like Sea Cadet units, the NLCC training ship and company has one main purpose, and that is to foster team work, camaraderie and an understanding of the military command structure among cadets.

Cadets are instructed by both Sea Cadet Officers and senior Sea Cadets through classroom and applied instruction in subjects such as basic seamanship, military drill, and leadership. And most regions throughout the country hold weekend competitions where training ships and companies compete with each other to test their seamanship and military skills.

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## Training & Advancement

Navy League cadets are trained in nautical skills such as knot tying and splicing, signaling, water safety and swimming, first aid, and even fire fighting. Cadets are instructed in military drill and discipline and are taught from a syllabus covering naval history to ship nomenclature. Navy League cadets also tour ships and bases and participate in community events such as parades and fairs.

In addition, cadets have the opportunity to participate in weekend long competitions and one week long summer training held on Navy and Coast Guard bases. Week long summer training is comprised of NLCC Cadet Orientation or "mini boot camp" for new cadets, and advanced training for senior cadets.

NLCC boot camp provides intense training in military and naval subjects and an introduction to the military atmosphere. NLCC advanced training provides senior cadets with training in leadership, boat safety, and subjects relevant to prepare cadets for the Sea Cadets.

Taking part in the pride and honor of wearing the Navy uniform, and being a part of a fine organization gives the NLCC cadet a sense of service. In addition, NLCC cadets who complete one year in the program, and later enter the Sea Cadets, will enter at a higher rate. The training received in the NLCC will give cadets the experience for an easy transition to the Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

To view testimonials from former cadets please go to the [Endorsements](#) page.

## Membership Requirements

In order to join the Navy League Cadet Corps applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be between the ages of 11 and 14.
- Must be a US Citizen
- Be in good health and pass a qualifying physical examination.
- Be a full time student and maintain satisfactory grades (2.00 "C" grade point average).
- Be free of felony convictions.

## What is Sea Cadets

The Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) is for American youth ages 13-17 that have a desire to learn about the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine. Sea Cadets are authorized by the Secretary of the Navy to wear Navy uniforms appropriately marked with the Sea Cadet Corps insignia. The objectives of the Sea Cadet program are to introduce youth to naval life, to develop in them a sense of pride, patriotism, courage, and self-reliance, and to maintain an environment free of drugs and gangs.

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## Sea Cadet Units

Cadets meet or "drill" at their local unit weekly or monthly throughout the year. A unit is structured along military lines and is headed by a Commanding Officer. Units may drill on military bases, at reserve centers, local schools, or community centers.

Sea Cadet Units are organized as divisions, squadrons, or battalions. Divisions closely reflect the surface Navy, while squadrons are geared toward the field of naval aviation, and battalions meanwhile reflect Navy construction battalions (Sea Bees).

Whether a division, squadron, or battalion, the local unit has one main purpose, and that is to foster team work, camaraderie and an understanding of the military command structure.

Cadets are instructed by both Sea Cadet Officers and senior cadets through classroom and applied instruction in subjects such as basic seamanship, military drill, and leadership. And most Sea Cadet regions throughout the country hold weekend competitions where units compete with each other to test their seamanship and military skills.

Local units will often participate in community events such as parades and fairs. They may also tour Navy and Coast Guard ships and shore stations. And participate in community service such as working in Veterans' Hospitals and organizing clothing and food drives.

## Training & Advancement

Sea Cadet training consists of Navy Non-Resident Training Courses (NRTC), training evolutions (away from local units), shipboard training, and training arranged locally by units.

All new cadets enter the program at the rate of Seaman Recruit. In order for cadets to move up through the ranks they must complete the following: the NRTC Correspondence Course for that rate, one training evolution, and depending on the rate, the Navy's Military Leadership exam for that rate. NRTC's cover basic military and naval subjects such as naval history, seamanship, leadership, and ship/aircraft familiarization. The cadet rate structure parallels that of the Navy and Coast Guard's enlisted rate structure, with Chief Petty Officer being the highest rate a cadet can achieve.

Training takes place mostly during summer months and occasionally during winter and spring break periods and are generally one to two week evolutions. The first training evolution for all cadets is NSCC Recruit Training, better known as boot camp. It is a scaled down version of the Navy's boot camp. For approximately two-weeks cadets are instructed by active and reserve military personnel and Sea Cadet officers in military drill and discipline, physical fitness, seamanship, shipboard safety, first aid, naval history, and leadership.

