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Katy-area Sea Cadets complete training

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Thirteen members of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets, Katy Division, completed several military training courses around the country during June, July and August.

Courses included recruit, SCUBA and culinary arts training. They also had training with explosive ordinance devices, seaman training aboard a Coast Guard Cutter and summer sessions at the Naval Academy and Coast Guard Academy.

Recruit training is a nine- or 14-day version of the U.S. Navy's boot camp. At training, Sea Cadets learn Navy rules and regulations,

aquatic survival skills, how to march in formation, shoot AR-15 rifles, stand a night watch and memorize the Navy Creed.

Cinco Ranch High School student and Sea Cadet Colin Lewis, 15, attended boot camp at Recruit Training Center Great Lakes, in Great Lakes, Ill. Tyler Richard, 17, Katy-Taylor High School, attended Recruit Training in Point Hueneme, Calif.

Sea Cadets Artiom Ryder, 14; Yelena Ryder 15; Jonathon Mirea, 14; David Michalak 18; and Bryce Sumrall 13, attended boot camp at Corpus Christi Naval Air Station. Mirea and Michalak attend Katy-Taylor High School and Cinco Ranch High School, respectively, while both of the Ryders and Cadet Sumrall are home-schooled.

Lewis also completed 50 hours of training with the Navy Recruiting office in the Katy area. Activities included office support and accompanying Navy recruiters when they visited new recruits.

Michalak served on the Coast Guard Cutter Heron, Sabine Pass. He served as a crew member, working with members of the Coast Guard for 10 days, including several days at sea in the Gulf of Mexico.

Artiom and Yelena Ryder also completed nine days of onshore training at the U.S. Coast Guard Station at Sabine Pass. This included basic seamanship and small boat training with the Coast Guard.

Sea Cadets Joseph Littlefield, 17, Seven Lakes High School, and Patrick Fagan, 17, Cy-Falls High School, attended SCUBA training at Naval Station, San Diego. Littlefield also served as an instructor for new Sea Cadets at a Recruit Training in Livinia, Tenn.

David Szabo, 17, Carnegie Vanguard High School, attended a six-day summer seminar at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. This seminar covers physical training and leadership topics, and is designed for students interested in attending the Naval Academy.

Cadet Emily Branson, 14, Cy-Fair High School, attended culinary arts training on the U.S.S. Sullivan, berthed in Buffalo, N.Y. Branson learned how to cook meals that meet Navy nutrition requirements for large numbers of people, and prepared meals for recruits attending a Sea Cadet boot camp.

Cadet Ryan Dowling, 18, Katy-Taylor High School, attended the Explosive Ordinance Device/Diving Operations in Little Creek, Va. This training included SCUBA certification and learning how to disarm weapons and mines while diving.

Cadet Mathew McDaniell, 18, Katy-Taylor High School, attended a summer session at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. This session introduces candidates to the duties and skills required in the Coast Guard.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a national organization that teaches leadership skills and teamwork to youth ages 11-18 interested in learning about the U.S. Navy and the military way of life.

While no military commitment is required, many U.S. Naval Sea Cadets eventually join the armed forces.

The Katy Division Sea Cadets are active in community service projects such as the statewide beach cleanup and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Run. Cadets also assist the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9182 in Katy. They have helped restore the U.S.S. Battleship Texas and volunteered with local ambulance and firefighting organizations.

The Katy Division Sea Cadets are sponsored by VFW Post 9182 in Katy

For more information, contact Ensign Thomas Cloud by e-mailing t.cloud@sbcglobal.net, or visit the Web site at www.katyseacadets.org.

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