

# NAVIGATOR



THE U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY MAGAZINE





Photo by James Smeal, Flotilla 74, Ventura, California

Sea Cadets provide valuable service to visitors at the Channel Islands Harbor Safe Boating Expo. Event producer Henry Goldman, Flotilla 74, Ventura, California, thanks Petty Office First Class Randy Montrose.



18-year-old Sea Cadet, Chief Petty Officer Erik Mendoza, soon to be a member of Central Brevard Flotilla 17-6, leads the Courageous Division of the Cape Canaveral Sea Cadets onto the inspection field at their 2010 annual inspection. The event was held at the U.S. Naval Ordnance Testing Unit in Port Canaveral, Florida.

# Onboard With The Sea Cadets

**A** new Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) authorizes cooperation between two organizations that have worked together informally in the past. The memorandum expands on guidance contained in the Coast Guard Public Affairs Manual (COMDINST M5728.2D). Both organizations retain their authority, missions, and regulations and can now operate together in joint exercises and missions.

Working with Sea Cadets falls under the Auxiliary's Public Affairs, Community Relations mission. This mutually beneficial partnership focuses on training, mentoring, personal growth, skills development and service to our nation. The agreement focuses on providing enhanced maritime training, technical expertise, participation in training, and other opportunities that might otherwise be unavailable, while maintaining the values and purposes of each organization. It may also serve as a recruiting tool, as Sea Cadets "age out" after high school.

Both organizations require a prospective member to be a U.S. citizen with no felony record and able to pass a background check. Members of both organizations wear uniforms similar to the Navy and Coast Guard.

Sea Cadets might partner with the Auxiliary to expand opportunities for vessel safety checks. While an Auxiliary team readies at a local boat ramp, several Sea Cadets in uni-

form serve as part of the pre-evaluation team. The cadets approach boaters telling them the benefits of a free vessel safety check. When a boater agrees to a check, cadets might help the skipper collect documents and display equipment to be examined. When the vessel examiner arrives, the safety check is completed in ten minutes or less.

Give it a try. Visit [www.seacadets.org](http://www.seacadets.org) and use their locator: [http://dolphin.seacadets.org/US\\_units/index\\_public.asp](http://dolphin.seacadets.org/US_units/index_public.asp) to find a unit near your flotilla.

The Navy League established the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, for youngsters aged 13-17, and Navy League Cadet Corps, for ages 11-14, in 1958. Congress federally chartered the Naval Sea Cadet Corps under Public Law 87-655 (36 USC 1541) on September 10, 1962. Sea Cadet units are divided into three main types. Divisions focus on maritime activity, battalions focus on construction (Sea Bees) and squadrons focus on aviation. Sea Cadets train in many areas which can be enhanced by the Auxiliary. They train aboard Navy and Coast Guard vessels using the same qualification standards as active duty service members. Longer-term training occurs during school breaks, including Airman Training, Music Training, Seabee Indoctrination (construction), SEAL Team Training, Submarine Orientation, Military Law Enforcement Training, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Leadership Academy, Marksmanship, Seamanship, and Boating Safety. ☺