



Naval sea cadet ship Grayfox returns to Bay City today

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The U.S. Navy sea cadet ship Grayfox returns to the Saginaw River today for the ninth consecutive year.

The Grayfox, hosted by the Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum, is in town for the ship's annual training cruise. It will dock in Wenonah Park after River Roar festivities and stay through July 5.

Cruises on Grayfox are by reservation only, but the public can tour while the ship is docked. Anytime after 2 p.m., Grayfox will be available for touring. Tours are free, but donations are accepted.

The Port Huron-based ship is the largest sea cadet training vessel in the United States.

The Naval Sea Cadet Corps is for teens ages 13-17 who want to learn about the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine.

The NSCC introduces them to naval life and develops a sense of pride and patriotism.

"The whole point of hosting Grayfox is to teach the youth of our state that the price of freedom isn't free," said Mike Kegley, president of the Bay City-based Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum.

"The sea cadets are very polite and are great example for today's youth." Cadets on board provide information on naval life and general seamanship training while giving tours.

Instructed drills while on board include fire, abandon ship and man overboard. Sea cadets will also instruct on plotting a course for the ship.

The Grayfox, formerly named TR S25, originally launched to retrieve test torpedoes and targets. The ship was out of commission in 1995 and the Sea Cadet Corps. obtained the ship in 1997.

For more information about the ship and its visit to Bay City, call Kegley at (989) 686-3125 or Dick Janke at (989) 684-3946.

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