After cadets have successfully completed boot camp, they can then participate in advanced training. Sea Cadet advanced training currently consists of the following:

- TRAINING SCHOOLS
  - AIRMAN TRAINING (BASIC & ADVANCED)

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- AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TRAINING
- FAA GROUND SCHOOL
- CULINARY ARTS TRAINING
- MEDICAL TRAINING (GENERAL, FIELD, SURGICAL & DENTAL TECH)
- FIREFIGHTING TRAINING
- PHOTO JOURNALISM TRAINING
- CEREMONIAL GUARD
- SUBMARINE SEMINAR
- MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING
- CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (SEABEE) TRAINING (BASIC & ADVANCED)
- MINE WAREFARE OPERATIONS TRAINING
- MUSIC SCHOOL
- SEAL TEAM TRAINING
- EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TRAINING
- AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING
- PETTY OFFICER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
- MASTER-AT-ARMS TRAINING (MILITARY POLICE/LAW)
- JUDGE ADVOCATED GENERAL (JAG) TRAINING
- SAILING SCHOOL
- SCUBA SCHOOL
- SEAMANSHIP TRAINING
- SHIPBOARD TRAINING
- LIVE ABOARD NAVY & COAST GUARD SHIPS & SHORE STATIONS FOR TWO-WEEKS.

Sea Cadet training is held throughout the continental United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Guam on military installations.

In addition to the above, those cadets who exhibit extraordinary initiative and leadership ability may participate in annual exchanges with Sea Cadet Corps' around the world.

- FOREIGN EXCHANGE PARTNERS
  - AUSTRALIA
  - BELGIUM
  - BERMUDA
  - CANADA
  - HONG KONG
  - JAPAN
  - NETHERLANDS
  - RUSSIA
  - SOUTH KOREA
  - UNITED KINGDOM

Cadets get to meet their foreign counterparts, experience new cultures, and get to see how the navies of the world operate.

## **Benefits**

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Depending on the rate achieved in the Naval Sea Cadets, former cadets may be eligible to enlist in the armed forces at an advanced pay grade. Being a member honorably discharged from the Corps is looked upon favorably by selection boards for military academies and ROTC programs. Also those cadets who are accepted to a four-year university may be eligible for scholarships.

The Naval Sea Cadet Corps provides its cadets the opportunity to develop their leadership skills, build their character and become productive citizens.

To view testimonials from former cadets please go to the [Endorsements](#) page.

## Membership Requirements

In order to join the Naval Sea Cadet Corps applicants must meet the following criteria:

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- Be a full time student and maintain satisfactory grades (2.00 "C" grade point average).
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## Former Cadets



**Rear Admiral Charles Beers, USN (Ret.)**  
**(Former) Commander, Submarine Group Ten**

*Former Sea Cadet*  
*PASADENA Division, Pasadena, CA*  
*DAHLGREN Division, Washington, DC*

"I joined the Naval Sea Cadet unit when it started up at the local Naval Reserve Center when I was an eighth grader in Pasadena, CA. My father was in the Navy and when transferred to Washington, D.C., I transferred to the Sea Cadet program there. I attended boot camp in San Diego as a Sea Cadet and my experience served me well when I joined the Naval Reserve and when to boot camp again . . . and for sure my entire Plebe year at the U.S. Naval Academy. I spent three years in the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and believe that it gave me great training for the future I faced then, as well as the future I look forward to now. It cemented my belief that I wanted to join the Navy; but I know that if I had not decided to pursue a Naval career, my Sea Cadet experience would help me in any field.

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**Brigadier General Hugh B. Tant, III, USA**  
**Director for Operations and Support**  
**Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army Financial Manager and Comptroller**

*Former League Cadet & Sea Cadet  
HUNLEY Division, Charleston, SC*

" I will always be grateful for my wonderful experience as a youth member of the Navy League and Naval Sea Cadet Programs. They clearly taught me to respect my people and they would respect me.

Thanks to the Naval Sea Cadet Corps for helping me achieve Flag Rank through your dynamic leadership program."



**Captain David C. Leestma, USN (Ret.)**  
**Director of Flight Crew Operations**  
**National Aeronautics & Space Administration**

*Former League Cadet  
Training Ship VAMMEN, Tustin, CA*

"I remember joining the Navy League Cadet Corps when I was in the 8th grade and was living in Southern California. A close friend's father was one of the officers in the new unit and he convinced me to attend some of the first meeting. I enjoyed the discipline, the close order

drill, the anticipation of receiving a uniform, and looked forward to actually sailing on a REAL Navy ship! We met in one of the old blimp hangars at the Marine Corps Annex in Tustin, CA. It was a thrill for me to be able to get on the base. This was my first experience with the military service and it appealed to me. My career in the Navy has been exciting and eventful -- from conning ships, to flying F-14's off aircraft carriers, to flying in space. The sense of honor and accomplishment in serving in the Navy will be with me all my life. My time spent in the Navy League Cadet Corps was the beginning of this journey with the Navy that has been a lifetime experience."



