

FitzMall.com features:
 CarFind Search new and used | AutoMalls Find products and services

Fitzgerald AUTO MALLS
 FitzMall.com SINCE 1966

FitzWay

All vehicles have discounted, delivered, no haggle prices. Shop now!

CONGRATULATIONS SUZANNE SHECKELS
WINNER OF A \$1000 SHOPPING SPREE
 AT SIMON MORE CHOICES
BOWIE TOWN CENTER
 Rt. 197 South of US 50 & North of US 301 in Bowie

Gazette.Net

Maryland Community Newspapers Online

Now 49° | Fri 50°/42° | Sat 57°/34° | 5-day forecast | Traffic

[Advanced Search](#)

- Montgomery | Prince George's | Frederick | Carroll | Sports | Politics | Business | Entertainment | Speak Out | Jobs | Autos | Homes | Classifieds

Thursday, Dec. 27, 2007

Young Navy cadets get jump on leadership skills

Training can help students in all aspects of life

by Ryan McDermott | Staff Writer

[E-mail this article](#) | [Print this article](#)

At Andrews Air Force Base, children run drills, learn about planes and develop leadership skills. And they aren't just young military recruits in training; they are learning skills that will help them in any endeavor they choose.

More News

[WJ students serve up beautiful creations for contest](#)

[Prosecutors intend to drop manslaughter charge against man](#)

[Fence's fate could be decided on appeal](#)

[Annual report shows SoccerPlex is keeping the ball rolling](#)

[Combining religious practice with spirit of giving](#)

With the Navy Sea Cadets, boys and girls ages 10-18 can experience the rigors of the military one weekend a month throughout the year.

The unit at Andrews is called the Corsairs, after an elite aviation company, and was chartered by Congress in 1962. The Corsairs is the only program in the state that focuses on aviation. There are about 350 programs nationwide.

"This program is for kids who want a challenge that will put them above their peers," Nathan Rolfe, the Lt. Commander of the unit said. "They get to do things that their peers won't."

The program includes classroom training such as history, first aid and plane maintenance. It also includes physical training like firefighting, physical fitness and drills. The program is trying to get clearance to allow the cadets to go up into an aircraft.

The Corsairs program does not work in conjunction with schools like ROTC does. Cadets attend from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and wear uniforms like other military outfits. The younger cadets, aged 10-13, are called league cadets and do not participate in the same rigorous activities the older cadets must face. Most cadets can receive community service credit for their time.

The program, which costs \$48 for the year and includes a uniform, also gives cadets a chance to see the country. In July a group travels around the nation for advanced training. Cadets can choose any job in the Navy from medical work to S.E.A.L.S. training.

According to Rolfe, 10 percent of the Naval Academy is made up of former Sea Cadets. And many former Sea Cadets, including Rolfe, come back to volunteer.

"Sea Cadets instilled in me a sense of leadership and teamwork," Rolfe said. "I felt it was



Brenda Ahearn/The Gazette-Star
 Marcus Wilkins (left), 15, of Upper Marlboro gets help with his uniform from instructor Jacob Aubin of Copenhagen, N.Y., on Dec. 16 at Andrews Air Force Base in Camp Springs. The cadets are members of the Central Maryland Corsairs, who gather at Andrews one weekend 11 months of the year to train.

TOP JOBS

Rockville
 accounting company seeking administrative assistant for [More](#)

Experienced Maintenance Tech
 Looking for a new home? RIMSI is looking for well qualified mainten [More](#)

Advertising Sales Consultant

CLASSIFIEDS

- Jobs
- Job seekers: Create an online profile
- Homes
- Autos
- Merchandise
- Apartments
- Legals
- Announcements
- Meeting Place
- Place an ad
- Classified Guys Q&A

SEARCH DIRECTORIES

Search all directories
 or pick a category below to search now

Categories

- Pick One
- Childcare Assistance
- Childcare Wanted
- Domestic Help Wanted
- Domestic Services Offered

THIS WEEKEND

Find out where to be and what to see.

Search Gazette.Net's **NEW ONLINE COMMUNITY CALENDAR** right this second. [GO](#)

FEATURED JOBS

Experienced Maintenance Techs
 Looking for a new home? RIMSI is looking for well qualified maintenance [More](#)

Transcriptionist IMMEDIATE OPENING
 Professional services firm located in Chevy Chase, MD, specializing [More](#)

PHARMACY TECH Good
 environment. Fringe benefits. Experience preferred Call Ron 301-229-5658 [More](#)

The District Court
 for Montgomery County has the following Security positions available: Bailiff [More](#)
[See All Featured Ads](#)

Self-serve Classifieds

A few clicks now and your ad's online shortly and ready for the next Gazette/Star newspaper.

THIS WEEKEND

Find out where to be and what to see.

[Search right this second](#)

Gazette.Net

important for me to come back to the program.”

Patrick King, a 14-year-old recruit from Gaithersburg, who has risen to the rank of Airman in little more than a year, said he joined because he eventually wants to become a Navy pilot.

“I want to go into the Naval Academy and fly jets,” he said. “I’ve been wanting to do this since I was 10. A lot of my family are military officers and went to West Point or the Naval Academy.”

King hooked up with the Corsairs when he saw their recruiting stand at an air show at Andrews.

He has traveled all over the country representing the unit, including to boot camp in Port Hueneme, Calif. He also attended airman training in Ft. Worth, Texas, where he learned about building planes and studied how planes work.

But not all participants are destined for military service. Rolfe said the training these cadets receive would help in any field since the program focuses on fundamentals like leadership and teamwork.

Romelo Dowe, a 13-year-old cadet from Fort Washington, wants to use his training to help him pursue a degree in computer science in college.

“I wanted to learn leadership skills that would help me for the rest of my life,” Dowe said. “I want to take these skills and use them at a technology-oriented college.”

Dowe said he encourages children who may not even want to pursue a military life to participate in the Sea Cadets program.

“You learn all these skills you can use later on,” he said. “You get to meet new people, learn new things and do things no one else gets to do.”

E-mail Ryan McDermott at rmcdermott@gazette.net.

TO LEARN MORE

For more information on the Navy Sea Cadets program, e-mail recruiting@cmcorsairs.com or call 443-535-3764.



Copyright 2007 Post-Newsweek Media, Inc./Gazette.Net
Contact Us | About Us | Privacy Policy | FAQ | E-Letters | Place Classified ad |
The Gazette: newsroom and business office | 1200 Quince Orchard Blvd. | Gaithersburg, MD 20878 | 301-948-3120
The Gazette: administration, advertising, classifieds | 9030 Comprint Court | Gaithersburg, MD 20877 | main number: 301-670-2565,
classifieds: 301-670-2500