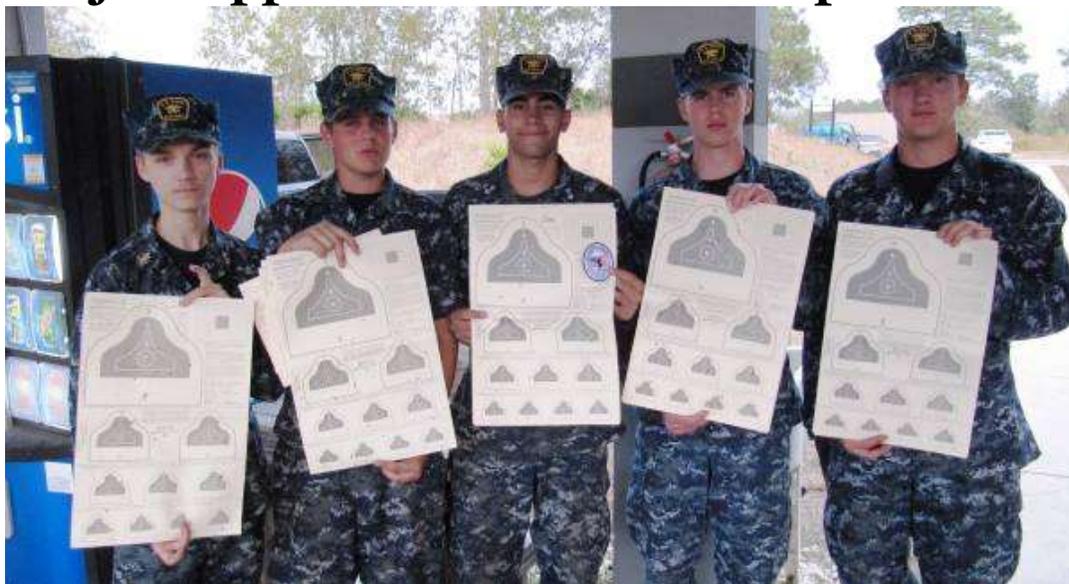


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Sea Cadet Corps Manatee Division attends Project Appleseed at Hernando Sportsman's Club



(from left) Midshipman Barnes, PO3 Owens, PO2 Diaz, PO3 Pickard and Seaman Lucks hold

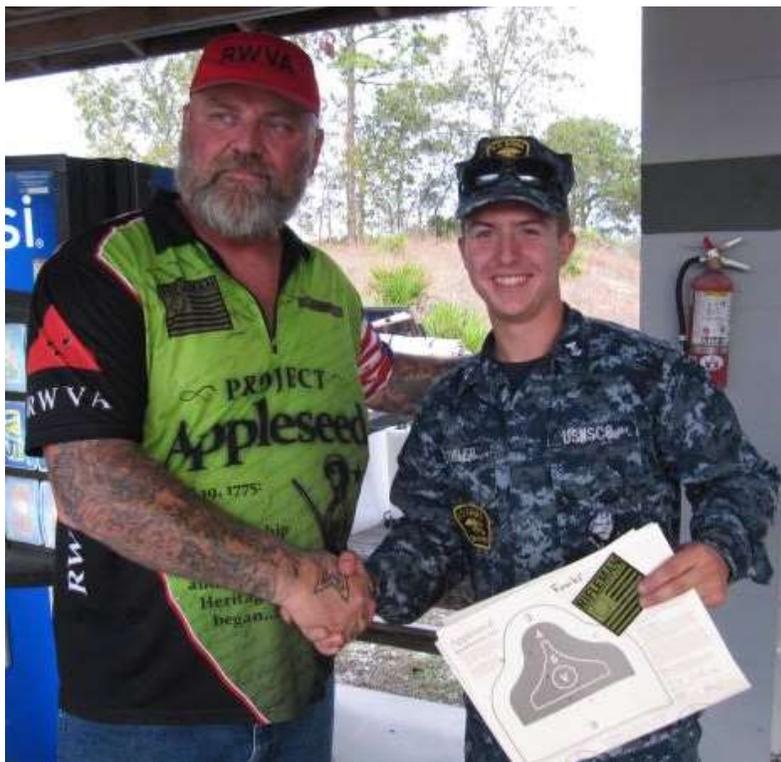
Story and Photos

By Katasha Cornwell, Public Information Officer

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BROOKSVILLE -- The Manatee Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, based in

Yankeetown, recently participated in Project Appleseed at the Hernando Sportsman's Club in Brooksville.



Petty Officer Third Class Trey Fowler receives his Rifleman patch.

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Seaman Recruit Young gets instruction.

Sea cadets, their officers and special guests were provided two days of training at the event.

Project Appleseed teaches Revolutionary war history while providing gun safety and marksmanship instruction. Their highly skilled volunteers immediately began the program with teaching the Manatee Division participants how to make their guns safe. They explained the process of finding your “natural point of aim” by focusing on breathing and relaxation as a best practice to hit your mark.

Cadets, joined by two active duty military personnel, Lance Cpl. Nicholas Jansen and PFC Cole Arnold, learned how to use a sling to steady the rifle from the prone, sitting and standing positions. Shooters posted targets at 25 yards that were intended to simulate shooting up to 400 yards. Over the two days, participants shot the same types of targets several times, using up to 500 rounds of ammunition, in order to gauge progression of their skills.

During breaks, Appleseed instructors would provide detailed accounts of the start of the Revolutionary war, including acts of bravery by Paul Revere, William Dawes and Samuel Prescott. They explained how the marksmanship of the “militia” outperformed the British soldiers and was a key factor in winning the war. This excellence in marksmanship, along with participation in what’s happening in one’s country, is the heritage that Project Appleseed intends to instill.

Lieutenant Junior Grade Scott Arnold, commanding officer of Manatee Division, said “The mission of Project Appleseed fits hand in hand with the Sea Cadet Corps and this training has been exceptional with the mix of history, instruction and amount of shooting time.”

At the end of the weekend, Petty Officer Third Class Trey Fowler earned his Rifleman patch for achieving a score of 210 or higher on the qualifying test. The other cadets and officers showed marked improvement from their first target to their last scoring round.

Manatee Division meets monthly at Station Yankeetown and learns about Naval Service. The Sea Cadet Corps is a youth organization for Americans 10-18 years old.

For more information, call the Commanding Officer LTJG Scott Arnold at 813-493-3305 or visit them online at www.manateediv.org.