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Opinion

LETTER: Program teaches valuable lessons

Sunday, October 5, 2008 9:30 AM EDT

Monday's "Ten Questions" article on the front page of the Morning Sun about a Sea Cadet from Vestaburg named Joy Caris was excellent. It gave insight not only into an outstanding youth in our community, but into an outstanding program.


I would like to add some facts about the Sea Cadets that may not be apparent to the public.

First, the program is for boys and girls aged 11 through high school graduation. Also, the cost is extremely minimal when compared to the benefits.

That said, it is important to understand that this is not a program for wayward youth. The goal is to team with young people who desire to succeed in life and prepare them for that future.

Hi-tech hip works out for Midland athlete

"It hurt so bad, I couldn't even put on my socks, let alone ride a bike. They told me I was too young for hip replacement, but I couldn't just give up my active lifestyle. What a relief to learn that ..." [Read more](#)



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Military service after graduation is up to the individual, but our youths' future successes can be up to us.

This program requires the full support of parents, since our drills are twice a month at Finch Fieldhouse on the CMU campus Saturdays from 9 until 4. The rewards are fantastic for both the parents and the cadets.

I know this firsthand as my son is one of those cadets. He has learned leadership skills, respect and the value of discipline and teamwork, benefiting him at home, in school and on his football team.

He has evolved from a tentative boy to an outgoing, confident young man who stands in front of a group and teaches the principles he has learned. He, like Joy Caris, has risen to the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

Opportunities abound in the Sea Cadets for those who are willing to meet the challenge. Summer trainings in leadership, medical, seamanship, police, aviation, etc. are available every summer.

“There is nothing around here for young people to do,” means the individual has yet to find the Sea Cadets. As an officer in this quality program, I am inviting you and your child to meet with me at Finch Fieldhouse (north entrance) at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, and get the facts.

Shawn Spickerman

Mt. Pleasant

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