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[News](#)

Sea Cadets get fire, rescue training

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Sun Staff Writer



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Veronica Carey of Shepherd believes that by joining the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps she will have a "head start" in life.

Fourteen-year-old Carey and 13 other young people from Michigan, and as far away as California, have been training in a condensed version of the state of Michigan Fire Fighter program, which is a 160-hour course broken down into eight days.

"Last week, was boot camp in Chicago," said Carey. "They drove us back up here for this program that started Sunday."

Jesse Conlay, 13, said that 280 recruits started boot camp, but by the end at graduation, about 20 people had

dropped out.

"Some dropped out, some passed out, and one broke a leg," said Conlay. "Today, we learned about wild fire control, and we dug up vegetation.

"Before that we learned about (building) sprinkler systems (that go off in the event of a fire)."

Lt. Joseph Mallard is the regional director of the Sea Cadets who is also the father of a cadet.

"They are learning firefighting, and they have been here for four days," said Mallard. "They are learning all the aspects of firefighting.

"Search and rescue, self-contained breathing apparatus, and helicopter landing, and water rescue."

Mallard said the cadets are taking three trainings while hosted by the Chosin Division of Mt. Pleasant.

"They will learn master-at-arms training which is police, and POLA (Petty Officer Leadership Academy) that teaches them how to be leaders," said Mallard. "We started out with 14, but one had to drop out because of a family emergency.

"It's unfortunate because she was having a ball."

Mallard said that each day for the Sea Cadets begins out at 5:30 a.m. with physical training and a short run.

"They are in class from 8 a.m. until noon, and back at 1 p.m. until 5," said Mallard. "It's like a full-time job.

"After class is structured bonding time. Some of the cadets only see each other once or twice a year."

Gerardo Buenrosto attended the training, and it is his first time in Michigan; he is from Valencia, Calif.

"There's lots of green here," said Buenrosto, 14. "I get to shoot with hoses, and play with water.

"I met so many new people.

Volunteer Firefighters Mike, Karin, and Jessica Richmond conducted the trainings with the assistance of the Mt. Pleasant Fire Department.

Comments

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Cal wrote on Jul 2, 2010 8:49 AM:

" Sounds like a great program and kudos to Veronica and the others for getting involved! "

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suess wrote on Jul 2, 2010 10:27 PM:

" Way to go Veronica! "

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