**Captain Rodney G. McFadden, USNR(MMR), MNI**  
**Assistant for Merchant Marine Affairs**

*Former Sea Cadet  
PARCHE Division, San Diego, CA*

"I was a member of the USS Parche Division in San Diego 1966-1968. My relationship ended when the Navy transferred my father to Italy. My final drill, the unit presented me with the chevron advancing me to Seaman, still one of my personal highlights. I attended the New York Maritime College and was commissioned into the Naval Reserve's

Merchant Marine Reserve in 1975.

I've spent over a decade at sea and am a licensed Master Mariner in the Merchant Marine, and a Captain, USNR. Right now (2000) I'm recalled to active duty as the OpNav Assistant for Merchant Marine and Maritime Affairs, one of only two MMR officers on extended active duty. In short, a very satisfying career all of which rests with the start I got with the Sea Cadets." June 2000

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***Captain Raymond C. Ivie, USN (Ret.)***

*Former Sea Cadet  
FORRESTAL Squadron, Dallas, TX*

"I fondly look back at the benefits that being a Sea Cadet gave me. I learned leadership, management, organization and discipline while developing honor, courage, and commitment. What more could be asked for from a youth program? I'm a believer in teaching our youth how to be good citizens, and good sailors, if they wish. In today's world of computers and the internet, it is still very important to learn how to work with people. As a Commanding Officer, I continue to benefit from the program everyday and hope others can take advantage of this unique program for many years to come."



***MCPOCG Vince Patton, USCG (Ret.)***

***Former Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard***  
*Former Sea Cadet  
JAMES M. HANNAN Division, Detroit, MI*

"By joining the Sea Cadets, I started on my road to career development as a citizen and as a leader. Although the Sea Cadet program provided me with an understanding of the sea services, it did a lot more in preparing me to understand words like honor, respect, commitment, courage, and devotion to duty. These words collectively make up the Coast Guard and Navy core values, something I have lived by and promoted."

***Are you a former cadet? We would like to hear how being a Sea Cadet and/or League Cadet affected your life. E-Mail us at: [webmaster@seacadets.org](mailto:webmaster@seacadets.org)***

# United States Naval Sea Cadet Program, The Adventure of a Lifetime

## Secretary of the Navy



***The Honorable Donald C. Winter  
Secretary of the Navy***

"The United States Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment have long represented the foundation of life on the sea. These principles guide our Sailors to victory as America continues to fight the War on Terrorism. With the training the Cadets receive in these very same core values and naval traditions, they will play a vital role as the future leaders of our great Nation.



***The Honorable Gordon England  
Former Secretary of the Navy***

"The Naval Sea Cadet Corps has a long and proud legacy of developing future leaders not only for future military service but also as good citizens in our communities."

## Chief of Naval Operations

***Admiral Gary Roughhead, USN  
Chief of Naval Operations***

"For half a century now the Sea Cadet Corps has helped countless young Americans truly understand the importance and impact of responsible citizenship. In teaching cadets about our rich naval traditions and our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, these young men and women stay on a true, even course for productive and responsible citizenship."



***Admiral Vern E. Clark, USN (Ret.)  
Former Chief of Naval Operations***

"In teaching cadets about our rich naval traditions and our Navy core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, the Sea Cadet Corps is

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laying the foundation for productive and responsible citizens."



***Admiral Jay L. Johnson, USN (Ret.)***  
***Former Chief of Naval Operations***

"Our nation's youth deserve the best care and guidance we can give them. The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps helps fulfill that goal by providing critical mentorship, training, and leadership opportunities to young people enabling them to reach their fullest potential."

### **Commandant of the Coast Guard**



***Admiral Thad W. Allen, USCG***  
***Commandant of the Coast Guard***

"The Coast Guard is proud to count you as "shipmates" in the cooperative effort to develop meaningful and valuable leadership, seamanship, and military training to youth across the country."



***Admiral Thomas H. Collins, USCG (Ret.)***  
***Former Commandant of the Coast Guard***

"The Sea Cadet program offers young people opportunities for adventure, leadership, and learning... The experience and maturity cadets gain from this experience provide a sound foundation for success in whichever direction they choose for their adult lives. I am proud that many Sea Cadets choose to continue to serve our nation as members of team Coast Guard"



***Admiral Robert E. Kramek, USCG (Ret.)***  
***Former Commandant of the Coast Guard***

"The Sea Cadet Corps has a solid record of successfully training our nation's youth in positive leadership, personal discipline, and dedicated

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service. I applaud your impressive record of preparing these fine young men and women to be responsible citizens. In addition, I very much appreciate the tremendous support the Coast Guard units nationwide receive from the augmentation by Sea Cadets each year. They display unusual maturity and professionalism beyond their years. I salute your many accomplishments."

For more information please contact your Guidance Counselor

<http://www.seacadets.org/public/contact/>

<http://www.hyseacadets.org/>

Kerry D. Williamson

USNCC

Yorktown Division