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## U.S. Navy Sea Cadet kids complete program

By MaryAnn Morris, INI  
Florida

This week's group of well- schooled kids graduated from the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Summer Program on Thursday, June 14 at a special ceremony lunch here in Okeechobee.



The young summer camp cadets of the US Navy Sea Cadet water camp learned recently, among other things, that piloting water craft was not as easy as it looked ! Submitted photo/Mark Muros

Few people know that the Okeechobee U.S.

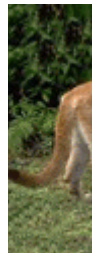
Naval Sea Cadet Corps is an elite outfit of young people, ages eight and up, receiving training in a broad range of disciplined skills. Their Summer Program is sponsored by the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, the Navy's Seal Association and the Navy SEAL Museum and offered as a small group training in water safety, the Florida Safe Boating program, "drown proofing," a visit to the Navy SEAL Museum in Ft. Pierce and an introduction to navigation and compass skills in boating. For six weeks eight or nine kids a week go through the program in a typical summer camp day.

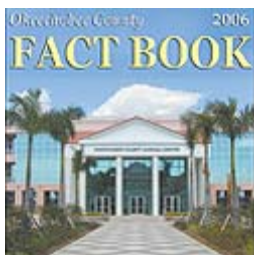
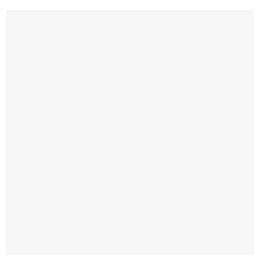
"Yeah, we've done some kool stuff," said twelve year old Peter Birkett. "Yesterday, we had to come in from the ocean because there were thunderstorms out there. Going through the Fort Pierce Inlet was a blast with the waves!"

"We hope you had fun, learned some things and were well-taught by Lt. Muros and the volunteer cadets you worked with this week," said Captain Noel Stephen before presenting certificates."

Run by experienced personnel having solid military experience with the skills being taught, aided by older, cadet volunteers and cadet's parents, this program gives the kids something "real" in terms of life skills, team work, self-respect and respect for others.

Each week, proud graduates receive their certificates from officials of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Department and the Okeechobee Police Department and a celebration just for them at a local restaurant.





“We hope you realize how fortunate you are to go through this program,” said Denny Davis, Okeechobee Police Chief. “Here in Florida you kids are surrounded by water. Water safety and boating safety are things you can live by. And remember to say ‘Thank you’ to Lt. Muros and the cadet volunteers for helping you through this program.”

It proves that a challenging, performance-based, anti-drug and anti-gang can be fun for kids from eight through 12!

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