

Volunteers clean up canal

By Seaman Michelle L. Kapica

Students from the Navy detachment here volunteered to clean up a stretch of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal in Georgetown March 24.

Seaman Recruits Chrystal M. Booth, and Tyler J. Wilson, Seamen Robyn B. Gerstenslager, Michelle L. Kapica and Walter M. Wayman and Coast Guard Seaman Will B. Mitchell spent the day picking up trash from the drained canal bed.

Volunteers covered a three-



PHOTO BY SEAMAN MICHELLE L. KAPICA

Seaman Recruit Tyler J. Wilson helps clean up the Chesapeake and Ohio canal with the National Park Service in Georgetown.

quarter mile stretch of the canal, collecting approximately 100 bags of trash. An air-conditioning unit was found along with 20 traffic cones, a roll of carpet, blanket, and numerous cell phones.

The canal clean up was organized by David Tune, volunteer coordinator for the C&O Canal National Historic Park. Starbucks provided beverages for the event, and Patagonia donated prizes for a free raffle to thank volunteers.

The clean up was a great success, said Tune. We plan to make this an annual event as it has been in the past, he said.

The site was chosen as one of 15 included in the 19th Annual Potomac River Watershed Clean Up.

Tune is planning another volunteer day to paint the Georgetown, a boat that provides canal rides to visitors in the summer. Information about this event will be posted on the student bulletin board.

The canal was originally used to transport coal, lumber, grain and other agricultural products for trade. Now millions of visitors enjoy the canal every year, biking and walking waterside.

For more information visit: <http://www.nps.gov/choh/>

Wyman Park Dell to celebrate Earth Day

All are welcome to celebrate Earth Day by volunteering at Wyman Park Dell in Baltimore April 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Volunteers can help to make a difference by planting, weeding, mulching, cleaning and working on the playground.

This event is sponsored by Starbucks, Struever Bros., Eccles & Rouse, Eccles & Rouse, Ryan's Daughter Restaurant and the Friends of Wyman Park Dell. Lunch and beverages will be provided. Volunteers can sign up on the student bulletin board.

Earth Day, celebrated since 1970, is a time to increase awareness of environmental issues around the country.

For more information, contact Seaman Michelle L. Kapica, student adviser for the Navy detachment here.



Troops receive free tax help with OneSource

A free online tax-preparation service is now available to all servicemembers and their families.

The Department of Defense is offering a free tax service to active-duty servicemembers, National Guardsmen and Reservists and their family members at <http://www.militaryonesource.com>

Last year about 327,000 tax claims were filed using a similar program, said Jane Burke, principal director in the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy. Servicemembers

can put their tax refunds to good use as a deposit in a savings or retirement account or to pay off debts, she said.

The Web site offers guidance and answers to questions. Tax filing assistance is also available with the Internal Revenue Service's

electronic filing program.

Tax filers who use Military OneSource can expect to receive their refunds within 10 days of filing, said Burke. It is just one more way we can help improve the quality of life for our troops and their families, she said.

Servicemembers may also get tax advice at the Joint Installation Tax Center by appointment until April 14. For more information, call (301) 677-9762.

(Information from an Army news release was used in this story.)



Academy prepares for Bike Annapolis

Everyone is invited to participate in "Bike Annapolis 2007: Ride for Shelter," planned for April 15 at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis.

This sponsored bike ride will raise money for the Light House shelter, the only homeless shelter in Annapolis.

Bikers can register for their choice of a 5, 15, 25 or 40-mile ride. Registration entitles bikers to a free commemorative T-shirt, free



participation in all pre and post-event activities, a free bike tune-up by Capital Bicycles, free coffee, ice-cream and nutritional food, a goodie bag, and free entry into a prize raffle.

All riders will be required to wear a helmet and are forbidden to wear stereo equipment, headphones or any other device that would impair a rider's ability to safely hear others.

Event organizers are recruiting volunteers for event set up, parking, registration, raffle ticket and T-shirt sales, greeters, start and finish cheerers, kids' activities, clean up, route monitors and more. Riders who would also like to volunteer can request to be troubleshooters, making sure all goes well on the routes.

Volunteers can sign up with the Navy detachment's team on the Navy student bulletin board. Transportation will be provided. For more information, visit: <http://www.rideforshelter.com>

Navy volunteers help build homes for locals

By Seaman Robyn B. Gerstenslager

Students from the Navy detachment got a chance to lend a helping hand March 17 at a Habitat for Humanity housing project in Brooklyn, Md.

Seaman Recruit Crystal M. Booth, Seamen Robyn B. Gerstenslager and Michelle L. Kapica and Coast Guard Seaman Will Mitchell donned several layers of clothing and traveled to Brooklyn to help reconstruct the inside of two

houses.

The Anne Arundel chapter of Habitat for Humanity has stripped the entire inside of both houses and is now working to make the houses suitable for a family.

Booth, Gerstenslager, Kapica and Mitchell worked side-by-side with other volunteers to frame the upstairs bedroom and bathroom walls.

"It's important to volunteer because you're going to have to volunteer so many times on a boat," said Mitchell. "The more you step up [and volunteer] the more people are going to trust you. It's either that or waste yourself away on a couch."

The chapter is currently working on two houses and recently completed another. Other Navy students were at the scene last month helping with the completed home as well.



PHOTO BY SEAMAN MICHELLE L. KAPICA

Seaman Robyn B. Gerstenslager cuts wood for a Habitat for Humanity home in Brooklyn, Md.

Stomp 'n' Romp help

Volunteers are needed to assist with Fort Meade's Romp 'n' Stomp Easter Egg Hunt at the Youth Services gymnasium here Tuesday.

The Army Community Service volunteer office is recruiting volunteers to take photos of children and the Easter bunny, hide Easter eggs and one special hoppity-hop volunteer to play the part of the Easter bunny!

For more information contact the ACS volunteer office here at (301) 677-5590.

USS Constellation trip

A trip to explore the USS Constellation in Baltimore is scheduled for students April 20.

The tour will detail the history of the Constellation, the last all-sail warship built by the Navy.

Constellation staff will give hands-on demonstrations and a special live-fire presentation during the tour.

The cost of this trip is \$10. Students may sign up on the bulletin board in the Navy detachment day room.

For more information contact Seaman Sandy E. DeMunnik.

Month of the Military Child fun fair help needed

Youth Services and the Army Community Service are looking for volunteers to assist with the Month of the Military Child fun fair 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 28 at Fort Meade Pavilion.

The fun fair also recognizes National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Approximately 1,500 people are expected to attend this rain or shine event, which coincides with opening day of the spring sports program here. Volunteers are needed to help with crafts, games, information booths and more.

Volunteers will get a certificate of appreciation and may sign up to help with this event on the student bulletin board.

For more information contact Seaman Michelle L. Kapica, the detachment's student adviser.