



HONOR • COURAGE • COMMITMENT

**UNITED STATES NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS:
*AMERICAN HERITAGE AND THE CONSTITUTION***

FREEDOMS FOUNDATION AT VALLEY FORGE, PA

July 1 - 6, 2017

ABOUT FREEDOMS FOUNDATION

Freedoms Foundation is a non-profit organization located in Valley Forge, PA. Its mission is to educate about American rights and responsibilities, honor acts of civic virtue and challenge all to reject apathy and get involved.

Each year, nearly 3,000 students and educators, from across the country, visit our beautiful 75-acre campus to learn about America and our democratic system of government. Since its educational mission began, Freedoms Foundation has impacted 5 million students with our citizenship programs.

Through experiential learning and critical thinking exercises, Freedoms Foundation inspires the next generation to take up the responsibilities of engaged citizenship and develop their character and leadership. Today's youth—tomorrow's leaders— must become the responsible citizens the United States needs, and this responsibility begins with a deep understanding of the principles on which the American system of government was founded.

For more information about Freedoms Foundation www.freedomsfoundation.org

INTRODUCTION TO USNSCC TRAINING:

The USNSCC training program is a five-day residential program for USNSCC cadets interested in cultivating a deeper understanding of the rights and responsibilities of engaged citizenship through thought-provoking and engaging activities. Led by experienced faculty and staff, participants explore the democracy in which we live, cultivate their leadership skills, and engage the issues of contemporary American life.

Activities include: a mock Congressional debate, where participants discuss a current events-based Constitutional problem; leadership workshops which introduce participants to different styles of leadership and the character traits demonstrated by the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor; guided tours; engage with Revolutionary War period re-enactors, and participate in service learning project. The program culminates in an evening signing ceremony of the Declaration of Independence.

PURPOSE OF USNSCC TRAINING:

The goals of this customized training for the US Naval Sea Cadet Corp is to provide education and experiences about early our founding documents, the role of significant players in the founding of the United States and some of the contributions of the United States military to our nation.

The program will challenge cadets to explore the meaning of select seminal documents such as the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, and Bill of Responsibilities and relate these historical documents to their own lives. Historical re-enactors demonstrate the struggles of our Founders and challenge the cadets to relate them to their own lives.

In addition, cadets will explore the meaning of leadership through the service of Medal of Honor recipients; receive guided tours of the battleship USS *New Jersey*, Valley Forge National Park and Gettysburg National Park and the Valley Forge Military Academy to learn about the contributions of the United States military to our nation.

Again, students will be encouraged to reflect on how the military has contributed to their own lives and to the establishment of the United States. All program events are designed to be entertaining while simultaneously encouraging participants to reflect upon the nature and responsibilities of the individual engaged citizen in a democratic society.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- **TOUR OF FREEDOMS FOUNDATION CAMPUS:** Includes the Gold Star Family Memorial, Independence Garden, Memorial Walkway, Peace Garden, Founder's Chapel, extensive collection of statuary and much more.

- **GUIDED TOUR OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR GROVE:** A 53-acre bucolic living memorial to those who have received our Nation's highest military award for valor.
- **ORIENTATION TO MEDAL OF HONOR ARCHIVES:** Located in the Henry Knox building on campus, cadets will have the opportunity to view military awards, decorations, and memorabilia from Medal of Honor recipients and explore the extensive archives of Sister Veronica.
- **NED HECTOR (AFRICAN-AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HERO):** Ned Hector is a Revolutionary War hero, a free black man, who was a teamster and noted for his courage during the retreat from the Battle of Brandywine in 1777, where he refused to give up his horses, wagon and the armaments he was carrying.
- **THOMAS JEFFERSON AND ABIGAIL ADAMS DEBATE:** Two influential United States Patriots will actively engage cadets in the pressing issues of 1775.
- **FREEDOM SUMMIT:** Utilizing both large and small groups, Cadets discuss, interact and present a project applicable to a current events-based Constitutional issue.
- **LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP:** Introduces cadets to different styles of leadership and character traits demonstrated by the recipients of the Medal of Honor.
- **GUIDED TOUR OF VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL PARK:** Includes the Visitor's Center and Museum, Washington's Headquarters, Muhlenburg Brigade Huts, George Washington Chapel, Varnum's Headquarters, P.C. Knox Estate, National Museum Arch, Baron von Steuben Monument, General Anthony Wayne Monument and much more.
- **GUIDED TOUR OF HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA:** Includes Independence Hall, Carpenter's Hall, Declaration House, Liberty Bell, Christ Church & Cemetery, Betsy Ross House, and the Philadelphia Art Museum (Rocky Steps), and more.
- **GUIDED TOUR OF THE HISTORIC BATTLESHIP USS *NEW JERSEY*.** The USS *New Jersey*, our nation's most decorated battleship, is an 887-foot long, 45,000-ton living window on the most important half-century in U.S. history. Sit in the chair from which Admiral Halsey commanded the fleet, stretch out on the bunks where the sailors slept, and climb into the 16" gun turret and learn how the projectiles were loaded.
- **GUIDED TOUR OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MUSEUM.** Learn how the words of the Declaration of Independence immediately helped fuel the aspirations for personal liberty of ordinary Americans. Hear Abigail Adams call for independence, and then hear her compelling call for women to have a place in the new American government, a visionary promise left unfulfilled for more than a century. Watch Congress issue the transformative Declaration of Independence, view the debate and decision-making from the Continental Congress debate the break from England. Read Thomas Jefferson's list of twenty-seven grievances levied at the King from authentic printings of the Declaration of Independence.

- **SIGNER’S CEREMONY:** In a moving candle-light Chapel ceremony, Founder James Wilson narrates the history of the Declaration of Independence and invites each cadet to sign. Each Cadet will receive their signed copy.
- **SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT:** Cadets will participate in a restoration service project in the Medal of Honor Grove.
- **TWICE DAILY FLAG CEREMONIES:** Cadets will be responsible for organizing and leading both morning and evening flag ceremonies.
- **VALLEY FORGE MILITARY ACADEMY TOUR/PRESENTATION:** Valley Forge Military Academy (VFMA) is a private, independent, and college preparatory school offering grades 7 through 12. Established in 1928, VFMA has a long tradition of fostering personal growth through a comprehensive system built on Five Cornerstones: Academic Excellence, Character Development, Personal Motivation, Physical Development, and Leadership. Cadets will hear from Academy staff, tour the grounds and conduct PT on the Academy’s obstacle course.
- **PHYSICAL TRAINING:** Leaders and Cadets are free to utilize the large green spaces; on-campus paved roads and trails in the 53-acre Medal of Honor Grove.

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

- **GARY WILLIAMS, MPA:** An Academic Director for the *Medal of Honor Legacy Program* since 2014, Gary is the award-winning author of four books, including two Medal of Honor recipient biographies: *SEAL of Honor* and *Guardian of Guadalcanal*. He co-produced the documentary, *MURPH: The Protector*. With more than three decades of teaching and training experience Gary is a strong advocate of the core principles of the Freedoms Foundation.
- **CORY ETCHBERGER, PH.D:** A former college professor and business leader as founder of the *Richard L. Etchberger Foundation*, Cory is the youngest son of Chief Master Sergeant Richard L. Etchberger, the Air Force's most recent Medal of Honor recipient. An Academic Director for the *Medal of Honor Legacy Program* since 2013, he contributed the *Afterword* to his father's biography, *At All Costs*, by CMSgt Matt Proietti.